

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
7th November 2018
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 spring 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

Mary Gale 07816374873

Key Issues

Changes to the GCSE regulations

Changes to the GCSE regulations. From September 2016 pupils who commenced their GCSE studies were assessed in 2018 on a scale of 1-9. (No more A* to C grades) This will have implications for the exam analysis which will be presented for discussion in the February 2019 meeting

AREIAC meetings

These meetings held in Birmingham at the RE Today offices and hosted by Dilwyn Hunt have proved useful in ensuring that those who attend are kept up to date with current issues in Religious Education including issues surrounding assessment in RE, examination update, REQM issues and useful resources to aid the teaching of RE. Mary Gale was the **AREIAC** West Midlands representative and served on the National executive of AREIAC until the Summer of 2018. Mary Gale will attend future AREIAC meetings

Westhill Legacy project- Explore, Engage, Reflect in conjunction with Youth Net

See Agenda item 10 for a report on this.

Continuous Professional Development

Schools have been offered the opportunity to attend an RE update day in mid-November in 2018 and 2019, plus local networking meetings over the next 5 terms. Mary Gale has been commissioned to facilitate this CPD.

Supporting Governors in understanding their Statutory requirements for RE

All governors that buy into the Governor Services, Service Level Agreement have received a written summary and electronic update facilitated by Mary Gale on their statutory duties. In addition, during face to face updates and briefings through-out the county on general governance matters, they have been reminded of their statutory duties with regard to RE.

Supporting schools in understanding their Statutory requirements for RE

All maintained schools have received a summary electronic update facilitated by Mary on their statutory duties through the Staffordshire headteacher E-Bag. One school has contacted Mary Gale for support with planning their RE from Early Years to Year 6, this has been facilitated.