

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
9th July 2014
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 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
Telephone number:

Emma Jardine
01785 27799

RE and Tolerance: Early Day Motion

SACRE members are being encouraged to write / contact encourage their MP and ask him/her to sign this early day motion:

That this House notes that Religious Education (RE) is a rigorous academic subject that allows young people to increase their knowledge and understanding of a range of religious and non-religious beliefs; further notes the importance of mutual understanding and the community cohesion it engenders, particularly at this time of heightened tension; recognises the contribution the subject RE plays in fostering mutual understanding and respect between people with different religious and non-religious beliefs; supports the efforts of schools and local authorities who give RE the attention and status it merits in the curriculum; and urges that measures to ensure that all children explore and discuss religious and non-religious beliefs at school be pursued by the Government.

Date tabled: 18.06.2013

Primary sponsor: Lloyd, Stephen

Sponsors: Russell, Bob; Durkan, Mark; Shannon, Jim; Meale, Alan; Dobbin, Jim.

On 1st July there were 38 signatures

RE and Academies

With the number of Academies in Staffordshire gradually increasing it would seem timely to refresh our understanding of RE provision in Academies and the role of SACRE within that.

The NASACRE leaflet offers ways in which SACREs can give support and guidance to Academies with RE and the use of the locally agreed syllabus.

Two further useful documents compiled by NATRE are also attached for reference:

- The first provides some responses to this question: Can/should the SACRE monitor the work of Academies in RE and collective worship or must they be allowed to 'go their own way'? It also includes a statement from the DfE about the legal requirement for RE in Academies and the role of the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA).
- The second is a Q&A document about RE and collective worship in Academies and Free Schools.

SACRE members may like to use these documents as the basis for issuing advice to schools in their area to clarify for them the current statutory requirements for RE and/or collective worship.

Young Ambassadors for RE

The Religious Education Council have launched a Young Ambassadors for RE scheme and are inviting schools to apply. As our own Student Council for RE no longer runs this scheme could be a suitable replacement. A leaflet is attached which could be circulated to schools if SACRE members felt it would be worthwhile pursuing.