

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**  
**6<sup>th</sup> November 2019**  
**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**

**Mary Gale    07816374873**

## **Key Issues November 6<sup>th</sup> 2019**

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

This project has continued with the support of SACRE, see report on Agenda item 10.

### **Continuous Professional Development**

Schools have been offered the opportunity to attend RE networking afternoons in the Autumn 2019 and Spring 2020 terms, these networking afternoons are advertised in the training calendar.

10 schools have booked onto these networking meetings.

Mary Gale has been commissioned to facilitate this CPD

Mary Gale has been supporting RE leaders in schools through email and face to face meetings in schools. The SACRE budget may need to put aside a sum of money for this work. (See budget item 12)

### **Supporting Governors in understanding their Statutory requirements for RE**

All governors that buy into the Governor Services, Service Level Agreement have received an additional written summary and electronic update facilitated by Mary Gale on their statutory duties. This term reminders about statutory duties have been reiterated. Over 170 governors and a number of school and agency clerks have accessed the face to face training and many more have access to the Governor Information Pack. (GIP)

Interfaith week has also been highlighted for schools and they have been encouraged to take part. The Holocaust Educational Trust information has been shared with schools as has the opportunity to access Farmington Scholarships for innovative RE practice.

This pack with some modifications has also been launched as a National Governor Information Pack, through a project funded by the DfE called GovernorSpace.

### **NATRE Strictly RE conference- Heathrow London**

Last January Mary Gale attended the NATRE conference on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019. She took part in a number of workshops including updates on the latest creative curriculum resources to deliver quality RE and address curriculum balance. Mary Gale would like the support from SACRE through a commission to attend again in January 2020, many of the resources from the previous courses have been shared with schools.

The commissioned day charge from Entrust is £575. Mary Gale would pay all travel and conference costs from the daily rate, (she does not charge £575). The conference charge is £175 and travel to Heathrow needs to be added to this.

### **Support for resources**

**KS 3**

Mary Gale has been researching suitable resources to support KS3 RE, to enable schools to deliver the curriculum according to the agreed syllabus. This research is now complete. Mary will be writing to schools to recommend a publication by Hodder to support KS 3 RE and the developing knowledge of teachers. This publication will also be shared at the network meetings to support teachers' knowledge at KS 2.

### **Ofsted reports update**

There are now three recent reports from Secondary schools where a deep dive into RE has resulted in the following comments.

#### From an inspection report published under the new framework

<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>Good</b>
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Sixth-form provision	Good

#### **From the "What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?" section**

The minimal time allocated to physical education, religious education and personal, social and health education does not encourage healthy lifestyles and limits pupils' wider understanding of different faiths and cultures, and the importance of physical activity

#### **From the "What does the school need to do to improve?" section**

The school does not promote pupils' healthy lifestyles and wider understanding as well as it could through physical education, religious education and personal, social and health education. Leaders should review their provision for these subjects.

### **Freedom of Information request**

A FOI was requested from Kathryn Snowdon a reported for the publication *Schools Week*. The clerk and I were able to provide her with the information that only one school has requested this in the past 10 years. See below for the detail of the request.

*I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In order to assist with this request I am outlining my query as specifically as possible.*

- 1. How many schools in your area have applied for a determination to alter the character of collective worship?**
- 2. And how many applications have been successful?**

*May I have the information broken down by:*

- Date of application*
- Name of school*
- Nature of the request (e.g. 'no faith', 'multi-faith', 'alternative faith' etc)*
- The outcome (was the application rejected or approved)*

*For example:*

<b>Date</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Nature of request</b>	<b>Outcome</b>

*If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to the specific exemptions of the act.*

*I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request.*

*I look forward to your response within 20 working days (26 September 2019), as outlined in statute.*

*Sincerely,*

*Kathryn Snowdon 07792 077085*