



Devon SACRE Annual Report 2016/7

Forward by Chair of Devon SACRE

It is an enormous privilege to have been Chair of Devon SACRE during the year 2016/17 and continue to be part of the work of supporting RE in Devon schools. In particular I would like to thank Ed Pawson and Jeremy Roberts for their work leading SACRE and supporting the place of RE in our schools. Several respected members of SACRE have left during the year and we take this opportunity to thank them for their service; we would also like to welcome the new members of SACRE, who join us from faith communities, teaching organisations or as DCC councillors.

In a time of ever-increasing financial constraints, SACRE is helping to sustain teachers of RE. The Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE) programme continues to offer significant support to primary and secondary teachers and SACRE recognises the important role that LTLRE hubs are now playing in providing high quality RE professional development across the county. We would like to thank all involved in this programme (especially LTLRE hub leaders) for their hard work and dedication, often at the end of a busy working day. It is exciting to note that LTLRE is increasingly being recognised nationally as a beacon of excellence in the way it is providing teachers with grass-roots support and empowering new leadership in the subject.

The commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is always a very significant part of the SACRE year. In January 2017 a dozen schools took part in presenting work and sharing experiences. Students participated in a whole variety of activities in Exeter and listened to talks from Hanneke Coates and Professor Christine King. Developing an understanding of respect and tolerance is one of the greatest skills we can equip our young people with. HMD offers an opportunity to educate the next generation about the terrible injustices inflicted on so many people because of ignorance, prejudice and deliberate manipulation of the truth. It is crucial work, and we would like to thank all those that work so hard to organise the events.

Important Interfaith work during this year involved training more faith and belief visitors, launching an online directory of interfaith visitors, hosting an interfaith conference on extremism and resilience and running workshops on Hinduism for pupils in Devon schools. Devon and Torbay SACREs have worked together on Assessment in RE to provide teachers with a new assessment policy and materials. These materials have been well received and are helping to guide teachers in their assessments. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the project.

Devon SACRE would like to congratulate students and staff in Devon secondary schools for all the hard work put into studying for exams. RE continues to be a subject that the majority of schools in Devon take seriously, recognising the important part it plays in helping to prepare young people for life in modern Britain.

The role of Devon SACRE continues to be vitally important, during this tumultuous period in education. SACRE's work enables teachers to be supported in providing high quality

Religious Education for Devon's young people. I look forward to another very positive year for Devon SACRE in 2017/18.

Claire Hulbert

Chair of Devon SACRE 2016/17

1 SACRE organisation

a) Membership

SACRE would like to say goodbye and thank you to the following members who left us during this year: Myfanwy McCory, Karen Chape, Viannah Rain, Caroline Walmsley, Mike Watson, Tanya Pritchard, Paula Fletcher, Teresa Griffiths, Graham Langtree, Cllr John Berry, Cllr A Hannan Cllr R Younger-Ross. SACRE would like to thank all of them for their commitment and contribution over many years.

b) Professional support for RE

SACRE continues to be well supported by clerk Gerry Rufolo (DCC), Sally Watts (Babcock/LDP).

2 SACRE activity

a) Assessment Project

In collaboration with Torbay SACRE, work has been carried out through a teacher working party to develop assessment policy and materials for RE. This material consists of a generic template and sets of exemplars for KS1, 2 and 3. It has been disseminated widely and posted on the Babcock/LDP website. It has been very well received by teachers and schools.

b) Agreed Syllabus

Work has been done to start the process of reviewing the agreed syllabus, with evaluation of the current agreed syllabus being carried out through Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE) hub groups.

c) Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE)

LTLRE hub groups across Devon continue to offer high quality cross-phase support for teacher of RE. These networks have established themselves as important providers of high quality RE professional development. They meet in 5 locations: Barnstaple (N Devon), Exeter, Exmouth (East Devon), Newton Abbot (S Devon) and Tavistock (W Devon) with a primary and secondary lead in each.

d) Training

Teachers in Devon have been able to access professional development courses run by Babcock/LDP and the Diocese of Exeter. In particular the training offered to introduce the Understanding Christianity materials has been very well received, with twilight follow-up offered through LTLRE hub groups. Other courses for primary schools have included subject knowledge courses on Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism, RE subject leaders' conference, Fundamental British values and Philosophy for Children. Courses to support secondary (GCSE and A level) teachers have included a day at Exeter Mosque on Islam and a day at the Hartridge Buddhist monastery

e) Half termly RE newsletter

The half termly RE newsletter gives extensive details about cpd events, conferences and teaching resources for primary and secondary schools. This is emailed out to all schools.

2 Interfaith work

a) Not in God's name conference

To coincide with Interfaith Week 2016 Devon SACRE participated in the organisation of the *Not in God's name* interfaith conference. This event attracted over 60 participants to listen to members of diverse faith and belief organisations and join in workshops on: online extremism and radicalisation; Hindu attitudes to the sacred; building resilience in young people; welcoming refugees and asylum seekers.

b) Workshops on Hinduism

Four primary schools brought a total of 76 pupils to an interactive morning of workshops on Hinduism with Sushma Sahajpal, hosted by Sidmouth College. Workshops were also provided for Year 10 and 12 students from the College.

c) Faith and belief training course

SACRE, working alongside Devon Faith and Belief Forum (DFBF), ran a very successful faith and belief visitor training course during the year 2016/7. This courses, running over 3 Saturday mornings, are designed to train individuals from diverse faith and belief communities with the aim of improving the support available for teachers of RE, giving them better access to high quality faith and belief visitors. An online directory has now been launched to give teachers across the county access to an email list of accredited visitors.

3 Holocaust Memorial Day

Schools events in Exeter for Holocaust Memorial Day again proved very successful. The theme of the exhibition was *How can life go on?* and this was exemplified in much of the material produced by the 11 schools from across the County who participated in the day. There were opportunities for young people to display exhibition material in the Guildhall and to present drama and dialogue in St Stephen's Church.

There were a number of showings of the film "Porajmos: the untold story of the gypsy holocaust", accompanied by talks from a Gypsy educator and a number of schools took advantage of the guided, reflective walks around the city centre. The Holocaust survivor talk on 27th Jan was well attended by members of the public, with speaker Hanneke Coates talking movingly about her experience as a prisoner in a Japanese POW camp in Java during WW2. The lunch-time talk for schools was a great success, with over 100 students listening to Professor Christine King who spoke about her research into the way the Jehovah's Witnesses were victims of Nazi persecution during 1930/40s.

4 Standards in Religious Education

a) Devon schools GCSE RS

Table A: the number of students entered for GCSE Religious Studies in Devon schools

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Full Course | 2760 | 2870 | 3544 | 2954 | 3666 | 4087 |
| Short Course | 2857 | 2878 | 2178 | 2053 | 1179 | 1321 |
| Total | 5617 | 5748 | 5722 | 5007 | 4845 | 5408 |

Full course GCSE results

National average: A*-A: 29.4%; A*-C: 71.2%

Devon average: A*-A: 21.5%; A*-C: 69.4%

On the whole, Devon secondary schools continue to take RE seriously at KS4 and proportionately more students are entered for GCSE RS than the national average (61% are entered for GCSE full course in Devon schools in comparison with approximately 50% nationally). Table A shows that the number of students entered for both full course and short course in 2017 were up on 2016. This is a good sign, but it is possible that some of this rise is caused by students being entered in Y10, so that could be a confusing factor.

However, although Devon schools continue to take GCSE RS seriously, results lag behind the national average both for A*-A and A*-C grades. In only one of the last 4 years have the results for A*-A grades been above national average. In only one of the last 6 years have Devon's schools achieved better than the national average for A*-C grades.

Overall, LA maintained schools are entering more students from their cohorts, but achieving less well in terms of grades.

Short course (SC) RS

Since 2013 there has been a dramatic falling off in entries for SC in Devon schools. Some schools are clearly moving over from SC to FC, but other schools seem to be dropping RS as a KS4 exam course altogether. However, one positive sign this year is that for the first time in 5 years there has been an increase in short course entries. There is some evidence that some schools that are trying to enter whole cohorts for full course GCSE are choosing to allow some students who are showing less progress to enter for short course instead of the full GCSE. SACRE would encourage this appropriate use of different examination routes for different students.

b) Monitoring standards in Devon schools

Devon SACRE has continued to monitor standards in RE in secondary schools, specifically in schools where there are concerns about compliance, time allocation or low examination entry/pass levels for Religious Education. In the schools visited so far there have been positive discussions with students, the teachers in charge of RE and Head Teachers/Senior Leaders. These schools have shown an appreciation for the support given by SACRE, leading to an expectation of further development of the curriculum opportunities for Religious Education. Both community schools and academies alike are being approached for these monitoring visits and it is noted that, although academies are not bound by SACRE/LA jurisdiction, there is a willingness to engage with SACRE advice, because it is understood to represent good practice for the creation of high quality RE. In many cases our visits have opened up opportunities for new communication channels, allowing RE teachers to access advice from a wider range of support networks and leading to curriculum developments for RE.

5 Collective Worship

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

APPENDIX 1: MEMBERSHIP OF DEVON SACRE 2017

Group A: Christian and other religious denominations, not including Church of England.

13 places: Appointment for four years ending on 30 April 2017

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Jude Taylorson | Buddhist Community |
| Miss Mary Hext | Methodist Church |
| Mr Ravi Nathwani | Hindu Community |
| Mrs Rosemary Khreisheh | Islamic Community |
| Mrs Nuala Nation | Roman Catholic Church |
| Mr Richard Halsey | Jewish Community |
| Mr Bernard Lane | United Reformed Church |
| Ms Helena Hastie | Baha'i Community |
| Mr Keith Denby | Devon Humanists |
| Ms Maia Miller | Pagan Federation |

Group B: The Church of England

6 places: Appointment for four years ending on 30 April 2017

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Ms Claire Hulbert | Diocesan Board of Education |
| Ms Penny Hammett | Diocesan Board of Education |
| Mrs Tatiana Wilson | Diocesan Board of Education |
| Mr MarkAndrew Dearden | University College of St Mark and St John |
| Mrs Ruth Ingrouille | Diocesan Board of Education |

Group C: Teachers' Associations

12 places: Appointments for four years ending on 30 April 2017

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Mr John Goody | Teaching union/ATL |
| Mrs Lorna Clay | Teaching union/NASUWT |
| Mrs Wendy Harrison | Teaching union/NUT |
| Mrs Sue Shute | RE teachers association/NATRE (secondary) |
| Mrs Gerry Winnall | RE teachers association/NATRE (primary) |
| Mr Paul Cornish | Secondary school leaders/SHA |
| Dr Karen Walshe | Higher Education/ITE/UCU |
| Dr Edgar Mihas | USU (FE) |

Group D: The Local Authority

6 places:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Cllr Mr John Berry | County Councillor |
| Cllr Mrs C Channon | County Councillor |
| Cllr Mrs P Colthorpe | County Councillor |
| Cllr A Hannan | County Councillor |
| Cllr M Squires | County Councillor |
| Cllr R Younger-Ross | County Councillor |

Co-opted members

Up to 6 places: Appointments for two years ending on 30 April 2017

Mrs Saxon Spence
Mr Jonathan Marshall
Mr Jeremy Roberts
Ms Teresa Griffiths