

# **Public Consultation on Curriculum Reform**

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)**

**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009**

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**Author: SACRE Adviser**

**Parish / Wards Affected: All**

## **Purpose**

- To update the SACRE on the current public consultation on Curriculum Reform, including the Primary Curriculum Review and Non-Statutory Guidance on Religious Education, and to authorise the SACRE Advisor to submit a response to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority by 24 July 2009.

## **Recommendation**

- That the SACRE discuss and note the report and presentation of the SACRE Adviser on the current public consultation on Curriculum Reform, including the Primary Curriculum Review and Non-Statutory Guidance on Religious Education, and to authorise the SACRE Advisor to submit a response to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority by 24 July 2009 based on the comments of the SACRE at the meeting.
- That SACRE consider nominating several members to deputise for the SACRE Advisor at national conferences and events as required.

## **1. Reasons**

- 1.1 The SACRE has a duty to help schools fulfil their statutory obligations with regard to religious education, and to be kept informed of changes in policy or legislation which could have implications for the teaching for RE.

## **2. Detail**

- 2.1 The Department for Children, Schools and Families are currently consulting via the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, on a number of changes to the curriculum, which includes proposals relating to the primary curriculum and updated non-statutory guidance on religious education. A copy of the relevant sections of the consultation overview are set out at Appendix '1'. Comments are invited by 24 July 2009, and it is recommended that the SACRE discusses the key implications for SACREs and RE at this meeting and authorises the SACRE Advisor to submit a response to the consultation on its behalf.

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#### *Primary Curriculum*

- 2.2 The SACRE Adviser informed the SACRE at its last meeting regarding the progress of the Primary Review, being carried out by Sir Jim Rose with support from QCA.
- 2.3 A summary of the consultation on Primary Curriculum is set out in Appendix '1'. It is understood that no recommendations of the Rose Review will be implemented until after the next election and that if there is a change of Government, the recommendations are likely to be dropped.
- 2.4 Attached at Appendix '2' is the consultation summary of the 'RE: Non-statutory programme of learning for a statutory subject', which sets out the key curriculum components and learning in relation to RE.
- 2.5 The SACRE Advisor will also highlight at the meeting the key implications of the recommendations and how they could affect the way in which RE is taught in schools for the SACRE to provide a formal comment.

#### *Non-Statutory Guidance on Religious Education*

- 2.6 The SACRE was advised at its meeting in September 2008 of a formal review taking place during this year on the Guidance governing the operation of SACREs, Agreed Syllabuses and the legal framework for RE. The current consultation on Non-Statutory Guidance on Religious Education is intended to replace the previous guidance on RE contained in Circular 1/94 (issued in January 1994). The Guidance does not address Collective Worship, and it is anticipated that this will be covered at a later date.
- 2.7 A summary of the Non-Statutory Guidance is attached at Appendix '2', and the SACRE Advisor will give a presentation of the key issues for consideration at the meeting. A copy of the full Guidance is available at [www.qca.org.uk/curriculumconsultation](http://www.qca.org.uk/curriculumconsultation) and a full copy can be obtained from the Clerk to the SACRE on request.

#### *Attendance at National Conferences and Events*

- 2.8 The SACRE Advisor attends on behalf of this and the Bristol SACRE a number of national conferences and regional events, including the NASACRE Conference, to keep abreast of changes to Religious Education. As she is not always able to attend all the events that are required or necessary to keep the SACRE informed, it is recommended that the SACRE nominate one or two of its members to attend in place of the SACRE Advisor when she is unable to do so and considers that the

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Swindon SACRE should be represented. This would be subject to any additional costs being contained within the existing SACRE budget.

#### Alternative Options

- There are none.

#### Risk Management

##### *Financial and Procurement Implications*

- There are no financial implications arising from this report.

##### *Legal / Human Rights Implications*

- The costs of attendance at National Conferences by the SACRE Advisor is currently shared between the Swindon SACRE budget (£5,000 per annum), Bristol SACRE budget and the Bristol Diocese. Any attendance by other members of the SACRE will need to be funded from within current SACRE budget.

##### *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.
- Director of Schools and Learning
- Gill Ilic, Principal Adviser

#### Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Public Consultation on Curriculum Reform – Consultation Overview
- Appendix 2 – Consultation summary of the 'RE: Non-statutory programme of learning for a statutory subject',
- Appendix 3 - Summary of Non-Statutory Guidance on Religious Education