

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Wednesday, 9 November 2016

2.00 pm

Kingston Centre, Fairway, Stafford ST16 3TW

John Tradewell
Director of Strategy, Governance and Change
1 November 2016

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies**
2. **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**
3. **Welcome to New Members**
4. **Declaration of Any other Business**
5. **Minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 6 July 2016** (Pages 1 - 4)
6. **Minutes of the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 6 July 2016** (Pages 5 - 6)
7. **Update on Key Issues** (Pages 7 - 12)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities
8. **NASACRE Update** (Pages 13 - 14)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities
9. **Tell MAMA Annual Report 2015** (Pages 15 - 16)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities



10. **The Revised Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2016** (Pages 17 - 20)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities

11. **SACRE Annual Report** (Pages 21 - 22)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities

12. **Accord Award** (Pages 23 - 30)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities

13. **Applications for Variation of Practice**

To consider any applications for variation of practice to religious education and or collective worship – oral update by Emma Jardine-Phillips, Religious Education Consultant

14. **SACRE Budget**

Report to be tabled, with an oral update by Emma Jardine-Phillips, Religious Education Consultant

15. **AOB**

16. **Date of next meeting**

The next SACRE meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 8 February 2017, 2.00pm, Kingston Centre, Stafford.

Membership

Linda Goodwin	Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal (Vice-Chairman)
Andrea Hopkins	Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf (Chairman)
Julia Almond (Co-Optee)	Dr Laow Panyasiri
Mrs J Grundy	Muhammad Parekh
Margaret Crossland	Sam Phillips
Paul Moseley	Sue Blackmore
Sam Kirwan	Colin Hopkins
Julie Thompson (Co-Optee)	Rosemary Woodward
Sonia Andjelkovic	Peter Davies
Ann Hewetson	Terry Finn
Diana Cutler	David Williams
Tajinder Singh	Caroline Wood
Paul Lewis	Ian Lawson
G Devadason	

MINUTES

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Meeting - 6 July 2016

Present: **Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf**

Margaret Crossland, Julie Thompson (Co-Optee), Mick Dwyer, Sonia Andjelkovic, Diana Cutler, Tajinder Singh, Sam Phillips, Sue Blackmore, Rosemary Woodward, Peter Davies, Terry Finn, Caroline Wood, Ian Lawson and Julia Almond (Co-Optee)

Apologies for absence: Sam Kirwan, Susan Devereux, Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal, Muhammad Parekh, Colin Hopkins and David Williams

Also in attendance - Helen Phillips and Emma Jardine and Mary Gale

PART ONE

1. **Welcome to New Members**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Jayne Grundy to Committee B and Mrs Julia Almond as a co-optee representing the Spiritualist National Union.

2. **Minutes of the SACRE Meeting held on 10 February 2016**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 10 February 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Update on Key Issues**

The SACRE received an update on key issues that had occurred since their last meeting, including:

- a) Emma Jardine had returned from her maternity leave – SACRE welcomed her back and thanked Mary Gale for her support while Emma was away;
- b) Changes to the GCSE regulations – from September 2016 GCSE assessment will be graded on a scale of 1-9. Most of the exam board qualifications had now been accredited by Ofqual and had been published to allow teachers to have sight of the proposed approach;
- c) Queries on Staffordshire's agreed syllabus – many queries had been received from schools on the availability of the new Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus. Schools had been reassured that they could continue to teach the current syllabus until the new one became available in September;
- d) NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education) meetings – these were local meetings held at St Dominic's School, Brewood, and hosted by Sam Kirwan. These had proved useful in keeping attendees up to date with current issues in RE;

- e) AREIAC (Association of Religious Education Inspectors, Advisors and Consultants) meetings – held in Birmingham and hosted by REToday, these meetings had proved useful in keeping officers informed of current issues; and
- f) RE Quality Mark – Mary Gale had successfully supported a school in Stoke-on-Trent in gaining a Silver Mark award. St Dominic’s School, Brewood, hoped to apply for the Quality Mark in Autumn 2016 under the leadership of Sam Kirwan.

RESOLVED – That the update on key issues be noted.

4. NASACRE Update

The Chairman gave an update on recent NASACRE events, including:

- a) NASACRE Conference – held at Westminster Central Hall with key note speakers Rt Hon Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss GBE and Professor Adam Dinham;
- b) a number of changes to personnel within NASACRE, with David Hampshire standing down as chairman after becoming Deputy Director of the Interfaith Network. The Vice-Chairman, Paul Smalley who lectured at Edgehill University, had taken over as Chairman. Marie Cooper had also taken on the main administrative role for NASACRE; and,
- c) the Chairman had attended an Interfaith Religious Literacy event.

RESOLVED – That the oral report be noted.

5. Monitoring Provision Survey

Members received details of results from the annual survey that monitored RE provision within Staffordshire. 38 Primary and 8 secondary schools had responded to the survey on RE provision, and 3 primary schools had responded to the survey on collective worship.

Findings showed that the majority of primary schools were providing at least 1 hour per week RE provision and were using the Agreed Syllabus. 50% of those who responded were using teaching assistants (TAs) for planning and delivering RE.

Of those secondary school that responded all were providing at least 1 hour of RE per week. Most schools had at least one specialist teacher, however one of the schools used 11 non-specialist teachers to deliver RE. All schools were working towards a GCSE at Key Stage (KS) 4.

RESOLVED – That the results of the monitoring of provision survey be noted.

6. Correspondence from the BHA

SACRE received copies of the following correspondence:

- a) from Paul Moseley, British Humanist Association (BHA) representative on the Staffordshire SACRE which commented on the draft Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus, and the Chairman’s response to this; and

- b) sent to all SACREs from Andrew Copson in the name of the BHA citing the advice of Dr Satvinder Juss, and a joint response to this from NASACRE and AREIAC.

RESOLVED – That the correspondence be noted.

7. Application for Variation of Practice

There were none on this occasion.

8. SACRE Budget

Members received a breakdown of the SACRE Budget 2015-16 and details of the current budget 2016-17. At the end of the 2015-16 financial year £1.17 remained.

Emma Jardine informed Members of changes to the way in which the SACRE Budget was administered, with County Council Finance administering the budget rather than Entrust.

Some concern was expressed over the current spending freeze and whether this would impact on the SACRE Budget. However it was understood that the same budget allocation had been awarded as last year and therefore the only change should be in the way in which invoices were dealt with.

RESOLVED – That the SACRE Budget 2015-16 end of year balance and the current 2016-17 budget be noted.

9. Publications for SACRE to Consider

SACRE received details of and discussed the following publications:

- a) “Education Excellence Everywhere: the implication for SACREs”, written by the then Chairman of NASACRE, David Hampshire;
- b) Details of the All Party Parliamentary Group on RE meeting held in January 2016 by the then Vice-Chairman of NASACRE, Paul Smalley; and,
- c) “Fit for purpose? A critique of the Purpose of Study and Aims of the REC’s 2013 Framework for RE”, produced by NASACRE’s Treasurer and Staffordshire SACRE’s Chairman giving his personal view on the Framework.

RESOLVED – That the publications be noted.

10. Date of next meeting

RESOLVED – That the next SACRE meeting is held on 9 November 2016, 2.00pm, Kingston Centre, Stafford.

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

Agenda Item 6

Minutes of the SACRE - Agreed Syllabus Conference Meeting held on 6 July 2016

Present: Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf (Chairman)

Sonia Andjelkovic	Mrs J Grundy
Sue Blackmore	Ian Lawson
Margaret Crossland	Sam Phillips
Diana Cutler	Tajinder Singh
Peter Davies	David Williams
Mick Dwyer	Rosemary Woodward
Terry Finn	Caroline Wood

Also in attendance: Emma Jardine, Mary Gale and Helen Phillips

Apologies: Susan Devereux, Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal, Colin Hopkins, Sam Kirwan and Muhammad Parekh

PART ONE

9. Minutes of the SACRE ASC held on 10 February 2016

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 10 February 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

10. Adoption of the new Agreed Syllabus

SACRE received a copy of the proposed new Agreed Syllabus for RE in Staffordshire and Members discussed the syllabus in detail. The curriculum was developed around three key aims, exploring, engaging and reflecting, allowing a sharper focus for lesson planning. The assessment framework looked at age related expectations rather than levels, with assessment around the three aims, using government agreed terminology. The legal framework had also been updated to enable every type and phase of school to understand their legal responsibilities.

Programmes of study remained similar, with the content remaining a matter for the individual school to determine, although Christianity and Islam were the two main religions to be studied. A body of wider teaching materials were available to support the Syllabus, including KS1 and 2 documents for lead teachers, lesson plan templates and explanations on how to assess.

This work had not been done in isolation but had included teachers from the NATRE Group and support from Advisors, including Early Years and Literacy.

Mrs Julia Almond asked that Spiritualism be included in the list on page 7 of other faith perspectives schools may choose to study. Members also asked for early years goals to be included in the Syllabus.

Members congratulated all those who had been involved in producing this document.

Consideration would need to be given to how this should be made available to schools and whether there was an opportunity to launch the Agreed Syllabus.

The four committees met to consider their position with regard to approving the Agreed Syllabus. The four Committees were unanimous in approving the new Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus, subject to minor editorial amendments delegated to the Chairman and Officers.

RESOLVED – That the new Agreed Syllabus be adopted.

11. Adoption of the new Agreed Syllabus by the County, and arrangements for publicity and implementation

The Syllabus now needed to be agreed by Ben Adams, Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills. Consideration would then need to be given to how the Syllabus should be launched and in what form as well as whether there would be a difference in how academy and maintained schools would be able to access the syllabus.

The Syllabus was due to be considered as part of a SACRE report to the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee on 26 July, at which the Cabinet Member would be present, and it was hoped that these issues would be clarified at that meeting.

RESOLVED – That the adoption arrangements for the Agreed Syllabus be clarified at the 26 July Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee.

Chairman

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education 9th November 2016

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities

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

Contact Officer
Telephone number:

Emma Jardine-Phillips
07805 692573

APPG Report on Religious Literacy - a reflection

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Religious Education (APPG/RE), under its new Chair Fiona Bruce, MP, has produced a report of its findings as a result of enquiring into Religious Literacy. The report "Improving Religious Literacy" was published in July 2016 and many of the notable points within it are reflected well within the new Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE. Members are invited to read the report (attached) in full however here is a brief summary of some key points:

- "We are....entering a defining period for our country, our national life and our national identity. The shape of our religious landscape is changing, as is the place of religion in the public sphere, our private lives and our local communities..... It is more important than ever that....we all have the knowledge and skills required to engage effectively with religion." (p.1)
- "...the provision of high quality school-based RE, and good teaching and learning about religion beyond the school years in the whole of life context, cannot be allowed to fall off the agenda of the government or Parliament. I will continue....to highlight to government the importance of providing excellent RE for every child...." (p.1)
- The report contains twenty-four recommendations, the first ten relate to RE. Many of these ten are concerned with ensuring that RE is taught to a consistent standard of excellence specialist or properly prepared teachers who have good access to continuing professional development (CPD).
- The report calls for training in Religious Literacy to be incorporated into all Secondary Initial Teacher Training and to be available more widely in CPD programmes for all teachers.
- Ministers are asked to re-examine the exclusion of RE from the EBacc, and "for all relevant parties to participate in the ongoing discussions about the legal framework for RE in schools and other major issues."

The DFE issues further guidance to schools regarding GCSE Religious Studies

In a bid to halt any confusion surrounding the need to include both religious and non-religious views in GCSE religious studies the DFE have issued some clear advice. Members are invited to read the report (attached) in full.

The REC launches independent Commission on RE

An independent Commission has been established by the Religious Education Council (REC) to make wide-ranging recommendations in relation to Religious Education (RE) in schools. The Commission has been asked by the REC to review the legal, education and policy frameworks for RE in all primary schools, secondary schools and further education colleges in England. More information about the Commission, including its membership, can be found on the REC website.

NASACRE is an important member body of the REC and therefore encourages member SACREs to consider including a discussion about the Commission on agendas for future meetings and to send any recommendations, suggestions, etc., to the Chair. If members are happy to do this this can be tabled for the Spring term meeting.

Twitter

NASACRE and Entrust are both live on Twitter. Please check out the day's tweets and follow both on @NASACRE and @EntrustRE for news, ideas and updates.



Further guidance for schools, local authorities and agreed syllabus conferences about the religious studies gcse and the religious education curriculum

The Department for Education is aware that there continues to be some confusion about the nature and extent of schools' obligations regarding the Religious Education (RE) curriculum and the Religious Studies (RS) GCSE content.

The Department is therefore issuing this further Guidance to schools, local authorities and Agreed Syllabus Conferences (ASCs). It should be read together with the "Guidance for schools and awarding organisations about the Religious Studies GCSE" which was issued in December 2015 ("the December 2015 Guidance"), which can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-religious-studies.

Schools, local authorities and ASCs are not under any obligation to have regard to guidance issued by other specific bodies, groups or individuals and should instead follow the Department's Guidance when making decisions about their RE curriculum. In particular, schools, local authorities and ASCs should not follow what purports to be 'guidance' issued recently by those associated with the British Humanist Society (including views on the law of Dr Satvinder Juss dated 28 April 2016) – that guidance and those views have no official status and are contentious.

As set out in the December 2015 Guidance, the Department's view has always been that schools should be free to determine their own approach to the teaching of RE, in line with statutory requirements. Those statutory requirements are summarised in sections 2 and 3 of the long-standing 2010 non-statutory guidance "Religious Education in English schools: non statutory guidance 2010" which is to be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/religious-education-guidance-in-english-schools-non-statutory-guidance-2010.

As made clear in the December 2015 Guidance, the Government's policy was and remains that:

- Schools and Agreed Syllabus Conferences (ASCs) should be free to determine their own approach to the teaching of RE and the selection of the appropriate RS GCSE.
- There is no requirement for an individual school's curriculum to mirror the make-up of the national or local population. Curricula should continue to be locally determined.

- Schools and ASCs are at liberty to use a range of relevant factors to determine their RE curriculum, including the intellectual rigour it presents and its role in supporting pupils' development as world citizens.
- There is no obligation for any school or ASC to give equal air time to the teaching of religious and non-religious views.
- Curriculum balance (and, therefore, compliance with statutory requirements) can be achieved across the key stages. There is no obligation on any school to cover the teaching of non-religious world views (or any other particular aspect of the RE curriculum) in key stage 4 specifically. Rather it is for schools and ASCs to determine how they meet their wider obligations across the key stages.
- Schools are, therefore, not obliged to choose a GCSE specification that meets the entirety of their wider obligations, as long as they are satisfied that they will meet them through their RE curriculum across the key stages.
- For schools without a religious character, the RE curriculum needs to reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain¹

For the avoidance of doubt, the Government also considers that:

- There is no obligation for any school or ASC to allocate 'air time' according to the apparent popularity of a religious or non-religious view.
- There is no obligation for any school or ASC to "balance out" the detailed teaching of a religion by teaching, in equal depth, about a non-religious view.
- It is for schools to determine which religious and non-religious views to cover in their RE curriculum in line with statutory requirements.

Overall, the important thing is that a balance is achieved during a child's education, rather than in any particular stage of a child's education. In those circumstances and building on the statutory requirements, it is recommended that there should be a wide ranging study of religious and non-religious beliefs across the key stages.

© Crown copyright 2016

Reference: DFE-00160-2016

¹ S375 Education Act 1996

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education 9th November 2016

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities

NASACRE Update

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 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 NASACRE is the national body of SACRE's. National meetings are held to which members of SACRE are invited and encouraged to attend. Issues are discussed which have local or national importance for RE.

4.2 Members will be briefed on any key developments including:

- The new NASACRE Constitution
- The NASACRE response to Brexit

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-Phillips
07805 692573

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
9th November 2016
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People
Tell MAMA**

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To consider any issues arising from the Tell MAMA annual report 2015.

2 Summary

2.1 Upon The Tell MAMA Annual Report was launched in Parliament on 29th June this year. It highlights hate crime against Muslims in the UK. The report, entitled: The Geography of Anti-Muslim Hatred, looked at where Muslims reported hate crime against them. A number of interesting things were revealed:

- The majority of hate crimes were directed at women who were visibly Muslim
- The majority were perpetrated by white males
- The majority occurred on or near an A Road or transport hub

2.2 11% of attacks were in places of education. In relation to this, one of the comments in the report is: It is important that headteachers, teachers, and safeguarding leads in schools are trained to deal with Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate (page 29).

3 Recommendation

3.1 Many of the notable points relating to education are reflected well within the aims of the new Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE through which schools are also given a steer to include Islam within their program of study.

3.2 SACRE members may wish to look at the Tell MAMA report in full and ask the local authority what further action is being taken in light of the report: what are the local authority and schools within the authority's area doing to ensure that Muslim pupils are kept safe?

3.3 The report is sizeable but can be easily accessed via the NASACRE website or at the Tell MAMA website: <http://tellmamauk.org/>

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: Emma Jardine-Phillips
Telephone number: 07805 692573

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

9th November 2016

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities

The Revised Staffordshire Agreed syllabus for Religious Education 2016

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To share with members the revised Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

2 Summary

2.1 The Education Act 1993 requires the Local Authority to institute a review of its locally agreed syllabus every five years after the completion of its last review.

2.2 The Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus has now been reviewed and the re-write is complete.

2.3 The revised Agreed Syllabus has now been published and is available to schools.

3 Recommendation

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

3.2 That members discuss the possibility of a launch event subject to funding.

3.3 That members consider a possible link with a syllabus launch and a SACRE lecture

4 Background

4.1 The revised Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus was issued to schools in September 2016 at the start of the new school year. The syllabus is freely available to all schools on the Entrust RE web page.

4.2 Schools have been made aware of the new agreed syllabus via internal school publicity e.g. the e-school bag and direct emails. The advisor to SACRE has received much interest and enquiries regarding the syllabus. There have also been several local articles in the press about the new syllabus and the Chair of SACRE was invited to speak on radio Stoke.

4.3 A series of introductory training sessions have been made available to schools. The uptake is high with most courses being full and one with a waiting list. Clusters of schools have also invited Emma Jardine-Phillips to host sessions within their schools.

4.4 Further sessions are planned for the Spring and Summer terms.

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 Expenses incurred will be met from the SACRE budget.

Contact Officer: Emma Jardine-Phillips
Telephone number: 07805 692573

Attached items:

Staffordshire Agreed syllabus

Training courses/new syllabus briefings

6.a update of meeting held 27.10.14

Present: Trudy Pyatt, Michael Prisk, Michael Metcalf, Emma Jardine, Helen Phillips.

Focus: Meeting held to discuss funding arrangements for the Agreed Syllabus Review.

Outcome: at this time funding can only be provided via the SDA. This means that SCC will pay for an amount of days to enable Emma Jardine only to review the syllabus. There is currently no budget to facilitate any external support for the review process. SACRE members are however invited to submit a paper detailing their preferred approach to Agreed Syllabus Review for further consideration.

6.b Agreed Syllabus Review Options

	What is involved	opportunities	risks
bronze	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A set amount of days funded for Emma Jardine to review the syllabus• An update on key information which is no longer in date• New inclusions subject to SACRE approval e.g. reference to the census, a statement on British values• <i>NO new approach to assessment</i>• <i>NO focus groups</i>• <i>NO Planning and resources for use within the classroom</i>		
silver	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding for both Emma Jardine and an external consultant e.g. RE Today• A comprehensive rewrite of the syllabus• Focus groups held with headteachers, teachers, students in order to account for their views• A new approach to assessment including a guide to assessment without levels• <i>NO Planning and resources for use within the classroom</i>		

gold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for both Emma Jardine and an external consultant e.g. RE Today • A comprehensive rewrite of the syllabus • Focus groups held with headteachers, teachers, students in order to account for their views • Full programmes of study for each year group/key stage including long and medium term plans • Resources available for teachers to use to support the highest quality RE • A new approach to assessment including a guide to assessment without levels 		
------	---	--	--

6.c Review of other Locally Agreed Syllabuses

SACRE members are invited to review a range of Agreed Syllabuses to see what aspects they would like to see included in their new Agreed syllabus.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education 9th November 2016

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities

The SACRE Annual Report

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present the SACRE with its Annual Report.

2 Summary

2.1 SACRE produces an annual report of its work which is published as a public document. A copy of the 2015-2016 SACRE Annual Report will be presented at the meeting for approval by members prior to distribution.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report

4 Background

4.1 SACREs are required to produce an annual report of their work. This report is distributed electronically to NASACRE, headteachers of all schools in the county, and is available to the teacher associations and to the local faith communities via the entrust website.

4.2 Members are requested to read and approve the report prior to general distribution.

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:
Telephone number:

Emma Jardine-Phillips
07805 692573

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
9th November 2016
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and
Communities

Accord Award

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To consider an application for an Accord Award

2 Summary

2.1 The 2017 Accord Inclusivity Award is seeking to reward those SACREs that work hardest in their area towards boosting the growth of inclusion, cohesion and mutual understanding between those of different religions and beliefs.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE are invited to discuss our work and achievements in this area to see whether Staffordshire SACRE should complete an application form.

4 Background

4.1 Until now the Award - which has run every year since 2010 - has rewarded schools in England and Wales. For the 2017 Award however judges have decided to only invite nominations for SACREs, given the important role SACREs can play through their work in promoting respect, empathy and social cohesion.

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: Emma Jardine-Phillips
Telephone number: 07805 692573

Get recognition for your SACRE's work in national Award

The 2017 Accord Inclusivity Award, is seeking to reward those SACREs that work hardest in their area towards boosting the growth of inclusion, cohesion and mutual understanding between those of different religions and beliefs. If your SACRE takes these aims seriously then please don't miss out on this rare opportunity for it to be recognised for its work. Until now the Award - which has run every year since 2010 - has rewarded schools in England and Wales that excel on these grounds. For the 2017 Award however judges have decided to only invite nominations for SACREs, given the important role SACREs can play through their work in promoting respect, empathy and social cohesion.

Religious Education has always been of key importance for Inclusivity Award judges, who have consistently rewarded schools for excellence in the subject (and often thanks to recommendations from SACREs). For example, the first placed school in 2013, Little Heath School in Redbridge, won strong praise from judges for its approach to RE which was later highlighted by Ofsted as an example for other special schools to follow. Newbury Park Primary School in Ilford came first in 2014 for its 'Ambassadors of Faith and Belief' scheme that was supported by its SACRE and which served to help improve pupils understanding of the nature of faith and belief as a real life experience. The winning school in the 2016 Award, the Chestnut Grove Academy in Balham, stood out for the way in which its RE deepened and extended pupils' knowledge and understanding of religion and belief while simultaneously dealing with a range of controversial issues, such as around sexual diversity, homophobia and gender. But this coming year presents a chance for SACREs themselves to shine.

The Award is free to apply for. The full line up of another respected and experienced panel of experts will soon be announced. Previous judges have included former Secretary of State for Education, Lord Baker; the Chair of the Education Select Committee, Neil Carmichael MP; the then Chair of the Religious Education Council of England, John Keast OBE; the Bishop of Buckingham, The Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson, and journalist Polly Toynbee.

RE is subject to many demands and pressures. If your SACRE works hard at trying to ensure local schools provide inclusive and high quality RE and assemblies that take seriously the promotion of the growth of mutual understanding between those of different beliefs and backgrounds, then please make sure someone is mandated to submit a completed nomination on its behalf.

For more information on the Award please visit Accord's website at <http://accordcoalition.org.uk/inclusivity-award-2017/>. The deadline for entries is Monday December 12th and prizes will be announced in the New Year. Please contact Accord's National Coordinator, Paul Pettinger, at paul@accordcoalition.org.uk or on 020 7324 3071 with any queries.

Every winner of the Inclusivity Award has received national press coverage for their success. Don't miss this chance to draw attention to you and your colleagues' efforts.

Yours sincerely,

Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain MBE
Chair of the Accord Coalition for Inclusive Education

<http://www.accordcoalition.org.uk>



believing in children, learning together

Inclusive SACREs Award nomination form

1. Contact details:

SACRE name:	
Name and position of main contact for the Award:	
Main contact's telephone number and email address:	
Name and email of SACRE Chair (if different from above):	
Name and contact email of RE advisors, clerks or local authority staff/ officers that currently actively support the SACRE:	

2. SACRE details:

Please provide the information listed below by either including a relevant hyperlink or indicating that the document is to be attached by email with this completed form.¹

Copy of the current syllabus, and any accompanying guidance:	
Copy of the SACRE constitution, along with any standing orders:	
Link to SACRE website (if exists):	
Link to last annual report:	

¹ If only a paper copy can be submitted, please post it to the Accord Coalition at Unit A, 39 Moreland Street, London, EC1V 8BB.

Please list the current membership of your committees A, B, C and D, or any members who are co-opted or attend regularly as an observer, and indicate for which party, tradition or interest group(s) they each represent. Feel free to also indicate any known vacancies.

Committee A:

--	--

Committee B:

--	--

Committee C:

--	--

Committee D:

--	--

Co-opted:	
Observers:	

3. SACRE remit and resources: (no more than 250 words)

Please describe – in no more than 225 words – the characteristics of the area the SACRE covers and the number of schools that are currently required to adhere to its syllabus. This is also an opportunity to describe the access to subject expertise and the level of material support the SACRE receives, including from the local authority.

4. Implementation of being an inclusive SACRE: (no more than 850 words)

This is the most important section. The judges recognise there are many competing expectations and demands placed upon the subject. However they are especially interested

in the way that the SACRE have sought to boost inclusion, community cohesion, mutual understanding and mutual respect between those of different religions and non-religious worldviews. Please provide specific examples of how these aims are met. It is also recommended to set out at least one innovative approach that has been particularly important or successful. Judges will be interested to find out how the Agreed Syllabus directly advances these aims, but other areas of the SACRE's work that could prove of interest include:

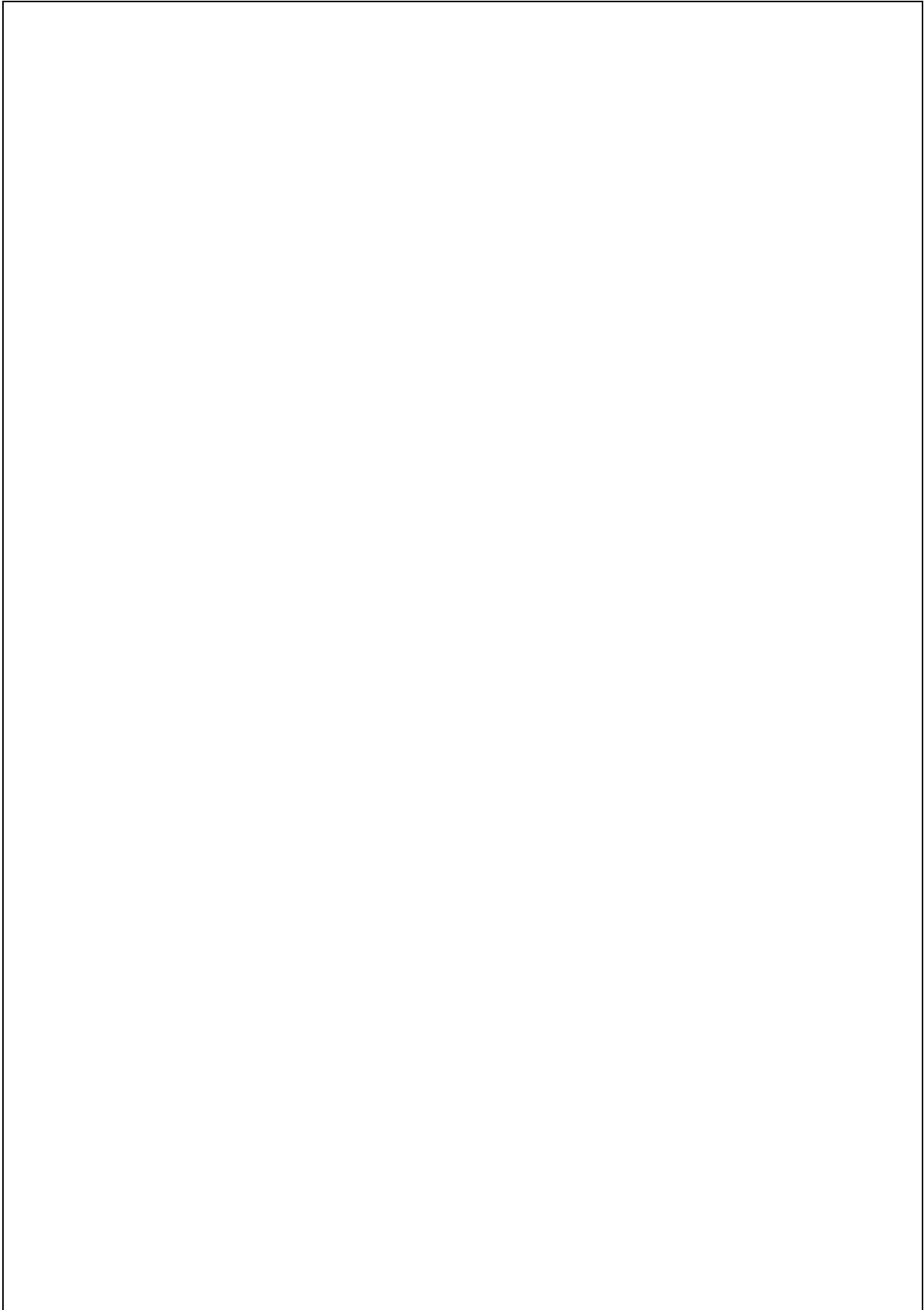
- building a relationship with local schools that are not required to follow the syllabus and forging partnerships with other agencies (such as local academy chains, multi-academy chains and faith school sponsors, or higher or further education providers)
- urging the local authority to ensure that the membership of the SACRE and Agreed Syllabus Conference is diverse and representative, including of the non-religious
- considering the views of pupils, or developing a Youth SACRE or RE Ambassador programme
- support and guidance to schools on making assemblies and/or provision for SMSC development more inclusive
- creative use of Collective Worship determinations
- the production or commissioning of extra resources for teachers, such as with lesson or curriculum planning (please also submit these in digital copy - they will be treated with confidence and only shared amongst the judging panel)
- organising training for Governors or helping tackle gaps training and Career Professional Development for teachers
- developing support and research networks
- celebrating successes by pupils and schools
- identifying an area of the SACRE's weakness and acting upon it
- targeted help to individual schools
- ideas and help for schools to advance their legal duties, including the Public Sector Equality Duty² and requirement to promote British Values and community cohesion

The Award judges are also interested in the provision of high quality RE more generally, so please consider drawing upon examples that highlight how the SACRE has helped in achieving this. Examples might include:

- new ways of working to alleviate the impact of local authority funding restraints
- sharing ideas and concerns with central government
- ensuring continuity, coherence and sustained learning for pupils moving between primary and secondary phases,

² The Public Sector Equality Duty was created by Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and came into force in 2011. It requires all public bodies and those carrying out public functions to have due regard when carrying out their activities to helping eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people.
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/149>

- promoting provision for short course or full RS GCSE and A level



5: Evaluation and planning for the future: (no more than 200 words)

Where has the SACRE's work and implementation of its approach been most successful, and why? What lessons were learned? In what way was the SACRE's approach improved as a result? What are major barriers to further improvement, and how might they be overcome? Have any ideas and recommendations be made for the next Agreed Syllabus Conference?

Please return the completed nomination to paul@accordcoalition.org.uk

If you wish to submit further external or supplementary evidence for consideration by the judges, please consider including appropriate web links in this form. If you only have information as a hard copy then please consider scanning and uploading it online.