

Swindon Borough Council

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Tuesday, 15 March 2011

Gorse Hill Baptist Church, Cricklade Road, Swindon, SN2 1AA

At 6.45 p.m. (or directly following meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference which will start at 6 pm)

Group A:	Mrs Helen Hancox, United Reformed Church
Christian Denominations	Reverend David Howell, Swindon Evangelical Alliance
and Other Religions or	Mr M S Khan, Muslim Community
Religious Denominations	Mr Dinesh Patel, Hindu Community
	Mr Malkit Singh Virk, Sikh Community
	Mr Arun Bedi, Sikh Community - Deputy
	Mr Mark Cawte, Methodist
	Mr Tony McAteer, Catholic Community
	Mr David Burbidge, Baptist Church

Group B:	Reverend Norma McKemey
The Church of England	Ms Steph Mundin
	Mrs Penny Summers
	Reverend Arthur Woo
	Miss Janet French

Group C:	Ms Jo Garton (Vice-Chair)
Teacher Associations	Mrs Tracy Mason
	Mrs Helen Miller
	Mrs Mandy Sandleton
	Miss Lottie Rowe
	2 Vacancies

Group D:	Councillor Doreen Dart (Chair)
The Local Authority	Councillor Junab Ali
	Councillor Michael Bray
	Councillor Raymond Fisher
	Councillor Janet Heenan

Support Officers:	Katy Staples, SACRE Adviser
	Sarah Foulkes, Primary Link Adviser

Committee Officer: Sarah Lawrence (Telephone 01793 463603)

email: slawrence@swindon.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council can be contacted at the Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 445500)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.

3. Public Question Time

See explanatory note below. Please phone the Committee Officer whose name and number appears at the top of this agenda if you need further guidance.

4. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2010.

5. Welcome to Gorse Hill Baptist

Mr David Burbidge will welcome the SACRE to Gorse Hill Baptist and will provide a short presentation at the meeting about his faith and the Baptist Church and will answer any questions from SACRE members.

6. Celebrating RE Month Katy Staples (Pages 5 - 8)

7. Annual Report and Development Plan Katy Staples, (DSL-C) (Pages 9 - 24)

8. Implications of National Developments in Religious Education Katy Staples (Pages 25 - 34)

9. Feedback from Network Meetings Katy Staples, Penny Summers (Pages 35 - 36)

10. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The proposed date for the next meeting of the SACRE is Tuesday 7th June 2011 at 6 pm. The Clerk will write to all members of SACRE to confirm the remaining dates for the municipal year 2011/12 once the calendar of meetings has been approved by the Council.

Date of Despatch: 11 April 2011

Key: Officers:

GDC – Group Director: Children

DLDS-B - Director of Law and Democratic Services

Public Question Time - Swindon Borough Council is committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. Up to 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from members of the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters and specific planning applications). Questions must be relevant, clear and concise. Because of time constraints Public Question Time is not an opportunity to make speeches or statements. Prior notice of a question to the Director of Law and

Democratic Services is desirable - particularly if detailed background information is needed.

Access Arrangements – *The Venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you would wish to attend the meeting but have any special requirement to enable you to do so please contact the Committee Clerk above, as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.*

If you would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size please contact the Committee Officer whose name appears on the first page of this agenda.

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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TUESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2010

PRESENT:-

Group A: Christian Denominations and Other Religions or Religious Denominations.	Mr Dinesh Patel (Hindu Community), Mr Mark Cawte (United Reformed Church & Methodist - Deputy), Mr David Burbidge (Baptist Church) and Mr Tony McAteer (Catholic Community)
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Group B: Church of England	Reverend Norma McKemey, Mrs Penny Summers, Reverend Arthur Woo and Miss Janet French
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Group C: Teacher Organisations	Ms Jo Garton (Vice-Chair), Mrs Tracy Mason, Mrs Helen Miller and Miss Lottie Rowe
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Group D: Councillors	Councillors Doreen Dart (Chair) and Junab Ali
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ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: - Ms Katy Staples (SACRE Adviser)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Michael Bray, Councillor Raymond Fisher, Councillor Janet Heenan, Ms Steph Mundin, Mrs Mandy Sandleton, Mrs Helen Hancox, Reverend David Howell, Mr M S Khan and Mr Malkit Singh Virk

22. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

23. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

24. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correction to the designation of Groups A to D, and to amend Janet French's title to Miss.

Further to minute 19 (2), the Chair asked that the information on the work of the SACRE sent to schools be provided to all Councillors as part of the SACRE's annual report.

25. Membership Update

The SACRE received a report recommending changes to its membership. The SACRE was advised that since the Agenda was published, confirmation had been received from the NASUWT of their nomination of Lottie Rowe to the vacancy on Group C (Teacher Organisations), and from the Methodist Church of the nomination of Mr Mark Cawte to the vacancy on Group A. Mr Cawte advised that as part of his appointment to represent the Methodist churches, he would resign as

a deputy representative for the United Reform Church, and an alternative deputy would be nominated to the next meeting.

Resolved – 1) That the Membership update be noted.

2) That Mr Tony McAteer be appointed to the SACRE as a member of Group A (Other Christian Denominations and Other Religions) to represent the Catholic Diocese.

3) That Miss Lottie Rowe be appointed to the SACRE as a member of Group C (Teacher Organisations) to represent the NASUWT.

4) That Mr Mark Cawte be appointed to the SACRE as a member of Group A (Other Christian Denominations and other Religions) to represent Methodist Churches in Swindon.

5) That the SACRE Advisor seek through network meetings nominations for the remaining two NUT vacancies on Group C (Teacher Organisations).

26. Update on implementation of the Delivery Plan 2010-11

The SACRE received an update the implementation of its Delivery Plan 2010/11 as set out in Appendix 1 and 2 to the report, and individual members confirmed updates on the work as follows:

- The SACRE Annual Report would be reported to the next meeting. Mark Cawte would be meeting with Katy Staples to assist with drafting the report.
- Penny Summers would be leading the session at the next Primary Network meeting for a review of the foundation materials.
- Jo Garton confirmed that this was not the best time to promote Community Cohesion with schools as it was no longer likely to be a Government priority in the new year and schools were under pressure from many other new challenges. This could be revisited in the future, as this remained a priority for the SACRE.
- Mark Cawte and Helen Miller agreed to bring an update to the next meeting on options to encourage feedback from schools in relation to the delivery of RE and Collective Worship.
- Katy Staples and Sarah Foulkes would continue to consider options for an interfaith project for Year 4 during the next year.
- The SACRE discussed the option for SACRE member visits to schools and considered the role of these in supporting Celebrating RE week within the next agenda item.

Resolved – That the SACRE note the progress on the delivery on its Development Plan for 2010/11.

27. Celebrating RE Month

The SACRE received a report from the SACRE Advisor on the Celebrating RE Month which was taking place in March 2011 and the various ways in which the SACRE could get involved. It was agreed that it was best for the SACRE to become involved through offering SACRE Member time to visit schools or other

community events which related to the celebration of RE during the month, and to promote these through local media. It was important that the events do not just focus on Easter, but on the diversity of faith in the town.

Resolved – 1) That the SACRE notes that the national Celebrating RE Month is taking place in March 2011.

2) That the Director of Schools and Learning and SACRE advisor be requested to inform schools of the ways in which they can get involved in Celebrating RE Month, via the RE Network meeting and by placing information on school online web pages.

3) The SACRE Advisor circulate to SACRE Members information on the range of events that are taking place for Celebrating RE Month when known.

4) SACRE members advise the SACRE Advisor when they can be available to support events and schools during March 2011 in their Celebrating RE activities.

28. Feedback from Network Meetings

Katy Staples advised that the secondary network meeting had met on 14th October at Ridgeway School with regard to 'The Best Unit of Work we Teach'. This had highlighted a number of interesting projects, including Ridgeway's involvement in a Face to Faith Project, enabling video conferences between classes in different areas in the world and a discussion of faith issues. Lottie Rowe advised that the first of the video conferences with her class was due to take place in January or March, and this could be videoed and the results shared with the SACRE. It was agreed that this was an exciting project for enabling children of different nationalities and faiths to communicate.

It was noted that the next Network meetings would be held in January, on 26th January 2011 at Nova Hreod School for the Secondary meeting and on 20th January at Oliver Tomkins Infant School for the Primary meeting. It was suggested that one or two other members of the SACRE may wish to attend network meetings, as this gave a real understanding of how RE is taught in Swindon.

Resolved – 1) That the update on the Network Meetings is noted.

2) That any other SACRE Members wishing to attend the Network Meeting contact the SACRE Advisor.

29. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next SACRE meeting would be held on Tuesday 15th March 2011.

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Celebrating RE Month

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 15th March 2011.

Author: SACRE Advisor

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To update the SACRE on the range of events being held for Celebrating RE Month.

Recommendation

- SACRE is requested to welcome and celebrate the range of events being held locally in March 2011 as part of the national Celebrating RE Month .

1. Reasons

- 1.1 To support the teaching of RE through Celebrating RE Month.

1. Detail

- 2.1 The SACRE was advised at the last meeting that a national Celebrating RE Month would be held in March 2011. It was agreed that the range of events that schools could get involved in would be promoted to local schools, and SACRE Members would make themselves available to attend such events.
- 2.2 The take up by Schools on being involved in Celebrating RE Month has been good, and attached at Appendix 1 is a list the events which have taken place or will take place during March and the Schools and SACRE Members involved:
- 2.3 Individual Members are invited to report back on the activities they have attended. SACRE may wish to consider how to build upon the outcomes from the activities which they were involved with and the links to local schools.

Alternative Options

- The alternative options, where applicable, are set out in the body of this report.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- There are currently no financial implications identified in this report. However, should the SACRE decide to take additional steps to support Celebrating RE

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples on 0117 927 7454 or katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org

Celebrating RE Month

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 15th March 2011.

Month, any costs would need to be met from the SACRE's Annual Budget of £5k.

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- This report has no specific legal or human rights implications.

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies

- The work of the SACRE contributes to the Councils aims to improve the opportunities for children and young people, and to support local communities by empowering people to participate in local decision-making and overcoming social exclusion.

Consultees

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.
- Paddy Bradley, Director of Schools and Learning.
- Sarah Foulkes, School Improvement Adviser

Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Details of Celebrating RE Month Activities

Celebrating RE Month in Swindon Schools in Swindon Schools

Name of School and date	Event and name of teacher	SACRE member
Liden Primary School Wednesday 16 th February 2011	Yr4/5 Visit to Gorse Hill Mosque Liz Haig	Rev Norma McKemey
Liden Primary School March 10 th 2011	Early Years trip to local Church Liz Haig	Rev. Arthur Woo
Westrop Primary School Tuesday March 8 th 2011	Visiting the Sikh Temple Judi Kingdon	Penny Summers and Rev Arthur Woo
South Marston CofE VC Primary March 2 nd 2011	Story Teller All day - Stories from the Bible Day Alison Lowe	Jo Garston
St Francis CofE VA Primary April 6 th 2011	Stations of The Cross and celebrating Easter Day Steph Munding	David Burbidge
Swindon Academy Wednesday 16 th March	Quizzing Bishop Lee about Medical Ethics and Faith Helen Green	

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SACRE Annual Report and Development Plan

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 15 March 2011

Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services / SACRE Advisor

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To receive the draft Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report covering the period September 2009 to September 2010, and to consider the development plan for SACRE for the next year.

Recommendation

- That the draft SACRE's Annual Report attached at Appendix '1' be considered and the SACRE Advisor be authorised to finalise the report, taking into account any comments provided by SACRE Members.
- That the SACRE determine how it wishes to distribute the Annual Report to raise awareness of the work of the SACRE and promote Religious Education.
- That the SACRE consider and approve its Development Plan for 2010/13, as attached at Appendix '2'.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education is required by Section 391 of the Education Act 1996 to produce an Annual Report of the exercise of its functions during the preceding year.

2. Detail

- 2.1 The draft Annual Report of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education is attached at Appendix '1' for the SACRE's consideration. The SACRE is asked to consider the draft report and to authorise the SACRE Advisor to finalise the Annual Report and submit it to be collated nationally.
- 2.2 The Director of Schools and Learning will attend the meeting to present and provide context to the Religious Education examination results which are included within the Annual Report.
- 2.3 The SACRE is asked to consider how it wishes to disseminate copies of the Annual Report to Schools, Local Councillors and Faith Groups, in order to raise the profile of the SACRE and promote Religious Education.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples on 0117 927 7454 or katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org or from Sarah Lawrence on 01793 463603, Email slawrence@swindon.gov.uk.

SACRE Annual Report and Development Plan

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 15 March 2011

- 2.4 In addition, the SACRE is asked to consider its development plan, taking into account any particular areas for focus identified through the Annual Report. A draft Development Plan is attached at Appendix '2' for consideration.

Alternative Options

- None.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- None associated with this report.

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- This report has no specific legal or human rights implications.

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)

- The work of the SACRE contributes to the Corporate Plan aims to improve the opportunities for children and young people.

Consultees

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.
- Paddy Bradley, Director of Schools and Learning
- Sarah Foulkes, Principal Advisor

Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Draft Annual Report 2009/10
- Appendix 2 – Draft Development Plan 2011/12

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples on 0117 927 7454 or katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org or from Sarah Lawrence on 01793 463603, Email slawrence@swindon.gov.uk.

Swindon SACRE Annual Report 2009-10



Children from KS1 at Westrop Primary School have interviewed their local vicar Rev Arthur Woo about his work and as a response have made a caring hands tree



King William Street CofE Primary School Celebrate the Nativity Story at Christchurch



Ridgeway School students' display about "Where was God in the Holocaust?"



Sixth formers and teachers from Ridgeway School visit Auschwitz

Chair's Introduction

It has been another effective and focussed year for Swindon SACRE.

Swindon Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education is made up of a very committed and engaged group of people who represent the breadth and balance of the faith and non religious beliefs held in Swindon.

Targeted and helpful support has been offered to all schools this year through network meetings and a highly successful Secondary RE conference was held jointly with Wiltshire local authority. One network meeting for Primary and one for Secondary Colleagues was held at the Sikh Gurdwara in Kembrey St. Swindon.



The continued impact of the "Face to Faith" DVD made in 2008/9 in four Swindon Secondary Schools and funded by NASACRE was supported in November 2009 by a letter sent to all schools suggesting how the DVD might be used in RE lessons in KS2 and KS3.

In 2010 SACRE requested that the Local Authority convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference. The work of the conference has been progressing and members have been working through drafts of an update which is to be introduced in the Summer of 2011. I am personally very grateful to the working group and SACRE adviser who have been working on this update.

As SACRE we are ardent believers in the value of RE within the curriculum and its impact on the spiritual and moral development of children and young people. We are hopeful that the clarifications and extra guidance that the new update to our existing Agreed Syllabus offers will maintain the rightful place of RE as a significant part of the curriculum.

Councillor Doreen Dart
Chair of SACRE



Executive Summary

The report meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Act, which states that:

- 'The council shall in each year publish a report of their functions and any action taken by representative groups on the council during the preceding year.'
- The report is required to specify any matters in respect of which the council has given advice to the authority, and the nature of that advice.

The key function of SACRE is to advise the Local Authority on RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus.¹

The composition of SACRE is set out in legislation.

The four groups or committees represent the following interests within the local community.

These are the people that have served for the year September 2009 to- June 2010

- **Committee A Christian Denominations, Other Religions or Religious Denominations**

Mrs Helen Hancox, United Reformed Church
 Reverend David Howell, Swindon Evangelical Alliance
 Mr M S Khan, Muslim Community
 Mr Dinesh Patel, Hindu Community,
 Mr Malkit Singh Virk, Sikh Community
 Mrs Wendy Tucker, Methodist Church
 Mr Arun Bedi, Sikh Community – Deputy
 Mr Mark Cawte, United Reformed Church and Methodist Deputy

- **Committee B The Church of England**

Ms Norma McKemey
 Ms Steph Mundin
 Mr Paul Noble
 Mrs Penny Summers
 Reverend Arthur Woo

- **Committee C Teacher Association Representatives**

David Easter
 Janet French
 Jo Garton (Vice Chair)
 Mrs Tracy Mason
 Mrs Emma McCarthy
 Mrs Helen Miller
 Miss Anne Wang
 Mrs Mandy Sandleton

- **Committee D The Local Authority.**

Councillor Doreen Dart (Chair)

¹ Section 391(1)(a), Education Act 1996

Councillor Fay Howard (replaced by Councillor Junab Ali in May 2010)
Councillor Michael Bray
Councillor Raymond Fisher
Councillor Mavis Childs (replaced by Councillor Janet Heenan in May 2010)

Support Officers :

Ms Katy Staples, SACRE Adviser (Telephone 0117 9175583)
katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org
Ms Sarah Foulkes, School Improvement Adviser
Miss Sarah Lawrence , Committee Officer (Telephone 01793 463603)
slawrence@swindon.gov.uk

Members are nominated by appropriate organisations and appointments confirmed by the Local Authority. Other members may be co-opted.

SACRE met on four occasions during the Academic year 2009-2010

All meetings were quorate.

Tuesday 22nd September 2009

Civic Offices Swindon

- Final Report from the Face to Face (NASACRE funded) Project

Tuesday 1st December 2009

Civic offices Swindon

- Feedback from schools Survey
- Reviewing the vision of SACRE
- Suggested Code of Conduct for Teachers of RE

Tuesday 16th March 2010

Civic Offices Swindon

- Annual Report
- Development Plan
- Training update

Tuesday 15th June 2010

Civic Offices Swindon

- Implementing the Development plan
- RE in English Schools –responding to guidance
- Effective SACREs carrying on evaluating our role
- Request for Local Authority to set up an Agreed Syllabus Conference & for Advisor to survey local schools on the current Locally Agreed Syllabus.

Challenges and opportunities that lie ahead

Challenges for SACRE include

- Develop and implement an Update of the existing Agreed Syllabus with a limited budget.
- Supporting effective RE within any new curriculum models developed or introduced by the government
- On going need to monitor achievements in RE effectively

Opportunities include

- Ongoing enthusiasm and professionalism of SACRE members
- Ongoing commitment and dedication of teachers as shown by attendance at the Secondary Annual Conference and at Network meetings

1. Standards and quality of Religious Education (RE) Provision

1a. Compliance and time allocation for RE

The Locally Agreed Syllabus sets out the required number of hours for each pupil in relation to the delivery of RE, which is 36 hours in Key Stage 1 and is 45 hours per year for Key Stage 2, 3 and 4.

With the lack of information available through Ofsted reporting, it is very difficult to determine whether community schools and academies are fully compliant with the statutory requirements for RE.

It is recognised in the examination entry statistics at Key Stage 4, that there has been a decline of 152 students being entered for a public examination in RE in the last year. For example, within half of Swindon Schools the majority of students are not following a public examination course.

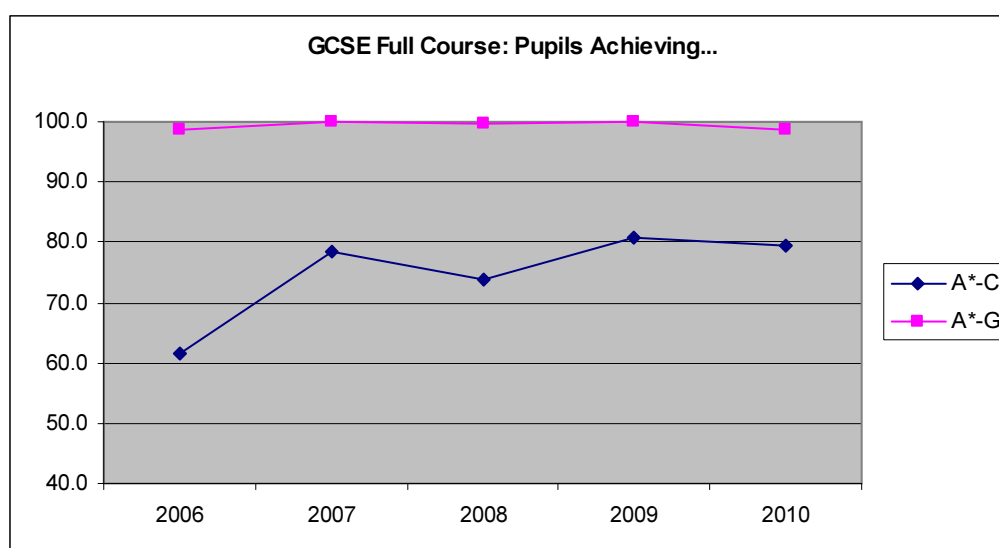
1b Public Examination entries in RE

Results for the **2010 GCE and GCSE**.

288 students were entered for full course which is the highest number in three years.

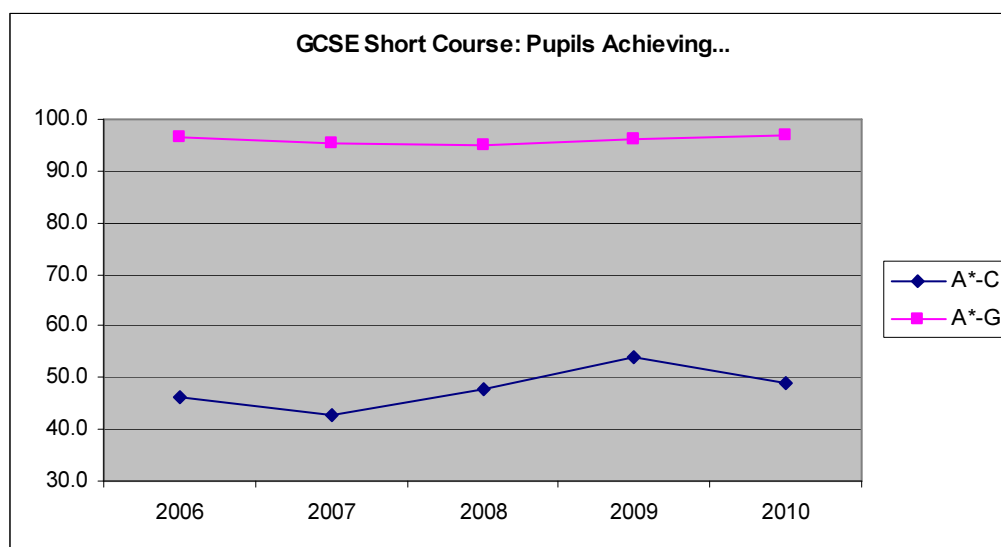
Results from the 2010 full GCSE were 79.5% A* - C which was above the national average of 73.1% and below the Swindon 2009 results 80.9% but was higher than the three preceding years.

GCSE Full Course: Pupils Achieving...					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
A*-C	61.7	78.6	73.8	80.9	79.5
A*-G	98.7	100.0	99.6	100.0	98.6



878 students were entered for short course RE which is the lowest number for 3 years. Results from the short course were 48.9 % A* - C which is below the national average of 54.6% and below the Swindon 2009 results 54.0%

GCSE Short Course: Pupils Achieving...					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
A*-C	46.2	42.9	47.7	54.0	48.9
A*-G	96.5	95.4	94.9	96.1	96.8



ELQ Band C Religious Studies

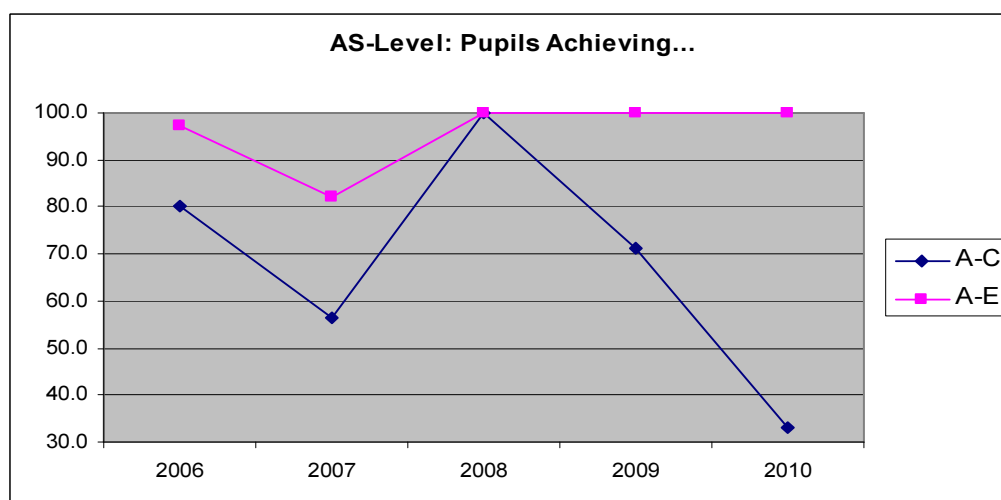
10 students were entered for this examination. 100% gained levels 3-1

GCE A and AS Level Religious Studies

The numbers taking AS level decreased from 14 in 2009 to 12 in 2010.

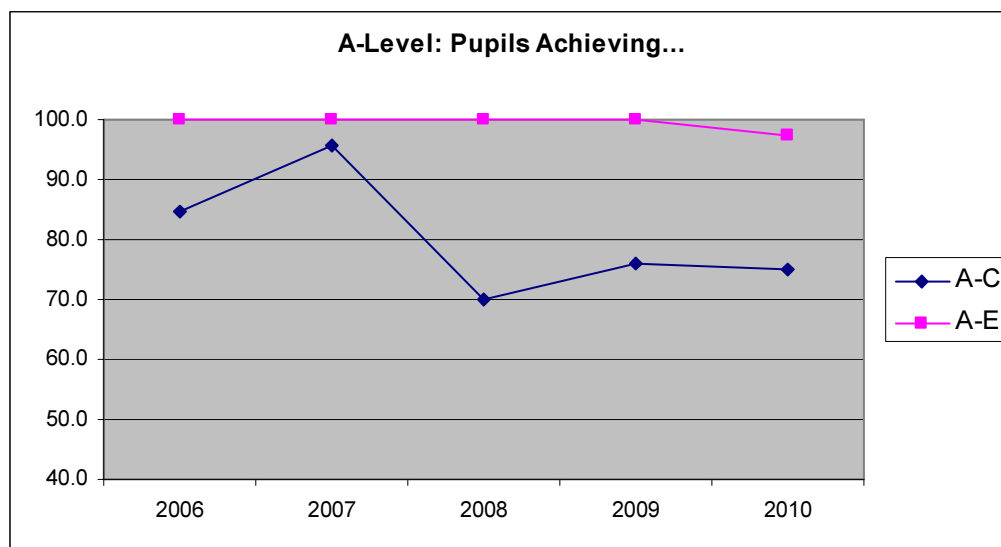
There was a large drop in standards from 71.4% A-C grades in 2009 to 33% A-C grades in 2010

AS-Level: Pupils Achieving...					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
A-C	80.0	56.4	100.0	71.4	33.3
A-E	97.1	82.1	100.0	100.0	100.0



36 pupils took A level in 2010 (7 more than in 2009). The average percentage gaining A*- C was 75.0%-and gaining A*-E was 97.2%

A-Level: Pupils Achieving...					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
A-C	84.6	95.7	70.0	75.9	75.0
A-E	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	97.2



1c Standards and achievement quality of teaching and quality of leadership and management of RE

There are no methods for collecting verifiable evidence of levels of achievement in RE, other than through public examination results. There are no opportunities to access sufficient information to make a well-substantiated judgement on the quality of RE teaching or leadership and management of RE in Swindon schools.

Support has been offered to both Primary and Secondary RE teachers about self-evaluation through network meetings and colleagues have been recommended to use the self evaluation toolkit on the Better RE website.

2. Managing the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders

During the year Mr Mark Cawte and Mr Arun Bedi from Swindon SACRE accessed NASACRE training for members in group A and Rev. Arthur Woo and Mr MS Khan have accessed training from NASACRE for those who are new to SACRE. They benefitted greatly from that training which they all reported as being most useful. SACRE as a whole has used some elements of the NASACRE "Effective SACREs" DVD on the meeting on the 15th June 2010.

2a SACRE development**CPD offered.**

During the year 3 Secondary network meetings were held and 3 Primary network meetings:

Primary /Secondary/Venue	Date/Topic
Secondary –Churchfield School	4/11/2009 Face to faith DVD/NATRE films for RE and ideas for teaching Sanctity of Life issues
Primary -St. Francis CofE VA School	19/11/2009 Using Philosophy 4 Children strategies to develop questioning and reasoning in RE
Secondary – Commonweal School	03/02/2010 KS3 and 4 resources review – what works for you? How to plan RE when it is in a more integrated model
Primary – Sikh Gurdwara Kembrey Rd	18/3/2010 How to arrange a trip to the Temple Enhancing teaching about Sikhism and supporting Community Cohesion and Learning outside the classroom
Secondary Sikh Gurdwara Kembrey Rd	16/6/2010 How to arrange a trip to the Temple Enhancing teaching about Sikhism Supporting Community Cohesion and Learning outside the classroom
Primary Liden School	17/6/2010 Self Evaluation - getting ready for an Inspection Assessment , Evidence and Management of the subject

Secondary RE Conference

“RE at the heart of a changing Curriculum”

10th June 2010

This was held jointly with Wiltshire County

8 teachers from Swindon attended.

Workshops included topics such as:

- Compelling learning in RE,
- Linking RE with Personal , Learning and Thinking Skills
- Spiritual Development and RE
- Enquiry based learning at KS3
- Learning outside the classroom
- Around the World in 80 Faiths.

Feedback was very good with 95% Excellent or Very Good ratings.

3. The Effectiveness of the local Agreed Syllabus

3a The Swindon Agreed Syllabus was adopted in 2006 and is due to renewal in 2011. A consultation with teachers in Swindon about the current Agreed Syllabus has taken place.

SACRE set up an Agreed Syllabus Conference at its meeting in June 2010, and this has carefully considered the options open to schools and has since decided to **continue with the current agreed syllabus but issue an update to be launched in June 2011 and be in use by September 2011** that will serve to respond to some of the changes in curriculum and advice that has been issued concerning RE since the last Agreed Syllabus was written.

The adviser to SACRE has been participating in a collaboration project with QCDA on how to develop a balance between local and national input for agreed syllabuses. This has enabled Swindon SACRE to be kept up to date and contribute to national developments.

3b Developing the New update to the Agreed Syllabus

The revision of the Swindon Agreed Syllabus has followed a pattern of setting up an Agreed Syllabus Conference; consultation with schools; a discussion of the strengths and weakness of three possible options and a decision to continue with the current agreed syllabus but offer an update

This Update should offer a structure to support the teaching of RE through a variety of curriculum models and will provide clear planning guidance to support existing programmes of study.

4. Collective Worship

As the focus this year has been concentrating on supporting the effective delivery of compelling Religious Education and setting up for reviewing the Agreed Syllabus little time has been given to focus on Collective Worship.

There were no determinations in force during the reporting year.

No formal complaints or other matters were referred to SACRE this year.

5. SACRE as a representative effective diverse community

There is an excellent ethos and sense of community within Swindon SACRE the quality of debate and engagement has been very high as has been demonstrated in the discussions concerning the agreed syllabus review. The contributions of different faith groups that represent the communities of Swindon is further evidence of the breadth of engagement within this SACRE community.

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Swindon SACRE Development Plan 2010 – 13

Area for Improvement : Increasing the effectiveness of SACRE in developing the standards of teaching and learning in Religious Education , and in advising about collective worship

Success criteria

A. Developing teaching and learning in RE

1. The quality of pupil's learning in RE is improved through the implementation of the advice and training offered in the programme to introduce the new Agreed Syllabus Update 2011
2. Strategies to inform schools about statutory legal duties and compliance will be developed.
3. The quality of teaching and learning at EYFS is reviewed and advice offered

B Ensuring adequate advice and training is given concerning effective Collective Worship

1. Advice offered about Collective worship is informative , current and helpful
2. All Schools have been offered training about Collective Worship that will help them ensure the impact and effectiveness of this element of school life

C. SACREs effective partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders

1. SACRE itself , Swindon LA and all schools are informed as to the work and function of Swindon SACRE
2. Members of SACRE visit schools and see RE happening

Monitoring How and When	Sarah Foulkes meetings with RE Adviser 4 SACRE meetings a year	Evaluation How and when	SACRE SACRE meetings
Lead Person	Katy Staples	Others involved	SACRE members
Area of development			
A. Teaching and Learning in RE 1. Introducing the Agreed Syllabus Update – offering advice and training	June 2011	June 2013	Through Network meetings and ½ day training for secondary and ½ day for primary schools
2. Strategies to ensure compliance with statutory duty	March 2011	July 2013	Letter to accompany the Annual report to ask Secondary Schools about their compliance particularly at KS4
3. Reviewing the quality of provision offered for EYFS	January 2011	Spring 2012	Primary Network meeting Jan 2011 given for a discussion –and review (led by Mrs Penny Summers) –included in new AS Primary Network meeting Spring 2012 – sharing best practice
			Network meetings – 3 per year per phase – cost 3 days adviser time Training offered at Nythe at cost to schools (no SACRE budget consideration) Adviser time to write letter (1/2 hr - £25) and Electronic / paper distribution Adviser support at Network meetings

B. Ensuring effective Collective worship 1. Reviewing the advice offered about Collective worship 2. Offer training to all schools in Swindon about Collective Worship	Autumn 2011	June 2012	Review SACRE advice currently offered about Collective worship. Issue updated advice to schools Venue , materials and Adviser time	Adviser time to re-write / amend advice if necessary (£50 per hour - £200 per day) Electronic/ paper distribution of new advice Costs to be met by schools and training offered – one afternoon at Nythe
	June 2012	June 2012		
C. Effective SACRE and partnership 1. Developing the role of SACRE and its partnership with the LA and stakeholders 2. SACRE members visiting and engaging in RE in schools	March 2011	July 2013	LA officer attending SACRE meetings SACRE members raising issues in other forums (SAPH) SACRE annual report in a format which is more attractive to a wider readership- to be sent to all schools and Governors As part of Celebrating RE month SACRE members will visit schools who are celebrating their excellent RE with visits or special days etc. Final report presented June 2011 to SACRE	Electronic/paper distribution of Annual Report to a greater readership. None – the goodwill and kindness of SACRE members
	March 2011	June 2011 onwards		

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Implications of National Developments in Religious Education

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 15th March 2011

Author: SACRE Advisor

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To update the SACRE on national developments in relation to the provision of RE and implications for local teaching.

Recommendation

SACRE is requested -

1. To note the report .
2. To recommend that a letter is sent to all Secondary Schools in Swindon asking them about their plans in relation to the teaching of Key Stage 4 Religious Education, to continue to meet the statutory requirements and the requirements of the Local Agreed Syllabus.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 The SACRE has a duty to help schools fulfil their statutory obligations with regard to religious education.

2. Detail

- 2.1 The Government's Schools White Paper was issued on 24th November 2010, announced the intention for the development of an English Baccalaureate (E Bacc). Confirmation was received at the last SACRE meeting that the Humanities requirement in the English Baccalaureate would not include Religious Education. In addition, it was understood that the national curriculum review would also not include Religious Education, and therefore it will remain locally determined. Attached at Appendix '1', for information, are extracts from a personal view on the potential implications of the changes from John Keast, is a former RE advisor to the DFSC and to the QCA.
- 2.2 Since the last meeting, there has been a great deal of public lobbying for RE to be included in the English Baccalaureate, and the Government is undertaking a consultation on the content of the E Bacc which is due to close on 8th March 2011.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples on 0117 927 7454 or katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org

Implications of National Developments in Religious Education

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 15th March 2011

- 2.3 The implications for schools in relation to the teaching of Religious Education reported nationally is that a number of Secondary Schools are beginning to put less priority of the teaching of Religious Education at Key Stage 4.
- 2.4 In order to understand the local implications, it is recommended that the SACRE Advisor send a letter to all Secondary Schools in Swindon to ask how they will they will be seeking to deliver Religious Education in accordance with the Locally Agreed Syllabus and statutory requirements in the next year, in the light of the development of the E-Bacc. A draft of the letter is attached at Appendix '2' for the SACRE's consideration.

Alternative Options

- The alternative options, where applicable, are set out in the body of this report.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- This report has no specific financial or procurement implications.

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- This report has no specific legal or human rights implications.

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies

- The work of the SACRE contributes to the Council's aims to improve the opportunities for children and young people, and to support local communities by empowering people to participate in local decision-making and overcoming social exclusion.

Consultees

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.
- Paddy Bradley, Director of Schools and Learning.
- Sarah Foulkes, School Improvement Adviser

Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Extracts from paper by John Keast
- Appendix 2- Draft letter to Secondary Schools

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples on 0117 927 7454 or katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN ENGLAND – A CRITICAL TIME
A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE BY JOHN KEAST**

A critical situation for RE in 2011

1. Since the mid 1990s provision and quality in RE has improved, though patchily across the country, as evidenced by the growth in entries for Religious Studies at GCSE and AS/A Level. Last year's Ofsted report *Transforming Religious Education* (Ofsted 2010) confirmed the pattern of good practice but identified issues concerning the current statutory arrangements for RE, what constitutes learning and progress, and the inadequacy of professional development in RE. Neither the last nor current government has responded to this report. Although there were worrying signs for RE before the coalition government including the negative impact on RE of the new secondary curriculum in some schools and the lack of a systematic monitoring of statutory compliance by Ofsted, the situation at the beginning of 2011 is now the most critical for RE since 1988 or even before that.
2. There are **contextual threats** to the flourishing of RE.
 - 2.1. The continuing drive towards academies and free schools will create a virtually 'independent' system of education everywhere, where governors and head teachers are promised much more autonomy. This has the potential to lead to much greater flexibility and diversity in the curriculum and the undermining of the notion of statutory entitlement. How RE will fare in such a situation is far from clear or reassuring.
 - 2.2. The QCDA is to go; there is now no national adviser for RE curriculum, assessment and qualifications in RE.
 - 2.3. SACREs are likely to become increasingly redundant and impotent, and schools in their areas will increasingly be detached from the locally agreed syllabus. Schools designated with a religious character, academies and free schools will not have to teach RE in accordance with it.
 - 2.4. Changes to Initial Teacher Training signalled in the White Paper mean that the provision and quality of training of specialist RE teachers will suffer, and there is already insufficient effective CPD for RE teachers.
3. There are **legal threats** to the flourishing of RE.
 - 3.1. The government is committed to relaxing statutory curriculum requirements. Ofsted's inspection framework is likely to have limited focus on monitoring the statutory requirements of the curriculum. The statutory

provision of RE is likely to become weaker or even cease, as has happened in the past.

- 3.2. The Academies Act 2010 removed from Academies and free schools the statutory requirement, in force since 1870, for all maintained schools to provide RE in the curriculum and a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. Whilst the model funding agreements for such schools does require such provision the funding agreements can be changed by government policy. The funding agreement does not require a school to use a locally agreed syllabus.

4. There are curriculum threats to the flourishing of RE.

- 4.1. The curriculum review refers to the development of a new National Curriculum which will contain “a core of essential knowledge in key subject disciplines”. RE is not included in the review (despite the Secretary of State saying in Parliament in July that it would) implying that RE is outside of any national concept of essential knowledge or key subject discipline. There is reference to RE as one of the important components of a broad and balanced school curriculum but the review document does not include any affirmation of the value of RE within the curriculum, nor to the current aim of the curriculum including the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and society. How agreed syllabuses may contribute to the overall aims and purposes for the school curriculum will become harder to realise.
- 4.2. The announcement of the curriculum review makes clear that the government does not intend to make any changes to the statutory basis for RE, thus making it clear that the government believes the current statutory basis for RE is sufficient for its proper provision and high standards. This policy is a repeat of the mistake made in the 1987 Education Reform Bill, ignores the lessons of the development of the RE curriculum in the 1990s by John Patten,; and ignores the repeated warnings from Ofsted about the ineffectiveness of the current statutory basis for RE Furthermore, it fails to take account of the fact that schools may well ignore the statutory basis for RE. A daily act of Collective Worship by all pupils has been statutory since 1944 but over 80% of secondary schools fail to meet this requirement with complete impunity.

5. There are qualifications threats to RE.

- 5.1. The announcement that full course GCSE RS did not count towards the English Baccalaureate in 2010 and the retrospective application of the EB to

the 2010 school results has provoked a high level of protest from head teachers, faith communities and RE professional associations. A rationale for not including RS as a humanities subject is completely absent, and the commitment of all kinds of schools to the provision of Full course GCSE RS for their pupils has been totally undervalued and ignored. Evidence is accruing on an alarming scale of schools dismantling their key stage curriculum arrangements and removing the opportunity for young people to study GCSE RS. RE Departments could be radically reduced on grounds citing the English Baccalaureate. The review of qualifications now taking place makes the future of short course GCSEs very uncertain. If they are abolished over a quarter of million students will no longer gain that qualification in RE. How the review of qualifications will affect AS/A Level RS are not clear.

5.2. All these developments threaten the status of RE at a time when schools will have more freedom not to provide accredited courses in RE at all. They seriously risk the credibility and quality of RE as an academic subject throughout secondary schooling, and are likely to undo the gains in RE qualifications over 20 years.

6. **In short, whilst almost certainly not intentional, government changes to education are having a major regressive impact on RE as an unrealised consequence. The Government has not recognised the contradiction at the heart of its approach to RE: affirming the statutory position of RE and importance of local determination while dismantling the very structures which underpin this affirmation. RE faces massive marginalisation and decline in English schools from 2011 onwards.**

What should the “RE community” do?

7. Most of the government changes described above are high priority policies for the coalition government and are therefore unlikely to be changed. The “RE community” therefore must prepare to live with most of them, and turn them into opportunities. The potential for working together which is clearly emerging from the varied responses to this critical time is very helpful and encouraging, and should continue, with the following actions.
- 7.1. Those who have the interests and wellbeing of good quality RE for all pupils not withdrawn by their parents should come even closer together, and, through the RE Council and its strategic plan, establish a more effective broad subject community, seeking major funding from appropriate sources to empower faith communities, RE organisations, RE teachers and friends of RE to safeguard and improve provision and quality in England. In particular, the chairs of organisations that represent SACREs, RE teachers and advisers

should work more closely together within the structure of the RE Council. Working with its member bodies the RE Council should continue to make representations to government, welcoming the reaffirmation of local determination and the National Curriculum review, and seek ways to work with the Department for Education, flagging up the hope that RE might re-enter the review at Stage 2.

- 7.2. LAs and SACREs need to consider how to streamline their working practices, build relationships with the diversity of schools within their area, seek new sources of subject advice, be ready to offer guidance to schools to support them through a period of change, and be ready to review their AS as the pattern of the new NC emerges (to ensure the language and approach in RE is aligned with it). The work and capacity of the National Association of SACREs should be enhanced so that NASACRE can take on a greater support role for SACREs in doing this.
- 7.3. The slimming and radical discontinuity of the new National Curriculum with the old mean that the links between RE and other curriculum/educational initiatives need to be rethought in the medium term. A new source of consensus for the RE curriculum needs to be found; this would need to cover not only the content of agreed syllabuses, but the overall aim of the subject and its contribution to the curriculum, and the definition of attainment and progression. The crucial period for developing a consensus on how to align RE with the rest of the curriculum may well be Spring 2012 - Spring 13. One strategy for the RE Council to consider in the coming year, therefore, is the establishment of a parallel RE group alongside the NC development work, preferably with some Department for Education funding, to revise the 2004 non-statutory Framework and re-align it with the new curriculum, to secure consistency with other subjects and support local SACREs.
- 7.4. The campaign to get full course GCSE RS included as a humanity in the EB for 2011 needs to be continued as a matter of urgency, preferably without hostility to Geography and History. There must be room for all three subjects in the EB.
- 7.5. New ways to cater for the curriculum and assessment of pupils who do not choose RS in the EB need to be found, but without “doubling up” on RE for those who do choose it, to prevent allegations of RE having a privileged position. In this complex process, how RE might cope without a short course GCSE may need to be faced. The implications for AS/A level in the longer term will also have to be faced.

John Keast, 25 January 2011

Advice to Swindon LA

Copied to Headteachers and Chairs of Governing Bodies

Religious Education in Swindon

Swindon is proud of the high quality provision for Religious Education found in its schools. The recent annual report (enclosed), shows that in most schools, students' examination success in Religious Education contributes to an overall pattern of raising achievement in the Local Authority.

At a recent meeting of SACRE a number of concerns about the teaching of RE were raised. In particular timetable pressures and the specific desire to ensure that students are able to meet the requirements of the English Baccalaureat may mean that time allocation for Religious Education has been squeezed.

SACRE wishes to draw governors' attention to the fact that every maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, sex education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school except for those withdrawn by their parents.

SACRE also wishes to remind governors that all Academies "In accordance with their funding agreement, where an Academy has not been designated with a religious character the Academy must ensure that the religious education is given to all pupils at the academy in accordance with the requirements for the locally agreed syllabus" Religious Education Guidance for Schools 2010

In Swindon, the key document in determining the teaching of RE is the Swindon Agreed Syllabus. Schools designated as having a religious character are free to make their own decisions in preparing their syllabuses.

In relation to Key Stage 4, the recommended time allocation in the Agreed Syllabus is 45 hours per year (p3 Agreed Syllabus for Teaching RE in Swindon 2006)

Swindon SACRE would like to be informed what each secondary school in Swindon is planning in order to meet its statutory duty for Religious Education for all pupils, and in particular for students at KS4..

If you have any concerns about this matter, please use the contact details above.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Doreen Dart

Chair

Swindon Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

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Information for Swindon SACRE about provision for RE.

Name of School:

1 Key Stage 3

How much time is allocated for RE for Yr 7 and how will it be delivered?

How much time is allocated for RE for Yr 8 and how will it be delivered?

How much time is allocated for RE for Yr 9 and how will it be delivered?

2. Key Stage 4

How much time is allocated for RE for Key Stage 4 and how will it be delivered?

What public examination syllabus is followed, if any?

The person responsible for RE in our school is:

Their e-mail is :

Thank you very much for your time

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Feedback from Network Meetings

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 15th March 2011

Author: SACRE Advisor

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To update the SACRE on the Network Meetings for RE Teachers and Co-ordinators in Swindon

Recommendation

SACRE is requested -

- To note the report.
- To consider any actions arising for the SACRE from the Network Meetings.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 The SACRE has a duty to help schools fulfil their statutory obligations with regard to religious education.
- 1.2 It is important that the SACRE be kept informed about the provision for religious education and collective worship in schools in the Borough and the support being provided to schools.

2. Detail

- 2.1 The SACRE Advisor meets with teachers of religious education in both primary and secondary schools through regular network meetings.
- 2.2 Since the last meeting of the SACRE, the Secondary Network teachers met on 26th January 2011 with regard to 'GCSE: How do we get better grades for our pupils: What works?'. The SACRE Advisor will highlight key outcomes from the meeting and any actions that the SACRE might wish to consider as a result. Any teachers present are also invited to provide their feedback. The next Secondary Network meeting will be held on 16th June 2011 at 3.45pm at Commonweal School, on the revised topic of 'Update to the Locally Agreed Syllabus'.
- 2.3 Since the last meeting, the Primary Network teachers met on 20th January 2011 at Oliver Tomkins Infant School, and Penny Summers led the session on the topic 'The foundation stage – a review of the Solihull material and new ideas'. Penny Summers will report back at the meeting

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples on 0117 927 7454 or katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org

Feedback from Network Meetings

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 15th March 2011

and will highlight any key outcomes or actions arising. The next Primary Network meeting will be held on 12th May 2011 at 3.45pm at St Francis CofE VA Primary School and will also be looking at the revised topic of 'Update to the Locally Agreed Syllabus'.

Alternative Options

- None

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- The costs for the SACRE Advisor meeting with the secondary and primary network meetings is met from within the SACRE budget, which is £5000 per annum.

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- This report has no specific legal or human rights implications.

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies

- The work of the SACRE contributes to the Council's aims to improve the opportunities for children and young people, and to support local communities by empowering people to participate in local decision-making and overcoming social exclusion.

Consultees

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.
- Director of Schools and Learning
- Sarah Foulkes, Primary Link Adviser

Background Papers and Appendices

- None

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples on 0117 927 7454 or katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org