



**Torbay SACRE
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday 18th October 2023**

Hybrid meeting - 9.30am

Present: Maia Miller, Sheila Gewolb, Katy Burns, Ed Pawson, Lisa Robillard Webb, Cllr Nick Bye, Angela Sumner, Lyndsay Eley, Martin Brook, Margaret Douglas-Dunbar, Belinda Twiggs, Laura Twamley, Cllr Virdee, Jonathan Downey

1. Apologies for Absence

Corrine Guntrip
Nikki Boone
Rachael Williams
Charlotte Caluori

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions followed.

2. Minutes

Minutes of last meeting were agreed to be an accurate record.

3. Items Requiring Urgent Attention

N/A

4. Torbay SACRE: membership updates

N/A

5. Standards: monitoring and Ofsted reports

One particular secondary school invited Ed to visit and look at their RE, this had previously fallen out of their curriculum but it has since been re-prioritised and the school now have a GCSE for the subject. However they are only teaching 1 hour every fortnight and their Lead for RE is their Head of History. Ed has written a detailed report for the school to consider taking actions to remedy the specific issues identified.

There was general discussion, instigated by Cllr Bye, about attendance and attainment in schools which led to the group explaining that RE can have a real impact on student's personal development. The focus needs to be around how to encourage children, and parents, back into school via RE by setting an engaging and welcoming syllabus but also ensuring that schools follow this syllabus.

6. Devon and Torbay SACRE: agreed syllabus review

New syllabus for 2024 but this will take time to embed.

Laura explained that terminology is key to understanding, sometimes there can be too much learning content to choose from.

Katy advised that sometimes the teachers don't have a strong subject knowledge e.g. when discussing world views and viewpoints from different cultures and communities.

Lisa stressed the importance of validating children's views.

Ed explained that the syllabus does come at a cost and would need to be signed off by the Local Authority (approx. £50 per school). Torbay SACRE are in agreement for Ed to approach the LA to underwrite the syllabus.

7. Learn Teach Lead RE: updates

Information shared regarding the Learn Teach Lead event on 02/11/2023. A good opportunity for sharing of information and knowledge between teachers, and a strong networking event.

8. Regional and National Developments: RE Hubs, National Content Standard in RE

It was noted that schools are not always following the statutory standards of RE teaching, particularly as a lot of settings have transitioned to Academies which frees them from Local Authority guidelines. However, the RE Council are implementing a clear benchmark for national content and beginning to get traction on this.

Jonathan noted that the development of a clear benchmark and a national standard might not solve the problem that many think RE is optional, as well as the pressure having a national standard might bring to teachers who don't necessarily have the broad subject knowledge.

OFSTED are also a key part in this but they often say that they don't have the tools to judge the quality of RE in schools which in turn means they can't comment on any national benchmark statement.

9. Diversity NASACRE membership



10. RE Quality Mark

11. Holocaust Memorial Day: planning for 2024

Theme around Fragility of Freedom.

Discussion also turned to the current difficulties and conflicts in Israel and how best to support our schools, it was agreed that Rachael Williams would be consulted on how best to share advice on the matter.

Sheila was able to update that schools in the larger cities are now being advised not to close and all schools are being contacted via the SACRE forums, encouraging them to reach out for support where required. There is a useful resource on the Department for Education Against Hate website which talks about finding solutions rather than taking sides.

12. SACRE training

13. Future Meetings

Thursday 8 February 2024 – 9.30 to 12.00

Thursday 6 June 2024 – 9.30 to 12.00