

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
8th November 2017
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and
Communities

Guidance on Visits

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To consider appropriate guidance to schools regarding visits to places of worship.

2 Summary

2.1 Every school is required to have an Educational Visits Coordinator to comply with safeguarding demands. As Local Authorities are focused on health and safety as well as safeguarding, it is likely that as schools implement more stringent requirements, they will become more demanding about the health and safety and safeguarding expectations of the places they wish to visit.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE consider providing schools with further guidance on this subject.

4 Background

4.1 It is useful to suggest that schools may ask faith leaders whose venues they wish to visit, for sight of their Health and Safety policies and risk assessments.

4.2 Any building open to the public will have a Public Liability Insurance Certificate that will have required the completion of a risk assessment; most venues also have their own Health and Safety policy, all of which cover their internal programme of events. Any guidance may also prove useful for faith buildings. Once they know what schools need to know, they may need to adapt their existing risk assessments to cater for external groups visiting their venues.

4.3 A sample copy of the proposed guidance is attached for further discussion. Once approved the SACRE may wish to share the information with Stafford Friends of Faith for dissemination to ensure that the local places of worship hosting visits from schools have some advice to raise awareness as to how schools will need help to plan their visits, and the questions they may be asking in advance.

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 There are no immediate financial implications

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