

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
11th November 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 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

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Cover for RE Consultant to Staffordshire SACRE

Maternity cover for Emma Jardine continues to be carried out by Mary Gale. The tasks involved are varied, ranging from organising the annual SACRE lecture, advising on RE quality mark application, worship in schools, SMSC, Governor queries, liaison with national bodies, the LA and resource provision to supporting the MEAS team with their valuable work.

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

Mary Gale has attended AREIAC and The National Centre for Diversity training on 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 11). 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 spring term through the Entrust Governor Information Pack and further headteacher updates.

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

SACRE lecture See attached Flier in Appendix 1

The annual SACRE lecture, entitled "RE Matters" 2015-2016 was held in the conference room at Riverway, Stafford on November 10th with arrival from 5.30-6pm for networking and refreshments with the lecture from 6pm-7.15pm. This lecture was open to SACRE members and all schools. The key note speaker was Helen Harrison. Helen Harrison served as a Head of RE in several secondary schools before becoming Lancashire's Consultant for Religious Education. This full time post involved supporting Lancs SACRE, leading syllabus revisions and creating and developing Lancashire Youth Voice. This post also entailed working closely with wide range of schools and faith communities. More recently she was the UK coordinator for Face to Faith, linking students across the world to dialogue about faith matters.

Helen has been deputy chair of the RE Council and the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) She was on the executives of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and also the Association of RE Inspectors, Advisors and Consultants (AREIAC). Although in theory she retired last year, she continues to serve on the Board of the REC, developing the Young Ambassador scheme and still supports certain aspects of Lancashire SACREs work. She is passionate about the difference good RE can make to young people, local communities and to our society generally.

I hope SACRE members enjoyed the lecture and the opportunity to engage with the school communities they support.

Further good news.

RE teachers have been invited to attend NATRE meetings. The most recent was held on 22nd October 2015 at Brewood, organised by SACRE member Sam Kirwan and supported by SACRE adviser Mary Gale. The meeting was well reasonably well attended. Information was shared about the role of SACRE and the application process for the RE quality Mark.

The Woolf Institute has convened a [Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life](#) (full title: Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life: community, diversity and the common good). Please could members note the publication of the report at this stage. A commentary is available in Appendix 2.