

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
9th February 2015
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People
Guidance on promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present members of SACRE with a brief update on the new guidance for Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in maintained schools

2 Summary

- 2.1 Members of SACRE will receive a brief report on this guidance. This is a matter 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 On the 27 November 2014 The Department for Education published guidance on promoting British values in schools to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain. The guidance aims to help both independent and state-maintained schools understand their responsibilities in this area. All have a duty to 'actively promote' the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. These values were first set out by the government in the 'Prevent' strategy in 2011.
- 4.2 Until now schools have been required to 'respect' these values, but as a result of changes brought in earlier in the year all schools must now have a clear strategy for embedding these values and show how their work with pupils has been effective in doing so. In a letter to the Education Select Committee in March, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools Lord Nash explained the changes were designed to "tighten up the standards on pupil welfare to improve safeguarding, and the standards on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils to strengthen the barriers to extremism".
- 4.3 Ofsted and the independent inspectorates now take the work of schools in this area into account during inspections.
- 4.4 Members may wish to consider this guidance and its implications and opportunities for RE going forward.

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.

Contact Officer
Telephone number:

Emma Jardine
01785 27799