**TORBAY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
FOR RELGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)**

**Minutes of the meeting held at Paignton Library Room 12 on
Wednesday 3rd February 2016**

**Present: Group A:** Charlotte Caluori (substitute) **Group B:** Ed Pawson (substitute), Angela Sumner
 **Group C:** Mr Andrew Strachan
 **Group D:** Cllr Di Stubley Jane Barnby

 **Officers :** Mr. David Hampshire (Adviser), Miss Rosie Vowles (Clerk)

1. **Welcome and Apologies** Members were welcomed the meeting by Andrew Strachan (Chair).

**Apologies**Rev Ian Blyde, Mrs Sylvia Kennedy, Gina Bourne, Julian Parrott and Jackie Stockman

It was agreed by all members that Charlotte Calouri would substitute to Group A due the meeting being not being quorate and Mrs Calouri being the Head of RE in a joint Roman Catholic . A discussion took place regarding groups having closer discussions in respect of members attending SACRE.

1. **The Election of the Chair of SACRE (Held over from the Autumn meeting)**Andrew Strachan was elected to Chair the meeting.
2. **The Election of a Vice Chair of SACRE (Held over from the Autumn meeting)**Rev Ian Blyde was elected the Vice Chair of SACRE.
3. **Minutes from previous meeting**
* Minute 13 – Development Plan agreed to be an item for February’s meeting although it was not placed on the agenda due to the uncertainty about the budget for 2016 – 2017.

**Correspondence with the Chair of SACRE**Mr Strachan shared a letter which received from Lisa Hatchard, R.S. Specialist within The Spires College. The letter informed SACRE that the school will no longer have an R.S. teacher as of January.

Ed Pawson recommended that SACRE perform a monitoring visit so that SACRE can be appraised of the situation. It was agreed that this be undertaken by Mr Hampshire and that a report will be presented to SACRE in due course.

**Declaration of interest of a pecuniary nature**None

1. **Public Questions**None
2. **The Annual Report 2015**David Hampshire advised that the purpose of the report is to present SACRE with a draft copy of the Annual report which will be sent to the Secretary of State for Education, as required by the 1988 Education Reform Act (as amended by the Education Act 2011).

The draft report was adopted by SACRE, with the proviso that a full membership list be added to the end of the report and an introduction by the Chair.

1. **RE and Collective Worship in Torbay Ofsted Reports 2004 – 2015**The RE Adviser stated the report follows on from the request of SACRE from the previous meeting. Mr Hampshire advised the purpose of this document is for an analysis of Ofsted reports relating to non-denominational schools and academies in Torbay and how Ofsted inspectors have reported on religious education and collective worship.

The report highlighted the following:

* Of the twenty-seven reports scrutinised none mentioned a failure to comply with the statutory requirements to provide religious education or a daily act of collective worship for all pupils not withdrawn by their parents as set out in the 1996 Education Act or in Academies and Free School’s funding agreements.
* Only two reports directly mention religious education as a curriculum subject.
* No report directly mentions collective worship, although a number refer to assemblies it is not possible to identify if they were also classed as collective worship or not.
* Where SMSC is reported on RE is mentioned less often than Art, Music, English or PE in making a contribution to pupils entitlement or development.
* SMSC and assemblies are linked in only three of twenty-seven reports, all primary school reports.
* Evidence from reports show that judgements made about a school’s provision of SMSC or the impact of what the school provides on pupils education and personal development appears weak in context of the overall report.
* Where reporting on fundamental British values occurs there is no instance where this relates to RE or collective worship (assemblies).

A discussion took place regarding students being withdrawn by parents from RE. There was a concern that pupils withdrawn from RE would not be prepared for life in modern Britain, as they would not learn about the different religious traditions present in the United Kingdom. Mr Hampshire advised that the government’s advice on teaching Fundamental British Values as a part of SMSC and the advice on Prevent referred to the importance of Citizenship and PSHEe in this regard. RE, from which a child can be withdrawn, is the delivery of the Agreed Syllabus leaving room for learning about religions in Citizenship and PSHEe. Schools need to be clear about this distinction.

Members agreed that the report be sent to the Secretary of State for Education and Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Schools with a covering letter. The report will also be sent to all schools in Torbay, including academies, with a different covering letter highlighting SACRE’s concerns.

David Hampshire to produce a letter and Rosie Vowles to send letter and report to all schools within Torbay.

1. **Proposed changes to Religious Education and Collective Worship**Mr Hampshire confirmed the purpose of this report is to update SACRE members of three reports that have called significant changes to RE and collective worship in the past six months.

The Adviser concentrated on the Table within the appendix to the report, members were able to note the contrast and also able to compare information with regards to RE and collective worship.

1. **SACRE’s Constitution**

David Hampshire stated the purpose of the report is an update on the decision of the Autumn 2015 meeting of SACRE where it was requested there be a change to the constitution to allow the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to have a four-year term of office reviewed annually.

Members agreed that the proposed Constitution is to be sent to Local Authority and its Legal services to become the Constitution from April 2016 onwards.

The Clerk will e-mail the proposed Constitution to Legal Services with a covering note asking them to check the proposed Constitution for comment, which will be brought back to the next SACRE meeting.

1. **SW SACRE’s Conference**David Hampshire notified members of the South West SACRE’s conference at Dillington Hall, Somerset on 7th March 2016.

The recommendation was that two members of the group attend the conference paid by SACRE’s budget.

It was agreed that Rosie Vowles will send the group an email and await feedback in respect of who will attend.

1. **NASCARE AGM, Torbay Representative**

David Hampshire shared to members that the up-coming NASCARE Conference and AGM to be held on 17th May, 2016 at Central Hall Westminster, London.

It was agreed that Rosie Vowles will send the group an email and await feedback in respect of who will attend.

1. **Torbay SACRE Website**Rosie Vowles shared to the group the latest information regarding SACRE having a place within the Torbay Council’s website. Ms Vowles advised that she has been in communication with webmaster and they have agreed for SACRE to have space for agendas, minutes, reports and any other relevant information. She advised that SACRE will also have a place to receive public questions.
2. **Finances**The Chair informed SACRE that due to payments still outstanding from Torbay Council, in relation to Mr Strachan’s attending conferences he will not be attending any future events until this is resolved.

Andrew Strachan reported that he has had recent conversations with the Local Authority on the remuneration issue being resolved.

Rosie Vowles was asked to forward finance emails to Cllr Di Stubley for this situation to be resolved.