

## **Torbay SACRE Annual Report 2021/2**



### **Forward**

#### **Introduction from the Chair of SACRE**

The work of SACRE this year has been significant in many ways. Our virtual meetings were an established pattern, but we all felt the need to return to face to face meetings as soon as possible. I am pleased to report that we were able to meet 'in person' before the end of the year and although the technology to support 'hybrid' meeting with some members joining on-line proved challenging it did allow us to conduct some significant business.

As well as continuing the leadership and support of Religious and Worldviews Education and collective worship, SACRE has been able to complete a long overdue review of its constitution and I am grateful to Torbay Council for accepting the revision that was passed by members. The changes that we have made place SACRE in a strong position to recruit members to meet the challenges of an ever-changing educational environment and the next stage of our work to review our Agreed Syllabus. In this I am pleased to report that the strong partnership between our neighbouring Authorities will continue to support our work. I would like to pay tribute to some long-standing members of SACRE who have stepped down from the body. Their contribution to SACRE and to the education of young people across the Bay has been very important. Thanks must also go to Ed Pawson for his work as our professional officer. Without his efforts locally, so many aspects of our work would be impoverished and without his national profile and connections, it would be impossible for us to stay at the forefront of the development of this vital area of learning.

Jeremy Roberts (SACRE Chair)

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### **1 Introduction**

#### **Membership**

We are pleased to welcome new members: Sivita Harrison (co-opted), Sheila Gewolb (Jewish community), Cllr Margaret Douglas-Dunbar and Cllr Nicole Amil.

Many thanks to Shelley Moss, Jacjui Stephens and Cllr Cecelia Brown who have stepped down after a number of years' valuable service on SACRE.

#### **Details of Torbay SACRE meetings**

November 2021: 10 attendees, plus clerk and adviser, meeting online

March 2022: 15 attendees, plus clerk and adviser, meeting online

June 2022: 13 attendees, plus clerk and adviser, hybrid meeting at Torbay Town Hall

## **2 SACRE's statutory responsibilities**

### **Review of the Local Agreed Syllabus**

Work has begun to review the current Agreed Syllabus for RE (AS), which runs from 2019-2024. This is taking place in conjunction with Devon, Plymouth and Cornwall SACREs, although Cornwall's AS runs until 2025. Teacher panels have met to give feedback on the way the current syllabus is working and online polls are planned. Evidence shows that the current syllabus, which marked a significant change from the last one, has been well received by teachers and schools. Initial findings point towards teachers asking for more time to bed-in the new syllabus. This means it is unlikely that SACRE will want to make another significant shift for 2024. However, there is also an awareness amongst SACRE members that new ideas are being introduced into the subject, in particular around a developing understanding about a religion and worldviews approach.

Talks are now under way with RE Today to explore what additionality they may be able to offer in a renewed syllabus. SACRE is working with RE Today to understand what teachers say they want to change, to feed back into syllabus adjustments.

RE Today is planning to produce an updated version of the syllabus which would move in line with new understandings about the way RE is taking a more 'worldviews' approach.

The LA is aware that additional resources will be required for a syllabus review.

An Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) will be set up in 2023.

### **Anti-racism and RE**

Torbay SACRE has recommended to schools that they utilise a new pack of anti-racist resources, produced by RE Today, to teach about diversity and respect. These resources, for KS2 and KS3, have been made available to schools, free of charge.

### **Standards and monitoring in RE**

With no publicly available exam data over recent years, due to Covid, it has been harder to monitor standards in secondary schools. Data from the DfE annual workforce survey suggests that a number of local secondary schools do not teach any/enough RE. Schools have been contacted and visits have taken place to explore further and offer input to develop the place of RE in the curriculum.

### **GCSE RS exam results 2022**

Unfortunately, at the time of publication of this report, in January 2023, no public data has been made available to enable any analysis to be made of GCSE results for 2022.

### **Primary Schools**

Monitoring of RE in primary schools continues, through sampling of websites and scrutiny of recent Ofsted reports. Schools have been contacted where issues arise or where RE does not appear to be taught or delivered well.

Congratulations have been sent to one Torbay school recently on their good Ofsted outcome, where it was noted that pupils 'can talk about a range of world religions and make links between these different beliefs and the Christian values of the school.'

Resources have been shared and advice has been given to a number of schools with regard to parental requests for withdrawal from RE or collective worship.

### **Teaching about the Hindu tradition**

Members have discussed a recent report on the State of Hinduism in RE, which asserts that the teaching of Hinduism in RE is often limited and sometimes inaccurate. This underlines the need for SACRE to have good representation for minority communities. The Hinduism

units on the Torbay Agreed Syllabus are well written, but more training may be needed for schools to put these units into practice in the classroom.

### **3 Collective Worship**

Guidance from Torbay SACRE on [collective worship](#) and school assemblies has been well received by schools. This guidance supports schools in developing an up-to-date policy and encouraging active pupil participation in collective worship/assemblies. We want to help schools put in place effective practice, offering opportunities for reflective experiences for their pupils. The guidance document offers an explanation of the legal obligations, including the right to withdrawal, and outlines some of the rich opportunities that assemblies/collective worship can offer pupils for spiritual, moral, social, cultural and personal development.

There have been no formal complaints about collective worship in schools and no applications for determinations.

### **4 Links with other bodies**

Torbay SACRE has strong links and partnerships with a number of organisations. It works closely with Torbay Council and the Diocese of Exeter. SACRE officers help to coordinate the SW AREIAC<sup>1</sup> network, and organise the annual SW SACREs conference. A number of SACRE members have accessed training from NASACRE<sup>2</sup> and attended their national conference in May 2022. Ed Pawson spoke at this event.

SACRE has explored issues raised in recent NASACRE reports. The Still Standing report<sup>3</sup> has helped SACRE members consider how SACREs may need to evolve their membership to be responsive to the representation of the diversity of local religion and worldviews communities.

SACRE members continue to be fully informed about national developments being made by the REC<sup>4</sup>. In particular to understand how a new vision for RE is being developed through a worldviews approach. SACRE is aware of the new national Religion and Worldviews resource<sup>5</sup> which has been produced to enable syllabus writers to construct a new generation of RE syllabi.

SACRE works closely with the Devon Faith and Belief Forum to establish strong links to local faith and belief organisations. SACRE officers organise Holocaust Memorial Day events for schools every year. On Holocaust Memorial Day in January 2022 a service was held at Exeter Cathedral where schools participated in remembrance and reflection. This event was made available to be viewed by schools online. A video was created and sent to schools for HMD commemoration. Online talks were made available to schools from Eric Murangwa Eugene (Rwandan genocide) and Rosemary Schonfeld (Jewish holocaust). Resources and links were shared with schools<sup>6</sup>.

### **Learn, Teach, Lead RE**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.arei.ac.org.uk/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://nasacre.org.uk/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://nasacre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Still-Standing-Appendix-6-Richmond-SACRE-action-research-project.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/projects/draft-resource/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://devonfaiths.org.uk/resources/>

Torbay SACRE is pleased to continue its support of the Learn, Teach, Lead RE programme<sup>7</sup>. The Torbay and South Devon hub is working well to support teachers of RE, offering termly twilight meetings and networking opportunities.

The recent evaluation of the programme has brought forward a number of recommendations which are being put in place. This includes a better system for sending out hub meeting dates in advance, and encouraging more recognition for the hub leaders' roles from their leadership teams in their schools.

The LTLRE conference in October 2021 took place online and attracted over 130 delegates. Feedback was very positive, valuing the input from speakers and workshops.

## **5 SACRE local involvement**

The half termly RE newsletter gives schools in depth support, information and networking links. It signposts current CPD, hub groups and conferences. Though it SACRE sign-posts guidance to schools about significant events, eg religious festivals such as Easter, Ramadan and Diwali, Interfaith Week etc

## **6 SACRE organisation**

Torbay SACRE is well served through its clerk (Sue Kemp) and adviser (Ed Pawson). Torbay Council is responsive to SACRE's needs and supportive in its administration and organisation. It is well supported financially.

SACRE membership is vibrant and well-engaged, although there are still a few important vacancies. SACRE is aware of the need to continue to increase the diversity of its members. All meetings in the last year have all been quorate.

A number of SACRE members have taken advantage of useful training opportunities over the last year, both through attendance at the SW SACRE conference and national online NASACRE training events.

During 2021/2 SACRE reviewed its constitution, through input from a working party. This has now been signed off by Torbay Council. The reviewed constitution makes provision for representatives from Humanists UK and the Pagan community to join Group A, rather than attend as co-opted members. It has also been decided to limit the length of service on SACRE to 4 years, followed by a second period of 4 years. This change will be phased in slowly and managed carefully, so as not to create a 'cliff-edge' where too many members leave at the same time.

### **Torbay SACRE logo**

Torbay SACRE is pleased to have adopted a new logo. Thanks go to all the schools who participated in the logo competition. But in particular, thanks to the students at St Peter's Church of England School, Exeter, for coming up with the winning design.

## **7 Appendix**

## **MEMBERSHIP OF TORBAY SACRE September 2022**

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<sup>7</sup> <https://ltlre.org/>

<b>A</b> <b>Christian and other Religions other than Church of England</b>	Christian denominations and other religions and religious denominations <sup>8</sup>	<b>Roman Catholic</b>	Helen Brown
		<b>Pentecostal</b>	Carly Watson
		<b>Quaker</b>	Bill Becher
		<b>Muslim</b>	Yousif Al-Nassar
		<b>Jewish</b>	Sheila Gewolb
		<b>Pagan</b>	Maia Miller
		<b>Humanist</b>	Lisa Robillard Webb
		<b>Hindu</b>	
		<b>Buddhist</b>	
		<b>URC / Methodist / Baptist</b>	
<b>B</b> <b>The Church of England</b>	The Church of England		Phillip Mantell
			Angela Sumner
			Katy Burns
			Charlotte Caluori
<b>C</b> <b>Associations representing teachers</b>	Such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the authority, ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area	<b>Teaching Unions</b>	Belinda Twiggs (NASUWT)
			Vacancy
			Vacancy
		<b>NATFHE</b>	Nikki Boone
		<b>NATRE/LTLRE</b>	Vacancy
		<b>Higher Education</b>	Jonathan Doney
		<b>SHA</b>	Jeremy Roberts
		<b>NAHT</b>	Vacancy
<b>D</b> <b>The Local Education Authority</b>	The Local Authority	<b>NATRE</b>	Claire Bird
		<b>Special school</b>	
			Cllr Mandy Darling
			Cllr Hazel Foster
<b>Coopted members</b>			Cllr Cordelia Law
			Cllr Nicole Amil
			Sivita Harrison

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<sup>8</sup> the number of whose representatives shall, 'so far as consistent with the efficient discharge of the committee's functions, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in the area'.