

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**  
**6<sup>th</sup> July 2016**  
**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families & Communities**

**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 Officers**

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## Key Issues

### Cover for RE Consultant to Staffordshire SACRE

Maternity cover for Emma Jardine ended in May 2016. Emma was welcomed back to Entrust.

She has been busy catching up on the latest news in RE, supporting the development of RE by writing a newsletter and organising courses and updates. In addition, she has been supporting and writing the Agreed Syllabus.

### Changes to the GCSE regulations

Changes to the GCSE regulations. In summary from September 2016 pupils who commence their GCSE studies will be assessed on a scale of 1-9.

Examination boards such as AQA and OCR have produced draft information on what would be covered in their examinations. Most of these draft qualifications have now been accredited by Ofqual. They have been published to enable teachers to have sight of the proposed approach to GCSE (9–1) in Religious Studies.

	AQA	OCR	Edexcel	WJEC
Religious studies	Spec A: ✓	Spec: ✓	Spec A: 4th submission received 2 June 2016	Spec: ✓
	Spec B: ✓	Spec 'SC': ✓	Spec B: 4th submission received 2 June 2016	Spec 'SC': ✓
	Spec 'SC': ✓		Spec 'SC A': 4th submission received 6 June 2016  Spec 'SC B': 3rd 4th submission received 6 June 2016	

### Queries about the Staffordshire AS

I have been answering a number of queries about the AS. I have re-assured schools that there is no problem with them continuing to teach the current AS and this would continue to be the case until the new AS is published.

Assessment queries have been numerous as currently we are experiencing a life without levels and previous general guidance has been to assess using levels. Again schools have been reassured and to reflect on what would best suits the learning needs of the pupils.

### Attendance at the NASACRE conference in London

See Agenda Item 5.

### **NATRE meetings**

These local meetings held at St Dominic's in Brewood and hosted by Sam Kirwan have proved useful in ensuring that those who attend are kept up to date with current issues in Religious Education. The most recent meeting was held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016. Items for discussion and information centred around the Lichfield Cathedral outreach resources such as the "Inspire " project, the support of the MEAS team, updated on REQM, update on future conferences, update on resources from NATRE, examination syllabus and the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus. The next meeting will be held at St Dominics Brewood on November 16<sup>th</sup> 2016.

### **AREIAC meetings**

These meetings held in Birmingham at the RE Today offices and hosted by RE today representtaives and Dilwyn Hunt have proved useful in ensuring that those who attend are kept up to date with current issues in Religious Education including issues surrounding assessment in RE, examination update, REQM issues and useful resources to aid the teaching of RE. The most recent meeting was 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016 which Emma Jardine Phillips and Mary Gale attended. Mary Gale is now the **AREIAC** West Midlands representative.

### **RE Quality Mark**

Mary has successfully supported a school in Stoke on Trent in gaining a Silver Mark award. These awards are few and far between in our locality. St Dominc's Brewood under the leadership of Sam Kirwan hopes to apply in Autumn 2016.