

Torbay Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) Meeting Agenda

Thursday, 5 November 2026 at 10.00 am
to be held in Microsoft Teams

Membership

Y Alnassar	Liz Kilkelly
Bill Becher	Sharon Luck
Claire Bird	Maia Miller
Nikki Boone	Kim Moore-Cullen
Councillor Martin Brook	Ed Pawson
Helen Brown	Jeremy Roberts
Katy Burns	Lisa Robillard-Webb
Councillor Nick Bye	Jeremy Skelton
Councillor Margaret Douglas-Dunbar	Angela Sumner
Lyndsay Thomas	Laura Twamley
Sheila Gewolb	Belinda Twiggs
Corrinne Guntrip	Councillor Ras Virdee
Sivita Harrison	Mark Witchell
Laura Kendell	

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 8)
Amendment to minutes 17th June – Mark Witchell did attend virtually
3. **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**
4. **Torbay SACRE: membership updates**
5. **Local govt reorganisation plans, regional SACRE conversations, SACRE contractual discussions**
6. **Torbay SACRE annual report to follow**
7. **Educating ourselves: Sharon Luck, Muslim representative**

For information relating to this meeting or to request a copy in another format or language please contact:

Louise Willmott,

8. **Curriculum and Assessment review update**
9. **Standards: schools monitoring and Ofsted reports (report)** (Pages 9 - 12)
10. **Learn Teach Lead RE: updates, funding and conference feedback (report)** (Pages 13 - 14)
11. **Regional and National Developments: ITE bursaries, Oak syllabus mapping**
12. **Interfaith Week updates**
13. **HMD 2027 planning**
14. **Future meetings:**

Torbay SACRE Meeting – Minutes

Date: Wednesday 17 June 2026

Location: Banking Hall / MS Teams

Clerk: Louise Willmott

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all attendees, both in person and online.

Apologies received from:

- Laura Kendell
 - Katie Burns
 - Angela Sumner
 - Liz Kilkelly
 - Niki Boone
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2. Attendance

Present (partial list based on meeting record):

- Chair (Jeremy Roberts)
- Bill Becher
- Ed Pawson
- Cllr Nick Bye
- Laura Twamley
- Louise Willmott (Clerk)
- Sharon Luck
- Sheila Gewolb
- Belinda Twiggs
- Claire Bird
- Lyndsay Thomas
- Maia Miller
- Martin Brook
- Jeremy Skelton
- Lisa Robillard Webb
- Councillor Nick Bye
- Belinda Twiggs
- Sharon Luck
- Kim Moore Cullen

(Note: transcript confirms participation but does not provide a complete formal register)

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.
There were no matters arising or corrections raised.

4. Urgent Items

No urgent items were identified for inclusion.

5. SACRE Membership Update

- New member **Sharon Luck** was welcomed as a representative of the Muslim community.
 - Sharon outlined her work delivering school visits, supporting understanding of Islam and addressing Islamophobia.
 - The value of lived experience in education was highlighted.
 - Current vacancies remain, including:
 - Christian representative
 - Hindu representative
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6. Educating Ourselves – Member Input (Judaism)

Sheila Gewolb presented on her work delivering Judaism education in schools. Key points included:

- Use of **interactive and experiential learning** (artefacts, food, Hebrew texts).
- Importance of **challenging misconceptions and prejudice**.
- Children demonstrate strong curiosity and openness, particularly at primary level.
- Personal experiences were shared regarding **antisemitism and safety concerns**, contrasted with positive school environments.
- Emphasis placed on **lived experience rather than theological expertise** when engaging pupils.

Discussion highlighted:

- The importance of joint visits (e.g. Muslim and Jewish representatives together).
- The role of RE in tackling discrimination and fostering inclusion.

7. Curriculum and Assessment Review Update

Ed Pawson provided an update:

- Work on a **national curriculum model for RE** has been submitted to the Department for Education.
- The process remains at an early stage, with multiple legislative steps required.
- There is no confirmation yet that RE will become a national curriculum subject.
- Updated GCSE and A-level specifications are planned, with:
 - GCSE teaching from 2030
 - A-level updates to follow later

Concerns raised:

- Significant shortage of specialist RE teachers.
- Approximately 50% of secondary RE is taught by non-specialists.

8. School Monitoring and Ofsted Reports

- Two recent primary Ofsted reports showed strong emphasis on:
 - Character development
 - Community engagement
 - Cultural understanding
- RE is often referenced under **personal development**, rather than curriculum quality.
- New Ofsted framework provides less subject-specific evaluation.

Additional points:

- 2 Primary schools inspected: -
- Torre School, congratulations to Laura Kendell
- Furzeham
- Recent secondary inspections (Brixham College and Torquay Boys' Grammar) noted for future review.

Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE) Update

General Activity

- Strong engagement across Torbay and South Devon hub meetings.
- Planning underway for October 2026 conference.
- Work progressing to align Oak National Academy resources with the agreed syllabus.

Funding Position

A detailed discussion took place regarding funding arrangements for Learn, Teach, Lead RE, highlighting a lack of clarity and potential shortfall:

- Historically, SACREs (including Torbay) have contributed financially to support the training and development of hub leaders.
- Torbay SACRE previously agreed to contribute funding; however, there is now uncertainty about the source of this funding.
- Current arrangements mean advisory services are commissioned through Devon, raising the question of whether LTLRE funding:
 - should be included within that contract, or
 - requires separate financial contribution from Torbay Council.
- It was confirmed that:
 - This issue has not yet been resolved.
 - Learn, Teach, Lead RE is currently experiencing a funding pressure/shortfall as a result.
 - A formal discussion with the Local Authority is required to clarify responsibility.
- Advice has been sought from the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE), which confirmed that:
 - Local authorities have a duty to support SACRE work appropriately.
 - If necessary, concerns could be escalated to the Department for Education, although local resolution is preferred.
- It was agreed that this issue requires urgent escalation and resolution to ensure sustainability of the LTLRE network.

10. Regional and National Developments

Teacher Recruitment:

- Applications for RE teacher training have significantly fallen following removal of bursaries.
- SACRE agreed to write to the Secretary of State requesting reinstatement of bursaries.

RE Policy and Guidance:

- RE must remain:
 - Objective
 - Critical
 - Pluralistic
- Importance of maintaining balanced teaching of Christianity and other beliefs emphasised.

Freedom of Religion or Belief (FORB):

- Example shared of pupil advocacy (Mandir proposal in Plymouth).
 - Encouragement for RE to move beyond knowledge to social action.
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11. Conference Feedback

- South West SACRE conference and NASACRE conference attended.
 - Key message:
 - RE plays a critical role in **social cohesion, identity and community understanding**.
 - Emphasis on lived experience contributors to enhance classroom learning.
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12. Local Government Reorganisation

- Expected announcement before mid-July.
 - Limited anticipated impact on Torbay SACRE structure, though Devon arrangements may change.
 - Risk noted nationally that SACRE functions can be overlooked during reorganisation.
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13. Date of Next Meeting

- Wednesday 5 November 2026
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Actions

- **Clerk (Louise):** Record note to contact Niki Boone regarding membership status.
- **Ed Pawson:**
 - Circulate NASACRE infographic to all members.
 - Follow up with Ofsted report updates (Brixham and Torquay Boys' Grammar) for next meeting.
 - Draft and submit letter to Secretary of State requesting reinstatement of RE bursaries.
- **Chair / LA Officer:** Arrange discussion with Hannah Baker regarding Learn, Teach, Lead funding arrangements.
- **Ed Pawson / Belinda Twiggs:** Progress mapping of Oak Academy resources to agreed syllabus.
- **Ed Pawson:** Explore opportunities for joint school visits involving different faith representatives (e.g. Jewish and Muslim).
- **All Members:** Promote October 2026 RE conference to schools and networks.



Title: **Ofsted monitoring**

This report relates to the monitoring of Ofsted reports for Torbay schools

To: **Torbay SACRE** On: 28/10/26

Contact Officer: **Ed Pawson**
Telephone: **07895175852**
E.mail: **efpawson@gmail.com**

1. Key points and Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update SACRE members on the findings published in recent Ofsted reports, particularly where comments relate to Religious Education (RE), collective worship or Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC) of pupils. Where appropriate, the report may recommend that SACRE officers should contact specified schools to either congratulate them on their outstanding practice, or to offer curriculum support in specified areas.
- 1.2 Two primary schools and two secondaries have been inspected since our last meeting. All four reports make reference to the study of religion and beliefs, which is a positive sign.
- 1.3 The report for Collaton St Mary Church of England Primary school included a comment about how pupils had 'patchy' knowledge of different faiths and cultures. This has been followed up with the trust.

Jeremy Roberts
Chair of SACRE

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Ofsted reports: May – Oct 2026

Torbay schools

This report shows the comments which have been made in Ofsted reports in areas that relate to the work of SACRE.

E - Exceptional

SS - Strong standard

ES - Expected standard

NA - Needs attention

UI - Urgent improvement

Primary School	Curriculum Grade	Personal dev Grade	Pub Date	Ofsted report comments relevant to SACRE monitoring	Comments for SACRE
Homelands	ES	ES	23/7/26	Pupils develop an age-appropriate understanding of fundamental British values. They explain the need to treat everyone with respect regardless of culture and religion and to treat others as they would like to be treated. Participation in and the winning of 'Torbay voice' has reinforced pupils' understanding of the power of debating and discussing different ideas respectfully.	
Collaton St Mary	ES	ES	23/9/26	Pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is strengthened in weekly family worship sessions. In these sessions, older pupils lead mixed-age groups to discuss topics such as diversity, injustice, equity and the fundamental British values. Leaders successfully build older pupils' leadership skills and ensure that all pupils, including those in Reception Year, gain a growing awareness of the world around them. However, some wider knowledge of the curriculum is patchy, such as their knowledge of how people can be different, as well as knowledge of different faiths and cultures.	

Secondary School	Curriculum Grade	Personal dev Grade	Pub Date	Ofsted report comments relevant to SACRE monitoring	Comments for SACRE
Brixham College	NA	ES	20/5/26	Pupils reflect on their own beliefs and consider the experiences of others in their philosophy and ethics lessons.	
Torquay Boys	ES	ES	8/6/26	Pupils' engagement in ethical debates is also a strength. This is delivered in part through the school's philosophy and ethics course, where pupils develop their understanding of fundamental British values and read thought-provoking and challenging texts. This curriculum is supplemented by talks from visiting speakers and additional lunchtime clubs.	



Title: **Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE) report**

This report relates to the SACRE supported initiative now in its fourteenth year, which seeks to support RE through local hubs across Devon, Torbay, Plymouth and Cornwall.

To: **Torbay SACRE**

On: 28/10/2026

Contact Officer: **Ed Pawson**

☎ Telephone: **07895175852**

✉ E.mail: **efpawson@gmail.com**

1. Key points and Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update SACRE members on the progress of the Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE) hub network.
- 1.2 Hub leaders' training (2026/7): 12/3/27 and 18/6/27.
- 1.3 Learn Teach Lead RE is changing the way hub meetings are planned and scheduled. For some time now, attendance at local meetings has been inconsistent, whether they are held in person or online. So, we are moving the pattern of meetings so that leaders will host one local meeting per year, and in addition contribute to a 'cross-area' meeting which will be available to teachers from across the region. This allows us to offer an annual programme of meetings and CPD.
- 1.4 Recent meetings have included sessions about: Authentic Christianity; explanation of the new mapping document to access Oak Academy resources; understanding Hindu lived experiences.
- 1.5 The LTLRE annual conference was held at St Mellion on 2nd October 2026 with over 80 delegates attending. The evaluations were very positive, with a wide range of workshops and interactions on offer.
- 1.6 LTLRE requests that Torbay SACRE continues to support the training of LTLRE hub leaders through the payment of £500 for the academic year 2026/7.

Jeremy Roberts
Chair of SACRE

