

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**  
**13<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People**

**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 autumn 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.

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### A Sense of Place receives excellent reviews

The Staffordshire SACRE project, 'A Sense of Place', has received excellent reviews and been featured in RE Today this term. Emma Jardine, Senior Teacher Consultant for RE in Staffordshire and creator of the resource has also been contacted by Sharon Artley about being involved in the Religious Education Council's (REC) charity walk event, her suggestion being to hold the walk around the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA). It was felt that 'A Sense of Place' would make an excellent contribution to the days proceedings.

### The RE Quality Mark: REQM

At the last meeting members expressed a wish to support schools in applying for the REQM. Two schools have expressed an interest and St. Michaels First School, Stone will have their assessment in the summer term.

### Supporting schools that are causing concern

One of the duties of SACRE is to monitor standards of achievement (1.C) and put strategies in place to act upon findings. At the last meeting members expressed a wish to support schools whose exam results were significantly below the national average. A letter offering support in terms of extra training was sent to all schools identified in this category. The response received to the offer of support has been disappointing with one school rejecting the offer completely. As a SACRE we can be reassured that the headteachers concerned are aware of this offer of support, it is ultimately up to them to decide to act upon it.

### Resources to support the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus

Following consultation with teachers it was found that more support was needed by teachers to help them with their planning and delivery of RE. Last year Emma Jardine worked with two teachers to produce a CD of resources to support the Agreed Syllabus. These have now been sent to each primary school in Staffordshire. They have been very well received.