

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Wednesday 1 February 2023

14:00

Oak Room, County Buildings, Stafford

John Tradewell
Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services
24 January 2023

Agenda

1. **Apologies**
2. **Welcome to New Members (if any)**
3. **Declaration of Any Other Business**
4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 16 November 2022** (Pages 1 - 8)
 - a) Matters arising from minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2022 (Pages 9 - 10)
5. **An Update on Key Issues** (Pages 11 - 14)

Report of the Director for Children and Families
6. **NASACRE Update** (Pages 15 - 16)

Report of the Director for Children and Families
7. **Agreed Syllabus update and launch information** (Pages 17 - 18)
8. **Reflection on Religion and the 2021 census** (Pages 19 - 20)

Report of the Director for Children and Families
9. **Resources to support RE** (Pages 21 - 24)
 - a) Big ideas
 - b) Culham St. Gabriel's E-learning Platform

c) Miscellaneous ideas

10. **The SACRE Budget 2022-2023 and 2023-2024** (Pages 25 - 26)

Report of the Director for Children and Families

11. **Development Plan 2023-24** (Pages 27 - 30)

Report of the Director for Children and Families

12. **Applications for variation of practice** (Pages 31 - 32)

Report of the Director for Children and Families

13. **Dates of next meetings**

Wednesday 28 June 2023 - 2pm

Wednesday 15 November 2023 - 2pm

Membership	
Mohamed Sedky	Shaun Miles
Linda Goodwin	Maddy Belle
Julie Thompson	Harold Gurden
Tajinder Singh	Zoe Cahalan
G Devadason	Vicky Priestley
Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf (Chair)	Philip Atkins, OBE
Sam Kirwan	Paul Northcott
Dr Laow Panyasiri	Mike Wilcox
Mohamed Parekh	Ian Horsewell
Sam Phillips	Kath Perry, MBE
Lauren Nicholson Ward	Paul Snape
Judy Wyman	Amy Bayliss-Fox
Gabi Oldfield	Claire Tomlinson
Vickie Longson	

Notes for Members of the Press and Public

Recording by Press and Public

Recording (including by the use of social media) by the Press and Public is permitted from the public seating area provided it does not, in the opinion of the chairman, disrupt the meeting.

MINUTES

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Meeting
16 November 2022**

Present: Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf

Linda Goodwin, Julie Thompson, Mohamed Parekh, Lauren Nicholson Ward, Judy Wyman, Vickie Longson, Zoe Cahalan, Vicky Priestley, Philip Atkins, OBE, Paul Northcott, Kath Perry, MBE and Amy Bayliss-Fox

Also in attendance: Mary Gale (SACRE Advisor) and Simon Humble (Clerk)

PART ONE

132. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

Resolved: That:

- a. Rev. Preb. Michael Metcalf be appointed as Chair of the SACRE until November 2023.
- b. Lauren Nicholson-Ward be appointed as Vice-Chair of the SACRE until November 2023.

133. Apologies

Apologies were received from Gabi Oldfield, Maddy Belle, Sam Kirwan, Sam Phillips, Cllr Mike Wilcox and Cllr Paul Snape.

134. Welcome to New Members

The SACRE formally welcomed Claire Tomlinson to represent the Roman Catholic church.

135. Declaration of Any other Business

There were no declarations of any other business on this occasion.

136. Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2022

A minor amendment was requested of Minute 127 to change the word "rethinker" to "rethinkre".

Resolved: That the minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 29 June 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

137. An Update on Key Issues - including workforce information

The SACRE considered the report which covered the main issues affecting Religious Education (RE) in Staffordshire since the last meeting. Further to the written report, the following information was provided:

Continuous Professional Development

Entrust have approached Mary Gale to run face to face courses to provide network support for teachers. The autumn course is book for 22 November 2022, and to date 28 schools have booked onto this course.

Governors continue to receive updates on RE, the status of the Agreed Syllabus (AS) and the process for the review through the "Governor Information Pack". Governors had also been encouraged to discuss the impact of the current AS. This information had reached 300 plus schools and over 200 leaders from these school joined an update webinar where RE was discussed as part and parcel of the information provided.

Update on RE Quality Mark application- St Chad's Pattingham

The SCARE heard that St Chad's Pattingham had received the SACRE grant to enable them to apply for this quality mark. The RE lead was working through the requirements collecting evidence for the virtual assessment. Mary Gale had supported the school to ensure they had a strong evidence base before the assessment. The school is awaiting its assessment date.

Westhill Legacy project- Explore, Engage, Reflect (EER) in conjunction with Youth Net.

The SACRE were reminded that funding had been provided for this project from the 2022-2023 budget through commissioning the Entrust Minority Ethnic Achievement Service (MEAS) to deliver workshops in conjunction with Youth Net. There had been a delay in the release of money from the SACRE budget, but this had now been released and dates for the Spring term 2023 support had been arranged.

Work force data for 2021

The workforce data is a database of statistics provided by schools indicating how many hours are taught on each subject matter – this primarily affects each Middle and High schools. Of the schools in Staffordshire there has been an improvement of hours spent on religious education in high schools in comparison to the last figures provided.

Standards

The SACRE heard that the GCSE system continued to use the new grading of 9-1, with 9 being the exceptional grade. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the

summer exam series for the 2019/2020 academic year was cancelled for all schools in the UK and grades were awarded following a different process in Central Assessed Grades (CAGs). This continued into the 2020/21 academic year where they became Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). Exams resumed with some modifications in 2022. This led to a large increase in the share of top grades. Historical data was provided to demonstrate Staffordshire’s Religious Studies GCSE performance (achieving grades 9 to 4) against the national average. The table below shows the figures.

Year	Area Average	Grade	Percentage
2019	National	9 to 4	72.3%
	Staffordshire	9 to 4	65.9%
2020	National	9 to 4	80.5%
	Staffordshire	9 to 4	76.4%
2021	National	9 to 4	80.2%
	Staffordshire	9 to 4	77.5%
2022	National	9 to 4	76.7%
	Staffordshire	9 to 4	73.4%

The SACRE heard that, in England, the number of Religious Studies A-level exam entries in 2021 had increased by 6.1%. The subject had outperformed other A-level subjects, which increased by 5.1%, with a greater increase than most other humanities subjects - these results reversed the decline of 11.5% in 2020. It was noted, however, that the data provided suggested that only 53 pupils had sat a Religious Studies exam in Staffordshire. This number was being challenged and confirmation was awaited.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

138. NASACRE Update

The SACRE heard that the draft annual report, which would be presented later in the meeting, was a document that was produced by law and passed on to maintained schools in the county, to the County Council itself, to NASACRE, and to the Department for Education (DfE). Due to a lack of comeback from the DfE, NASACRE was prompted to commission Dr Hampshire (ex-chair of NASACRE) to analyse the reports and report on his findings. This would support the delivery and development of all future annual reports. This was welcomed by the Staffordshire SACRE.

NASACRE is continuing to collaborate with the development of regional RE Hubs, an initiative which is gaining momentum, and which is receiving a certain level of funding from educational trusts. The organisation of these Hubs corresponds to the regional distinction divisions which the DfE is working on. There may be need for the Staffordshire SACRE to collaborate with its regional hub in the future.

NASACRE has been involved with other educational departments to lobby the government, whilst the School's Bill is in suspension, in a hope that improvements can be secured and gaps in provision can be filled, should the School's Bill go forward.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

139. Agreed Syllabus conference

The Education Act 1996 requires Local Authorities to review its locally AS every five years. Staffordshire's syllabus was due to be reviewed in 2021 but due to the fallout from COVID-19 this was delayed. An Agreed Syllabus (AS) Conference had to be established in order to agree the revised AS. This would then be formally approved by the County Council.

The SACRE meeting was adjourned in order for the Agreed Syllabus Conference to be convened.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) was convened. Attendance and apologies were as for the meeting of SACRE.

- a. The minutes of the last meeting held on 29 June 2022 were agreed.
- b. Further to the report, Mary Gale updated the ASC on the work undertaken since the last meeting and presented a final draft of the AS for discussion and approval.

The ASC was provided with the final draft of the AS for approval. By way of an update the SACRE were informed that:

- a vision had now been included to complement the aims of the overall AS.
- more detail had been included explaining that the AS sought to achieve this vision through following three specific themes - Exploring, Engaging, and Reflecting, supported by six dimensions.
- additional references had been made to nonreligious beliefs and world views.
- a number of appendices had been added to the document as examples of lesson planning to support delivery of the AS, as it was noted that this was often requested by schools.

A debate ensued about the way in which "world views" was presented. It was suggested that this could be one word, two words, two words hyphenated, one word capital W, or two words capital W and V. The NATRE website and teaching documents presented this as one word (without a capital W). It was initially suggested that, to keep consistency, this should be the way it was presented in the Agreed Syllabus. However, it was argued that it was grammatically correct to display it as two separate words as it was essentially the way in which a person "viewed the world". It was agreed to consistently display the term "world view" as two words throughout the Agreed Syllabus, with additional detail added to the footnote on page 5 of the document to state that the "Staffordshire

SACRE had chosen the editorial principle of presenting “world view” as two words but acknowledged that it was often referred to as one word”.

Additionally, some amendments were requested to be made to names included in the acknowledgments section of the document. Prior to publication, the format of the graphics and text would also be checked.

The Chair then invited each group of the ASC to vote as to whether they were happy to adopt the text as the Agreed Syllabus for 2023 to 2028 to present to the SACRE for adoption. Each group was asked in turn to vote with the following result:

Group A – unanimously voted in favour of the text going forward.

Group B – unanimously voted in favour of the text going forward.

Group C – unanimously voted in favour of the text going forward.

Group D – unanimously voted in favour of the text going forward.

Following this the next steps of the approval process were outlined to the SACRE, and it was agreed that a further update of the approval process would be given at the SCARE meeting due to take place in February 2023.

Following approval, it was explained that a launch programme would be organised to take place in early 2023 where schools would be invited to attend a presentation of the new AS. A transition period would take place in the spring and summer terms of the 2022/23 academic year, with full implementation taking place from the start of the new academic year 2023 onwards.

Resolved: That:

- a. the Agreed Syllabus conference agreed to adopt the text and present it to the SACRE as the Agreed Syllabus for 2023 to 2028.
- b. an update of the approval process of the Agreed Syllabus be brought to the SACRE meeting due to take place in February 2023.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference meeting was adjourned in order for the SACRE to be reconvened.

140. Adoption of the Agreed Syllabus

SACRE officially received the Agreed Syllabus. Moving forwards, this would be passed on to the appropriate Cabinet Member for Staffordshire County Council ahead of it being authorised, published and distributed to schools.

Resolved: That the Agreed Syllabus be officially received by the SACRE.

141. SACRE Annual Report for 2021-2022

The SACRE received the draft SACRE Annual Report from the academic year 2021-22. This followed the template guidance supplied by NASACRE and included the following items.

- Introduction
- A summary of the work of SACRE 2021-2022
- Standards and quality of RE provision including Collective worship
- Managing the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other stakeholders
- The effectiveness of the local agreed syllabus and the review process
- Contribution of the SACRE to the wider community
 - Knowledge and understanding of the local religious, cultural and ethnic minority

Resolved: That the Annual Report be approved.

142. The SACRE Budget 2022-2023

Members were informed that, of the budget of £6,114.00 that was currently available to the SACRE, the following commitments had been made from the SACRE annual allowance:

7 days for Agreed Syllabus work with MEAS team	-	£3,150.00
4 days for AS support and planning	-	£1,800.00
Agreed Syllabus Launch	-	£1,000.00

Resolved: That the SACRE Budget 2022-2023 be received.

143. Development Plan

The Development plan was presented to the SACRE. The SACRE advisor spent some time explaining the objectives, activities, and the RAG rating which estimated the success of each objective.

Resolved: That the Development Plan be noted.

144. Applications for variation of practice

There were none on this occasion.

145. Dates of next meetings

Dates of next meetings - All meetings commence at 2:00pm unless otherwise stated.

- 01 February 2023
- 28 June 2023
- 15 November 2023

**Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf
Chairman**

Vision and Aims

The vision for Religious Education (RE) in Staffordshire's Agreed Syllabus 2023 is as follows:-

The role of RE in schools is to help prepare and equip all pupils for life and citizenship in today's diverse and plural Britain, through fostering in each pupil an increasing awareness of, and sensitivity within, the diversity of religious and non-religious beliefs, practices, spiritual insights and world views** they will encounter.

By **EXPLORING, ENGAGING** and **REFLECTING**, pupils will develop the knowledge, insights and skills necessary for them to be able to live authentically and responsibly as adults in today's world, acknowledging how religious and secular communities seek to uphold and develop the well-being of the human family.

Rationale

We live in an increasingly diverse society, religiously and culturally. Religious Education plays a special role in preparing pupils to flourish in this complex world. Educating pupils to live well in a culturally and religiously plural society means that they must learn how to navigate difference and diversity. This will often mean reflecting on views and behaviours that they have previously not encountered, and which may not correspond neatly with their own views and understandings of the world. Religious Education therefore not only enables pupils to build up a core basis of relevant knowledge and insights and supports them as they explore the "big questions" about life and formulate and express their own views and values. It also challenges pupils to recognise and confront negative attitudes towards diversity, both in society at large and within themselves.

** Note on world views

A "world view" is the framework of beliefs and values which shape the way a person experiences and responds to the world. Everyone has a world view, though this may not be acknowledged and articulated in a fully conscious form. When a group of people consciously share the same world view, they often express this in organised and tangible ways, and commit to it as part of their individual identities. Such a shared world view may be religious in character, or non-religious. Religious Education brings pupils into contact with a range of world views, encouraging each pupil to develop and forge their own personal sense of values, identity and world view, both in the context of the pupil's cultural heritage and also more widely in relation to the diversity of world views found within society as a whole.

Throughout the text of this document, we have used the form 'world views' for consistency wherever the phrase occurs (except when quoting a title or other existing material).

Other forms are in use as well, such as Worldviews, World Views, world-views etc. Different nuances are sometimes read into certain forms of the phrase. The form 'world views' has been adopted here to avoid conveying any overt or hidden agenda relating to the phrase.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
1st February 2023
Report of the Director for Children and Families
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 summer 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; These have been dealt with elsewhere or will be raised at future meetings of SACRE.

Contact Officer

Mary Gale 07816 374873

Key Issues Report

i) **Advisor**

Mary Gale has been commissioned by SCC through its trading arm to support the Staffordshire SACRE for a number of years and the revision of the Agreed Syllabus.

This commission needs to be reviewed for the financial year 2023-2024, commencing April 1st 2023. Entrust and SCC have not yet indicated their wish for this commission to continue. Mary Gale has contact both parties after expressing her wish to continue. She has expressed the need for there to be an increase in the support for schools due to the launch of the AS. The outcome has not yet been decided. Watch this space.

ii) **Continuous Professional Development**

Mary Gale continues to support RE leaders in several schools through email, virtual meetings and face to face meetings. This has involved supporting schools in understanding *greater depth* in RE assessment, whole class reading through RE texts, planning and preparation for Ofsted '*deep dives*'.

Planning support is needed most. Mary has re written some of the planning to support schools.

Entrust commissioned Mary Gale to run a face-to-face autumn course on 22nd November 2022 at Entrust. 20 schools booked onto this course. The course was well received. It concentrated on a summary of the forthcoming revisions to the Agreed Syllabus. We shared resources and ideas for effective RE. The feedback was very positive. More courses will be planned once the Agreed Syllabus is launched.

Governors through the Spring 2023 Governor Information Pack received an update on RE in Staffordshire which included the status of the AS and the process for the review. They have been encouraged to work in their link governor roles to discuss the impact of the current AS. This information has reached 300 plus schools and over 200 leaders, including governance professionals from a variety of schools- both maintained and academies. This information was well received once again.

Mary attended virtual meetings of the West Midlands Association of Religious Education Inspectors and Advisors and Consultants (AREIAC) and a local National association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) online meeting. The next meetings are on 6th and 14th March 2023.

Discussions in the November meetings centred around resources, the national plan for RE and the hijab protests in Iran.

Mary attended a Church of England conference on January 27th 2023 looking at various education issues.

A verbal report will be presented in the February 2023 meeting.

iii) **Westhill Legacy project- Explore, Engage, Reflect (EER) in conjunction with Youth Net. Autumn Term 2022 report.**

SACRE have funded this project from the 2022-2023 budget through commissioning the Entrust Minority Ethnic Achievement Service- MEAS- to deliver workshops in conjunction with YouthNet.

There was a delay in the release of money from the SACRE budget. Mary Gale followed this up with Entrust and SCC. The budget has now been released and dates for the Spring term 2023.

The following dates have been confirmed for 2023.

Monday 6th Feb at Springhead Primary at Talks Pitts

Monday 6th March at Ravensmead at Bignall End

We are awaiting for the date to support Baldwins Gate CE VC Primary school.

Seven additional schools in the Newcastle area have been contacted and we are awaiting replies.

iv) Work force data

This data was reported by schools to the DfE as part of the school census in November 2021

Hours taught for years 7 to 13, in subjects RE, philosophy and all subjects, reported by state-funded secondary schools with electronic timetabling software.

School Workforce Census 2021

61 Staffordshire schools are included.

Aspects to note:

Some schools reported that they allocate teaching hours to a specific year group but have not included RE in that report. Mary investigated this issue by checking the school websites.

Mary contacted or visited these schools, and the issue is not always with the teaching of RE/RS but with the admin of filling in the census.

It is the general feeling that the census return is not essentially a true account as the census form may have been populated incorrectly.

Many of the schools reporting no RE/RS taught are Catholic schools and we are certain that RE/RS is taught.

Mary will continue to work on this project as time and resources allow. We are optimistic that the next census return will show an improved picture.

v) Freedom of Information Request- report from the clerk Simon Humble

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
1st February 2023
Report of the Director for Children and Families
An Update on NASACRE

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 NASACRE issues. These are matters on which it is appropriate to brief members of SACRE.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report.

4 Background

4.1 NASACRE is the national body of SACRE's. National meetings and conferences are held to which members of SACRE are invited and encouraged to attend. These have been held virtually due to Covid-19. Issues are discussed which have local or national importance for RE.

4.2 Members will be briefed on any 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.

Contact Officer: Mary Gale 07816374873

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
1st February 2023
Report of the Director for Children and Families
Agreed Syllabus Launch Information Update

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide updated information on the Revised Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus (AS) 2023 for Religious Education to SCARE Members and the launch of the AS.

2 Summary

- 2.1 Members of SACRE are reminded of the following-
The legal requirements regarding RE can be found in the Education Reform Act 1988 (Sections 6-13). They are reaffirmed in the Education Act 1996 (Sections 375-389) and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Sections 69-71)

- 2.2 The Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus was last reviewed and issued to schools in 2016. A review therefore fell to SACRE and as a result of the review the 2016 AS was revised and updated. This was agreed on in the November 2022 SACRE meeting.

This agreed version with some minor tweaks and formatting was sent to SCC cabinet in early January 2023.

The launch of the syllabus is arranged for Monday 27th February commencing at 2pm with light refreshments.

The Entrust marketing department will be informing schools of the launch

The AS will then be available to schools through the ebag and also through Mod.Gov. S Humble, the clerk to the SACRE to upload final version when advised.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That members of the SACRE receive the information and inform the adviser whether they will be able to attend the launch afternoon by emailing her or the clerk by 14th February 2023 so that light refreshments can be ordered.

4 Background

- 4.1 The Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus was last reviewed and issued to schools in 2016. A review therefore was due in 2021 and the revised AS was agreed upon in November 2022

- 4.2 Stakeholders were consulted and revisions made in line with stakeholder suggestions and the statutory parameters.

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: Mary Gale – 07816 374873

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
1st February 2023
Report of the Director for Children and Families
Reflection on Religion and the 2021 census.**

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide updated information on religion and the 2021 census

2 Summary

2.1 Members of SACRE are reminded of the following-.

A census is carried out every 10 years. Prior to 2021 census the census was carried out in 2011

The census provides information on many aspects one of which is how the population answers a voluntary question regarding religious affiliation or not.

This voluntary question was introduced in 2001

3 Recommendation

The SACRE members to reflect on the outcomes of the census and its implications.

4 Background

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:

Mary Gale

0781637483

Results of 2021 Census

As in 2011, the most common response to the religion question in England and Wales was "Christian" (46.2% of the overall population, 27.5 million people).

This was the most common religious group in both England (46.3%) and in Wales (43.6%).

However, the number of people who described themselves as "Christian" decreased to less than half the population for the first time.

It was a 13.1 percentage point decrease from 59.3% in 2011 (33.3 million people). This continues the decrease since 2001, when 71.7% (37.3 million) described themselves as "Christian".

This coincided with an increase in the number of people reporting "No religion" to 37.2% (22.2 million) in 2021 from 25.2% (14.1 million) in 2011.

Again, this continues the trend between 2001 and 2011, when the number of people reporting "No religion" had risen from 14.8% (7.7 million people).

There are many factors that may be contributing to the changing religious composition of England and Wales, such as differing patterns of ageing, fertility, mortality, and migration. Changes may also be caused by differences in the way individuals chose to answer the religion question between censuses.

Religions in the United Kingdom

Christianity (46.2%)

Irreligion (37.2%)

Islam (6.5%)

Hinduism (1.7%)

Sikhism (Sikhi) (0.8%)

Buddhism (0.5%)

Judaism (0.5%)

Other religious groups

Among the 405,000 (0.7% of the overall population in England and Wales) who chose to write-in a response through the "Any other religion" option were the following religions:

- **Pagan (74,000)**
- Alevi (26,000)
- Jain (25,000)
- Wicca (13,000)
- Ravidassia (10,000)
- Shamanism (8,000)
- Rastafarian (6,000)
- Zoroastrian (4,000)

The largest increase was seen in those describing their religion as "Shamanism", increasing more than tenfold to 8,000 from 650 in 2011.

Of those who wrote-in a non-religious group to "Any other religion", the largest numbers were:

- Agnostic (32,000)
- Atheist (14,000)
- Humanist (10,000)

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
1st February 2023
Report of the Director for Children and Families
Suggested resources to support the Agreed Syllabus

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide an update on possible resources to support the teaching of the Agreed Syllabus

2 Summary

2.1 As a result of the revision of the Agreed Syllabus, schools will be requiring support and information on suitable resources

3 Recommendation

The SACRE members to reflect and dip into the examples provided and give their opinion on whether these might be deemed suitable.

4. Equal Opportunities

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

5 Financial implications

5.1 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: Mary Gale 0781637483

Suggested resources to support the Agreed Syllabus

a) Big ideas

Big Ideas for RE A new web-based curriculum for Religious Education, designed to meet the needs of all young people, including the growing number of those professing 'no religion' launched on 21st July 2022.

Big Ideas for RE includes a complete guide for those developing the RE curriculum for schools and is free of charge. The materials provide a new vision for the subject with the ultimate aim of improving the quality and rigour of RE.

The emphasis of the new materials and exemplars is on engaging children and young people with the issues and matters of current concern in the world today, including the environmental crisis, offering 'curriculum design for a 21st century education in religion and worldviews'.

The Big Ideas for RE have been built on the work of 12 RE academics and professionals who came together for a summit in 2016 under the directorship of Dr Barbara Wintersgill. The website address is: <https://bigideasforre.org/>

Big Ideas for RE - Free Religious Education Curriculum for schools

b) Culham St. Gabriel's E learning Platform:

General information to support the teaching of RE

<https://courses.cstg.org.uk/>

New resources

Three introduction courses now live on this platform, with more to come.

Look out on social media for updates. All courses are free and designed to take about 90 mins (for introduction courses) and a little longer for other courses. You can view these videos and much more by following the link:-

<https://vimeo.com/channels/cstg>

c) RE Today and National Association Teachers of Religious Education

<https://www.retoday.org.uk/school-support/schemes-of-work/>

RE today provides some free resources and many which schools have to pay for.

Units include lots of teaching and learning ideas, links to useful resources, learning outcomes and assessment guidance and suggestions. **Each unit offers on average eight hours of classroom ideas.**

<https://www.natre.org.uk/> [Search for resources](#)

Over 2000 online teaching resources available. From classroom ideas, subject knowledge, research papers and more... Covering a breadth of religious and non-religious worldviews.

d) Early Years resources

Gill Vaisey is an independent adviser on religion and worldviews specialising in RE for 3 – 7 year olds. She produces a wealth of free curriculum support documents and published resources which can be accessed via www.booksatpress.co.uk

The books at press EYFS resources are on this website

[RE Books & Resources \(booksatpress.co.uk\)](http://www.booksatpress.co.uk)

Gill also produces, to purchase story books about Puddles the cat and Rev Fisher

e) Bible stories to support the teaching of Christianity

This is a series of PowerPoints with brilliant images for ten of the main Bible stories

<https://tenbiblestories.org/resources/noahs-ark/?s=03>

f) BBC Bitesize

Religion Road 20 short films from BBC for RE: The BBC's 20 new films for RE are all embedded into Bitesize. They are designed for use at home, but you may well find them useful in class too.

All of them can currently be accessed at KS2 Religious Education - BBC Bitesize . [KS2 Religious Education - BBC Bitesize](#)

Also

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/>

g) Oak Academy

Free PowerPoints to support the teaching of the main religions with quizzes to support retrieval of information

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-2/subjects/religious-education>

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-4/subjects/religious-education>

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
1st February 2023
Report of the Director for Children and Families
Current budget 2022-23**

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise members of SACRE on the current budget position for 2022-2023 and provide information on 2023-2024 budget

2 Summary

- 2.1 A breakdown of the current SACRE budget for the financial year 2022-2023.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report.

4 Background

- 4.1 A budget had been made available to support the work of SACRE during the financial year 2022-2023 as approved by the Corporate Director (Children and Lifelong Learning).
- 4.2 Please note information on the current budget for 2022-2023
- 4.3 The 2022-2023 budget will continue to be monitored and clarified and the new budget for 2023-2024 monitored and evaluated

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 are indicated in the budget account.

**Contact Officer:
Mary Gale 07816 374873**

Screen Data Export - SACRE (2022-23) as at 14-10-2022 Agenda Item 9 £6340 total allocated			Budget for 23-24 will be increased by £200				
Option	NML400						
Date	February 2023						
GL Account Codes for : Enquiry Group: Curr Budget (v2) v Act + GRNI/GL Account Code Range: EM1100/***** to EM1100/***** / Enquiry Year: 2022/ Period: 00 to 12							
<u>GL Account Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Current Budget (v2)</u>	<u>Actual + Grni</u>	<u>Actuals</u>	<u>Variance Bud v(Act +GRNI)</u>		
EM110010002	SACRE Teachers Gross	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
EM110025502	SACRE Rent/Lease of Premises	0.00	81.00	81.00	(81.00)		
EM110044038	SACRE QLS Curriculum Advice	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
EM110046204	SACRE Conference Fees	0.00	40.00	40.00	(40.00)	Attendance at the NASACRE Conference	
EM110047017	SACRE Grants to third parties	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
EM110047202	SACRE Subscriptions General	0.00	105.00	105.00	(215.00)		
EM110048342	SACRE Contingency	6,340.00	0.00	0.00	6,340.00		
EM110064550	SACRE Tfrs to Oth Accounts	(10,080.00)	(10,080.00)	(10,080.00)	0.00		
		(3,740.00)	(9,854.00)	(9,854.00)	6,004.00		
	Total Available before commitments				6,004.00		
	Less committed amounts:						
	3 days of 7 planned for Agreed Syllabus work with MEAS team. If all funds not used then should be claimed and the work carried out in the new financial year			3,150.00			
	4 days for AS support and planning			1,800.00			
	Agreed Syllabus Launch POs raised			1,000.00			

Agenda item 11 February 1st 2023

SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN and Agreed Syllabus PLAN

Staffordshire SACRE								
Chair	Michael Metcalf			Date Range for completion:	June 2021 – February 2023			
Commissioned support adviser	Mary Gale							
Self-evaluation:				Self-evaluation:				
Objective	Activities	Time scale	Led by	Success criteria	Evidence	Evaluation Nove 2022	RAG updated Nove 2022	
Page 27	1. New members become familiar with roles and responsibilities	Attendance at 3 annual meeting	July 2021-Spring 2023	Chair and consultant	SACRE members are familiar with roles and responsibilities.	Through meetings, knowledge is evidenced of the process	As meeting are convened then new members become familiar with their roles.	Green improved
	2. SACRE are made aware of current philosophy regarding RE and CW and resources	Update information received at meetings	July 2021-Spring 2023	Chair and consultant	SACRE members are aware of current philosophy regarding RE and CW and resources to assist.	Through meetings, knowledge is increased.	This is always an update at each meeting and is ongoing	Amber ++
	3. Review of the Agreed Syllabus -system and processes review	Familiarisation of procedures and processes regarding review. Seek clarification on funding and agreement from SCC to carry out the review.	July 2021-Spring 2023	Chair	SACRE members are familiar with procedures and processes regarding review. Funding is identified.	Through meetings, knowledge is evidenced of the process. Budget is monitored	This is underway	Green improved
	4. ASC conference is convened	ASC members confirmed. ASC conference delegates meet and the outcomes minuted x3	July 2021-Autumn 2022-	Chair and consultant	ASC members are identified and attend ASC first conference meeting and next steps identified.	Minutes of ASC.	These are underway and 3 to date have been held	Green improved

	Agreement on next steps eg working party identified			Working party members identified	Feedback from the working party under Agenda item of November 2021 and Feb and June 2022 SACRE meeting		
5. ASC working party meet	Working party meet in virtual environment and become familiar with current AS and its content	October 2021 Feb 2022 May 2022 June 2022 November 2022 December 2022	Chair and consultant	Working party re familiarise itself with content of current 2016 AS	Feedback from the working party under Agenda item of November 2021 February 2022 SACRE meeting. Also May 2022 x2 meetings and subsequent meetings in November 2022 and Dec 2022	Feedback is presented at Feb/June and November 2022 meeting	Green improved
6. Engagement with stakeholders	Review of opportunities for greater and more effective engagement. Virtual meeting with stakeholders. Survey sent to 300 plus schools.	Autumn Term 2021- Spring 2022 and autumn 2022	Chair and consultant Chair and consultant. Consultant	Engagement activities - opinion and debate on current AS. Survey results provide information	Feedback minuted under Agenda item of November 2021 and February 2022 and June 2022 meeting Feedback minuted under Agenda item of November 2021 and February 2022 June 2022 and November 2022 SACRE meeting	On-going	Green improved
7. Content of current AS reflected upon and modified if appropriate.	Current AS reflected upon and modified if appropriate in light of feedback from stakeholders	Autumn Term 2021- Spring 2022 through to Spring 2023	Chair and consultant.	ASC delegates feel confident in their decisions about modified.	Feedback minuted under Agenda item of November 2021 and February 2022	On going	Green improved

				Stakeholder's views on modified content sought.	and June 2022 SACRE meeting		
8. Draft versions of 2022/2023 syllabus produced for scrutiny and agreed on.	ASC	June 2022- Spring 2023	Chair and consultant.		Revised 2022/2023 AS is available and completed by graphics department	Future intention	Green improved
9. Launch of AS -	Launch of AS -schools receive copies of the AS and reassurance on dates of roll out. November 2022- preview of AS to schools in twilight meeting. Launch date February 27 th 2023	July 2022 Slippage now for the autumn 2022/Spring 2023	LA with Entrust and members of SACRE		Revised AS is utilised in schools.	Future intention	Amber *** Will turn green after the launch
Impact Summary				Area/s for further development			

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
1st February 2023
Report of the Director for Children and Families
Applications for variation of practice**

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider any applications for variation of practice to religious education and or collective worship.

2 Summary

- 2.1 Upon receipt of a written application from a headteacher of a county school SACRE should determine whether it is appropriate to dis-apply the requirement for broadly Christian collective worship and/or make amendments to the way the Agreed Syllabus is followed in the case of that school.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That members of SACRE are updated on any new developments in this area.

4 Background

- 4.1 No applications have been received at this time.

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 There are no immediate financial implications.

Contact Officer:

Mary Gale 07816 374873

