

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
7th February 2024
Report of the Director for Children and Families.
Application for Culham St Gabriel (CSTG) charity grant including the
Development of a Safeguarding Policy.

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present to members of SACRE an update on CSTG grant of £6500.

2 Summary

2.1 The adviser to SACRE applied for a grant to support a project which involves the ongoing developments in schools. Along the lines of bringing about a development in the mindset for some, and a refinement for others in enabling them to lead organisations that provides an inclusive respectful and enriching educational experience for all stakeholders.

This involved filling in an expression of interest for alongside a first interview with the CEO of CSTG. The next stage involved a second interview and then a stage 2 grant application. The application was presented to the Charity Trustees of CSTG. Each stage was supported by paperwork and references were taken up from Tim Moss and a Trustee of a local MAT. One condition of the grant was to write a Safeguarding policy document and another to present the accounts of three years of our SACRE to the Trustees.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE support the work that will be needed to complete the project. Be prepared to accept three reports summarising the project over the next three meetings.

4 Background

4.1 This project enables school leaders to address the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus, plus equality, diversity and inclusion aspects. This project could be viewed as a *seedcorn* funded initiative which develops and clarifies strategic leadership at governance level, so Trustees and Governors are equipped to seek assurances from headteachers and Principals that understanding and appreciation for the richness of human diversity/ world views including different RE curricula, content, pedagogy, and provision is at the heart of their organisation.

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 The SACRE will be responsible for the monitoring of the spending of the £6500 charity grant alongside the current SACRE budget. A separate grid will show the separation of funds.

Received to date on 15th December £3510 the spend will involve the following:

- Advertising £210
- Analysis of questionnaires on evaluation of need £450
- Writing of materials for each term £450 x 3 = 1350
- Delivery of webinars x 6 (2 at the start of each term) £2700
- £450 newsletter/ dissemination support 450 x 3 = £1350
- Project evaluation £440
- Total =£6500

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Report up to February 2024

The adviser has researched the project brief in great detail. She has identified and met with a trainer to support the delivery of the two trial webinars- see below. *Eventbrite* links have been provided for schools. A draft webinar has been written and is being finalised in preparation for delivery on February 28th.

She has advertised the project to over 300 schools through information packs and face to face meetings and online meetings this has supported the evaluation of need. Here is a brief summary of the information provided for schools so far.

There is now **FREE** support for **strategic** training on Equality/Diversity and Inclusion aspects in connection with the Staffordshire 2023 Agreed Syllabus funded by a very prestigious charity grant from Culham St Gabriel.

This training is for Trustees, Governors of all schools and headteachers on this Eventbrite link for the February session. There is a limit of 23 delegates, but there will be additional opportunities in March if you are unable to secure the February session, just let Mary Gale know and she will send you the March link if it does not appear.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/developing-and-defining-strategic-leadership-in-re-tickets-772167793657?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>

The Entrust/SCC Associate consultant Mary Gale working on behalf of Staffordshire County Council SACRE has been tasked with delivering this training either online or face to face.

Two trial webinars are proposed for February 28th 6-8pm and March 19th 6-8pm

If you would like to be part of this exciting initiative, then contact Mary Gale on

mary.gale@entrustassociate.com

RE is a complex subject, and the lack of clarity and support from government makes schools' job harder. Some schools steer through these challenges well, but most do not. We found that:

- Trustees and governors do not understand the strategic actions that need to be taken to ensure their schools are compliant with regard to RE/RS and in addition with regard to Equality/Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Many schools do not meet the statutory requirement to teach RE at all stages
- Pupils are rarely taught enough substance to prepare them to engage in a complex, multi-religious and multi-secular society (where religion and non-religion play different parts in different people's lives)
- Too often, schools do not teach topics in the RE curriculum deeply enough for pupils to develop a substantial understanding of the subject matter
- Non-examined RE is typically not high quality.

General research indicated that all pupils should develop a broad and secure knowledge of the complexity of religious and non-religious traditions.

It will take coordinated effort by stakeholders to improve the quality of RE in schools. The Culham grant will support this in Staffordshire schools.

- Schools need high-quality professional development to teach RE well and understand the holistic approach to this.
- Curriculum support needs to identify clearly what pupils will learn and when, building on knowledge over time, so that pupils develop a deep knowledge of the chosen religious and non-religious traditions.