

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

8th July 2015

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

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Cover for RE Consultant to Staffordshire SACRE

Maternity cover for Emma Jardine commenced in April 2015. This is being carried out by Mary Gale. Mary has experience of SACRE having been a member for several years and is also a SIAMs inspector. Prior to her retirement in 2014 Mary was a headteacher for 20 years and led a successful Church of England school with three outstanding SIAMS inspection results and a Silver RE quality mark award- the first in Staffordshire . She has a good understanding of the relationship between SCC and Entrust giving her the insight and ability to guide the SACRE going forward in the interim period.

Mary met with Emma Jardine and Michael Metcalf prior to taking on this role and again before Emma Jardine took maternity leave.

Congratulations to Emma. Her daughter was born on April 20th. She has named her baby Mia.

Guidance on promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools

Mary Gale has attended AREIAC and Entrust training on fundamental British values and SMSC in schools. This training explored the messages in the official guidance from the DFE on promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools (see agenda item 6). Mary has continued to share this guidance with headteachers, school governors, and school/agency clerks via governor updates, bespoke training and the Entrust Governor Information Pack. This will continue into the autumn term through the Entrust Governor Information Pack and further headteacher updates.

A continued series of briefings will be using this information further to up-date schools. These briefings will be led by the MEAS team. (Minority Ethnic Achievement Service)

Guidance for Governors in general

Guidance for Governors on RE has been provided. The two briefing papers based on the work of the All Party Parliamentary Group has been shared through the Governor Information pack. It was confirmed that there was no legal requirement for Governors to review RE in schools or for schools to undertake the recommendations but schools had a legal responsibility to provide RE.

In the next survey for schools on RE and collective worship (Autumn Term 2015 onwards) all schools will be asked when they last reviewed RE in the school as per the recommendations of SACRE in 2014.

SACRE lecture

Mary Gale contacted Entrust regarding a SACRE lecture in 2015-2016. Entrust have agreed to sponsor this lecture as in previous years on the condition that we make available promotional material for their forthcoming courses. This lecture will be open to SACRE members and all schools. This will be held in the conference room at Riverway at a date to be arranged in late Autumn 2015 or early Spring 2016. Research is underway regarding a suitable key note speaker. The proposed timings include arrival and refreshments 5.30-6pm with the lecture from 6-7pm.

Further Good news story:

Following attendance at the spirited Arts course led by Emma Jardine, a variety of schools have embarked on spirited arts projects throughout the term. The aims are to:

- Increase pupil awareness and understanding of faith and culture, including Christianity.
- Increase knowledge of the main faiths through story, dance, art and music
- Develop practical skills in art, music and dance
- Showcase the products of the learning within the community
- Evidence Spiritual, moral, social and culture in schools.

This has been evidenced through link governor reports in governing body minutes.