

Torbay SACRE Agenda Thursday 8th February 2024

9.30am – 12.00pm

Online and in person



Attendees

Jeremy Roberts - Chairperson

Ed Pawson - RE advisor and consultant

Ras Virdee – Councilor Local Education Authority

Shelia Gewolb – Jewish faith representative

Margaret Douglas Dunbar – Councilor Local Education Authority

Kim Moore-Cullen - Coopted members

Angela Sumner - The Church of England

Jonathan Doney - Associations representing teachers (resigned)

Lisa Robilliard Webb Humanist

Katy Burns - Associations representing teachers Head Teacher Galmpton Primary

Belinda Twiggs - Associations representing teachers

Maia Miller – Pagan faith representative

Lyndsay Eley - The Church of England

Martin Brook – Councilor Local Education Authority

Bill Belcher – Quaker faith representative

1. Apologies for Absence

Sivita Harrison - Coopted member

Laura Twamley - Associations representing teachers

Nikki Boone - Associations representing teachers

Rachael Williams – Divisional Director Education & SEND TDC

Nick Bye - Councilor Local Education Authority

Claire Bird - Associations representing teachers

Helen Brown - Roman Catholic - faith representative

Dr. Jonathan Doney FHEA - Senior Lecturer in Education

Carly Watson – Pentecostal - faith representative

2. Minutes

All minutes agreed and anything else is on the agenda

Next meeting is 13th June 2024

3. Items Requiring Urgent Attention

Confirm next meeting 13th June not the 6th of June.

4. Torbay SACRE: membership updates

A 4-year term for membership is agreed unless exceptional circumstances, this can be extended to 8 years.

The membership is accurate as of now with a few vacancies and more teachers are involved. It would be lovely to have a Hindu and Buddhist rep, it is recognised that recruitment is an issue nationally.

5. Standards: GCSE data, schools monitoring and Ofsted reports (report)

Data on secondary schools discussed (from DfE)

For the annual report please see the agenda.

GCSE RS exam data was discussed, and Ed will follow up with specific schools

Progress data would be better to view. Ed P to request for next year.

Martin Brook

There is an anomaly of figures not being reported post 16

The agreed syllabus expectation is 5% of curriculum time up to year 11 but not after.

Post 16 re provision to go in annual report next year.

After the news this week on the Murder of Brianna Ghey, there is potentially a need for introducing Mindfulness into schools

Where there are problems with morals, values and lifestyle choices there is a lack of RE in secondary schools. - To be discussed with Cllr Bye.

Lisa Robillard Webb

Lisa commends a collaborative approach. The moral duty is on the adults and young people are struggling.

She disagrees that there is a correlation between RE and the social problems we have. Torbay has selective schools which creates added pressure on schools that are struggling.

Belinda Twiggs

Worth looking at religion and world views on the cultural wellbeing of communities. Research needs doing.

Ed Pawson

There is an internal pendulum in schools between knowledge and skills
Education has a knowledge rich curriculum for last 14/15 years brought in by Michael Gove.

Data

Data from Deborah Weston discussed. (national research officer for NATRE)
There has been a drop from 72% to 48% for GCSE RS entries in schools in 6 years.

Thanks, given to Ed as professional officer for his work and data

Thanks also to Bill Becher (Exmouth Quakers) who did a visit to Exmouth Community College for local Christian practices day Year 9 RE students.
Ofsted reports in agenda.

6. Devon and Torbay agreed syllabus review (report)

Launching a new syllabus to be completed by end of March.

Torbay launch event in the Autumn, we are in discussions on how to make this more exciting for our audience.

Teachers have a lot of input into the new syllabus.

There is a changing agenda with lots going on and recognising the need for time for revision.

Katy Burns

NATRE and RE Today

Written by Katie Freeman for our syllabus

Primary resources have been added to the NATRE website with explanatory documents, guidance, subject knowledge and has been well received by the teachers.

3 schools have bought in already, training done with 10 South Devon Schools but waiting on when the additional resources are ready.

How the launch offer works

There will be no launch event in Torbay in June but there will be an event in the Autumn.

Torbay council events team to be involved LW and RW.

Suggestions required to make events more attractive to schools when budgets are so tight. Please send any suggestions you have by email to Ed.

Belinda Twiggs contributed the suggestion of goody bags.

Belinda Twiggs suggested using a QR code for one time access for extra data and resources.

Fiona Moss outstanding primary lead in the country for RE.

Please think about how we can make it an attractive proposition for schools (budgets are extremely tight) to attend.

Sacre is no longer offering folders to be distributed, they will be sent digitally, with hyperlinks.

7. Learn Teach Lead RE: updates (report)

There will be a conference in the Autumn with workshops on the agreed syllabus. Training coming. There have been Hybrid meetings over the last year. Thanks to Vicky Hunt who has stood down.

Torbay and South Devon Hub meetings are once a term. It is voluntary and a networking and CPD hub group to advise.

Services are available ad hoc as well.

Its future is dependent on significant grant funding which is steady at the moment. Devon and Torbay SACRE have given money.

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

Standard in RE, Ofsted, Religion and Worldviews frameworks

RE hubs UK are gathering pace (for teachers to understand what they can access in their locality and nationally) for advice and information.

Shelia Gewolb

Shelia is very involved in the site and says she loves it, and the training is really interesting.

Belinda Twiggs

Belinda loves it, brilliant training and worth others getting involved

National Content Standard for Religious Education.

Education is reported as inconsistent but is now becoming more established ACE multi-academy may like to sign up.

Final version of Handbook on Religion and Worldviews to be published in May this year.

Stephen Pett is writing the handbook on Religion and Worldviews; they can write their own if required using the guidance from the handbook.

Question raised as to how Ofsted feel about this. - There is a synergy and Ofsted will be positive.

Shelia Gewolb

Is everybody aware of “nobody stands nowhere” video. Leading away from you have to have a religion and more to having a view.

The teaching is based more around participation than being talked at, it is about diversity of cultures.

Ofsted report on RE is still embargoed

Ofsted HMCI November 2023 report

RE is not good enough in a percentage of schools in the UK, it needs government support. RE and SACRE want schools to be better supported.

Belinda Gewolb

There are a lot of brilliant teachers giving excellent RE teaching.

9. Torbay SACRE Annual Report (report)

Will be sent to DfE for 22/23 there is a delay waiting for the GCSE data

10. Holocaust Memorial Day: feedback for 2024

The event was held at Exeter Cathedral joined by schools from Holsworthy and Oakhampton.

It would be great if schools from the bay could attend.

Mayor of Torbay will lead an event here and it would be great if schools could be involved

There is hope that Philip Sands might come to the event next year.

11. SACRE training

A conference at the beginning of March will cost is £15.00 per delegate to attend. It will be held on 4th March 13.00 to 16.00 - virtual. Torbay to support financially?

Feb 26th 19.00 - 20.00 NASCRE are offering an online teaching on death and love.

In June there will be a national online event for people new to SACRE.

Clarification needed on NASACA event – training.

12. Future meetings:

Thurs 13th June 2024

13. AOB

Shelia Gewolb

ADL has funded a resource on Jewish Living online – it is free to all schools and has information on anti-Semitism.

A marketing video is to be available through SACRE.

Please get in touch if you want to attend future events.