

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**  
**19<sup>th</sup> June 2019**  
**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and**  
**Communities**  
**Update on the Explore-Engage-Reflect legacy Westhill/NASACRE project**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To present SACRE members with a report

**2 Summary**

2.1 Continued update on the Explore-Engage-Reflect conference originally supported by Westhill/NASACRE. This report shows how this work now continues in a revised format to support learners in Staffordshire in their exploration of Christianity and Islam.

**3 Recommendation**

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the reports

**4 Background**

4.1 During the year 2017-2018 SACRE received a grant from Westhill/NASACRE to launch the new Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE through a conference entitled Explore-Engage-Reflect. Youth Net in conjunction with the Entrust Minority Ethnic Advisory Service (MEAS) team have taken this forward and are providing support and resources and workshops on Christianity and Islam, for those schools who choose throughout Staffordshire. SACRE committed funds from the 2018-19 budget to further support this work.

**7 Equal Opportunities**

7.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

**8 Financial implications**

8.1 SACRE has provided funds from its budget to further support the project so that more Staffordshire learners receive the opportunity to engage with this project. Costs that need to be covered include the input from Entrust MEAS team to support the learning on Islam. This in turn keeps the costs down for Youth Net and therefore the costs for schools. If funds allow SACRE need to consider whether they are willing to provide support for this project going forward into 2019-2020

**Update on the Explore-Engage-Reflect legacy Westhill/NASACRE project**

Mary Gale has facilitated the further exploration of this project and continued to monitor the impact.

The release of SACRE funds to support the project has been beneficial.

Mary has encouraged schools to take part in the project and supported the MEAS team and Youth Net, liaising with Alison Way, in sourcing schools that are willing to engage.

Fifteen schools have taken part in the project including,

Eight schools in the Stone district

Doxey Primary Stafford,

Flash Ley Primary Stafford,

St Luke's CE VC Primary Cannock, Y5 & Y6 120 children

St Chad's Primary Newcastle under Lyme,

Tillington Primary Stafford, Y5 & Y6 80 children

Parkside Primary Stafford, Y4 & Y5 66 children

Willows Primary Lichfield KS 2 pupils

Mary Gale has facilitated the further exploration of this project and will continue to monitor the impact.

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from staff and pupils.

Pupils have been able to express their delight at being given the opportunity to take part in the project comments include.

### **What was the best thing about the RE conference?**

Learning about different cultures

Getting information about Christianity and Islam

Doing the booklets as we went around the zones

Looking and using all the artefacts

The worship music

The Guardians of Ancora game

Learning about how Muslims and Christians pray

Everything

The worship music

The milestones toys

The different Bibles

The prayer plates

Dressing up

Using the prayer mats

Learning more about Islam and the similarities between the two religions

Reading the Minecraft Bible

Glitter bottles

Dancing to the music

Getting married

Finding out that there's many different ways to pray

### **What is the most important thing you learnt about Islam and Christianity today?**

#### **Islam**

There would be no Islam without Muslims

Learning about people's lives and experiences

Muslims try to live out the 5 Pillars no matter what circumstances they are in

How Muslims pray

That you don't have to do PE if you're fasting during Ramadan

The different clothes Muslims wear

## **Christianity**

How Christians pray

The bread represents Jesus' body and the wine is his blood

Jesus said the most important value is to love God and other people

Buzz Aldrin had communion on the moon

There is a Welsh Bible

There is a church in the Roblox game

Church isn't just a building

William Coltman was brave

You can forgive someone even if they kill someone you love

*Christians are a lot more important than I thought*

## **What would make the RE conference even better?**

Add other activities

More time in the zones

More toys that we can play with

More practical activities

Information about pilgrimages

Have food to try

Go outside to do some of the learning