

Feedback from Network Meetings

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 1 December 2009

Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services / SACRE Adviser

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To update the SACRE on the discussions at Network Meetings.

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 Adviser meets with teachers of religious education in both primary and secondary schools through regular network meetings.
- 2.2 A Secondary Network meeting was held on Wednesday 4th November 2009 at Churchfields School. Five teachers attended, representing four of the secondary schools.
- 2.3 Key points of discussion at the meeting were:
 - a) The use of the Face to Faith DVD.
 - b) New downloadable films to aid recruitment for GCSE RE and to explain the importance of RE for Open Evenings from NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education) website.
 - c) How RE looks when it is integrated - some sharing of ideas and materials.
 - d) How to teach Sanctity of Life Issues for Key Stage 4.
 - e) The dates of the next meetings were set and the venues of Commonweal School and the Sikh Gurdwara were agreed. There

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Sarah Lawrence on 01793 463603, Email slawrence@swindon.gov.uk.

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is also a full day's course on 10th June 2010 which will be joint with Wiltshire Secondary RE colleagues.

- 2.4 The Primary Network meeting took place on Thursday 19th November, and there were seven schools represented. The discussions focused on the following areas:
- a) Successes and challenges.
 - b) Using Philosophy 4 Children strategies in RE to develop questioning, reasoning and good speaking and listening.
 - c) The next meeting will be on Thursday 18th March 2010 at the Sikh Gurdwara.
- 2.5 The SACRE Adviser will highlight at the meeting the key outcomes from the network meetings, and any actions that the SACRE might wish to consider as a result.

Alternative Options

- None

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- The costs for the SACRE Advisor meeting with the secondary and primary networks are 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 (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, 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
- Gill Ilic, Principal Adviser

Background Papers and Appendices

- None