

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
3rd February 2021
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and
Communities
Collective worship

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To familiarise SACRE members with the support SACRE offers to schools on Collective worship

2 Summary

2.1 The legal requirements regarding school worship can be found in the Education Reform Act 1988 (Sections 6-13). They are reaffirmed in the Education Act 1996 (Sections 375-389) and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Sections 69-71)

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the draft information provided and note the contents.

4 Background

4.1 A brief summary of the legislation

- Each pupil in attendance at a community, foundation or voluntary or academy school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship.
- The required collective worship shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character...without being distinctive of any particular denomination.
- Schools should provide for an act of worship for all pupils or for different age groups or in different school groups on school premises but at any time
- Not every act of worship has to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character provided that in any school term as a whole the majority comply.
- Collective worship should take account of the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of the pupils.
- Parents can withdraw their children wholly or partly from collective worship.

4.2 Schools require support such as ideas and inspiration with the delivery of Collective Worship. SACRE commissioned their advisor to start developing a resource to provide this support.

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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