

Suggested Code of Conduct and Practice for Teachers of RE Consultation

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 1st December 2009

Author: SACRE Adviser

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To update the SACRE on the consultation on a Suggested Code of Conduct and Practice for Teachers of RE and to authorise the SACRE Adviser to submit a response from the SACRE to the RE Council of England and Wales..

Recommendation

- That the SACRE discuss and authorise the SACRE Adviser to provide their comments to the RE Council of England and Wales (REC) on the Suggested Code of Conduct and Practice for Teachers of RE.
- That the SACRE consider how such a Code of Conduct and Practice for Teachers of RE might be used in the local context.

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

- 1.2 The RE Council of England and Wales (REC) has produced a Suggested Code of Conduct and Practice for Teachers of RE, which aims to complement the GTC's general code for teachers. It is the intention that the Code will be voluntary and will be published on the website of the RE Council of England and Wales from December 2009.

- 1.3 RE today when commenting on the new Code states that:

“When that code was being drawn up, there was some concern about the implications of ‘demonstrating respect for diversity and promoting equality’ and whether that principle might ever come into conflict with a teacher’s sense of integrity in relation to his or her own beliefs. This proposed code for teachers of RE is designed to help reassure teachers of RE themselves as well as pupils, parents and colleagues that a professional approach to such issues can and will be observed.”

Suggested Code of Conduct and Practice for Teachers of RE Consultation

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 1st December 2009

- 1.4 A copy of the Code is attached at Appendix '1'. The original deadline for comments was 24th October 2009, however it is suggested that the SACRE still takes the opportunity to provide comments to the REC, and to consider how this should be used in the local context.

Alternative Options

- There are none.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- None

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

- The work of the SACRE contributes to the Council's 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 – REC Suggested Code of Conduct and Practice for Teachers of RE