

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
8th November 2017

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and 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 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.

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Examinations data summer 2017

There will be a delay in reporting on the results of the summer 2017 GCSE and A Level examinations in Religious Studies. The Insight, Planning and Performance Team at Staffordshire County Council are in the process of obtaining the data. We will be in a position to report on the performance of Staffordshire's maintained schools at the Spring term meeting.

Interfaith Week 2017

Inter Faith Week 2017 takes place from Sunday 12 to Sunday 19 November. It has three clear aims:

- Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels
- Increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
- Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs

The Inter Faith Week Toolkit has ideas for marking the Week, complete with helpful checklists for organisers. It can be downloaded at: www.interfaithweek.org/toolkit.

The Inter Faith Network (IFN) has also published a short, illustrated report on Inter Faith Week 2016: Stories from 2016, Inspiration for 2017. The report can be downloaded here: www.interfaithweek.org/resources/inter-faith-week-stories-from-2016inspiration-for-2017. It contains examples of activities organised by schools last year, and will inspire schools to take part this year.

Stafford and District Friends of Faith are holding a Peace Event on Monday 20th November. A flyer is attached and SACRE members are invited to attend.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2018: The Power of Words

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27 January each year, and is the day for everyone to remember the millions of people affected by the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution, and the subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

On HMD we honour the survivors of these regimes and challenge ourselves to work to end discrimination and prejudice; and pledge to help create a safer, better future.

Involvement ranges from civic events, displays, exhibitions, talks and activities. Are SACRE members planning to support HMD with an event or activity?

Members can read more about The Power of Words theme here: hmd.org.uk/resources/themepapers/hmd-2018-power-words

New resources linked to the 2018 theme are now available on the website. For further help and advice the west midlands link person is Nicola Toms: Nicola.WestMidlands@hmd.org.uk

New BBC RE films



- New from the BBC for 4–7s: Religions of the World is a series of ten animated 'Octonaut-style' stories from six different world religions. The BBC commissioned the programmes, and RE Today's Lat Blaylock worked as their adviser for this short series.
- www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcvEcrsF_9ziQm-KPGujuZkNRk_jTcehV
- An animated A to Z guide for pupils aged 11-14 that explores and introduces a variety of religious topics. Alongside each film, there is more information about the content and suggestions of how it could be used in the classroom.
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/3IKZp31jBVJ2v3C2h1V03kz/a-to-z-of-religion-and-beliefs>