

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
9th February 2015
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People
An Update on Key Issues

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present members of SACRE with a brief update on key issues that have developed or arisen since the last meeting of SACRE.

2 Summary

2.1 Members of SACRE will receive a brief report on a number of key issues. These are matters which have either been raised at previous SACRE meetings and which have moved forward, or matters on which it is appropriate to brief members of SACRE.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report and note the contents

4 Background

4.1 Since the autumn term meeting of the SACRE there have been developments in a number of areas which had previously been agenda items for SACRE or which have local or national importance for RE.

4.2 Members will be briefed on these key developments.

5 Equal Opportunities

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

6 Financial implications

6.1 Financial implications may be raised by individual items. These have been dealt with elsewhere, or will be raised at future meetings of SACRE.

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Cover for RE Consultant to Staffordshire SACRE

Maternity cover for Emma Jardine, consultant to Staffordshire SACRE, will be required from April 2015. Mary Gale has been successfully recruited to fulfil this role. Mary has experience of SACRE having been a member for several years and is also a SIAMs inspector. In addition Mary has been a consultant for Entrust since retiring from headship and has a good understanding of the relationship between SCC and Entrust giving her the insight and ability to guide the SACRE going forward in the interim period.

Letter from Lord Nash to SACRE's

Lord Nash, Minister responsible for faith schools has sent a letter to all SACRE Chairs, Clerks and Directors of Children's Services. It emphasises the importance of good teaching of religious education and the central role of SACREs and the duty of local authorities.

The letter is attached.

NASACRE response following the Charlie Hebdo murders

Following the Charlie Hebdo murders and the Hyper Casher hostage deaths in Paris, NASACRE has issued a statement about teaching Islam:

The letter is attached.

Guidance on promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools

Emma Jardine attended the AREIAC conference on the Trojan Horse Affair in November 2014. This was closely followed by a release of official guidance from the DFE on promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools (see agenda item 6). Emma has shared some guidance with school governors initially via the Entrust Governor information Pack will now be using this information further to lead a series of briefings on this matter for schools later this month.

Good news story:

Following attendance at the spirited Arts course led by Emma Jardine, schools within the Biddulph Schools Partnership Trust are embarking on a spirited arts Week commencing 9th February 2015. The aims are to:

- increase pupil awareness and understanding of faith and culture, including Christianity.
- Increase knowledge of the main faiths through story, dance, art and music
- Develop practical skills in art, music and dance
- Showcase the products of the learning within the community
- Evidence Spiritual, moral, social and culture in schools.