

Update on National Developments in Relation to SACRE

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 16 March 2010

Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services / SACRE Adviser

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To update the SACRE on national policy developments which have implications for the SACRE and its role.

Recommendation

SACRE is requested -

1. To note the issue of the Religious Education in English Schools: Non Statutory guidance 2010
2. Further to 1) To authorise the Director of Law and Democratic Services in consultation with the SACRE advisor to make the appropriate changes to the SACRE's Constitution and implement any changes when seeking nominations to SACRE Groups as appropriate, and to report back to the next Committee with any key implications arising from the Guidance, including any updates to the SACRE's constitution.
3. To note the place of Religious Education in the new Primary Curriculum.
4. To nominate the SACRE Advisor to attend the NASACRE AGM on 12th May 2010 on behalf of the Swindon SACRE subject to the necessary Director approval being received and to report back to the next meeting on key outcomes.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 To inform the SACRE of changes in national policy which have implications for the SACRE's role and operation.

2. Detail

Religious Education in English Schools: Non Statutory guidance 2010

- 2.1 The Government have published the Religious Education in English Schools: Non Statutory guidance 2010. This guidance replaced elements of Circular 1/94 relating to Religious Education. It does not replace the elements of the circular related to the provision of Collective Worship, which will be dealt with in later guidance.

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.

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- 2.2 A copy of the Guidance is available on the Council's website with this Agenda, and a hard copy can be provided to Members unable to access this webpage on request.
- 2.3 The provisions of the Guidance are largely unchanged from that considered as part of the draft by the SACRE at previous meetings.
- 2.4 One of the changes since the last review of the SACRE's Constitution, is the option for Local Authority Group to comprise local Councillors, officers or other representatives nominated by the Local Authority. It is recommended that the Director of Law and Democratic Services ensures that this is taken into account as an option when the Council is nominating its representatives to the SACRE for 2010/11.
- 2.5 It is recommended that where there are other minor amendments required to the constitution of the SACRE as a result of the Guidance, that the Director of Law and Democratic Services in consultation with the SACRE Advisor be authorised to make those amendments, and report back to the next meeting with the updated document for adoption, and to report any further implications of the Guidance for the operation of the SACRE, to be considered as part of a discussion of the SACRE's role at its next meeting.

New Primary Curriculum

- 2.6 The SACRE received information at its meetings in September 2008 and March 2009 on the Primary Curriculum review and the proposals for the place of the teaching of Religious Education in the primary curriculum.
- 2.7 The new Primary Curriculum was issued during January 2010, and will be begin to be taught in schools from September 2011. The teaching of Religious Education still stands outside the main blocks of teaching required by the curriculum, as set out in the curriculum map at Appendix '1'. However Religious Education is a statutory subject in the curriculum for all maintained schools and a programme of learning for primary religious education has been issued, with revised non-statutory guidance

National Association of SACREs - AGM

- 2.8 The Annual General meeting of the National Association of SACREs will be held on 12th May 2010, which will this year focus on 'Religion, Politics and Community: SACREs' capacity to engage'. The SACRE advisor is attending on behalf of the Bristol SACRE, and it is recommended that the Swindon SACRE also nominates her as their representative to attend on

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their behalf, subject to the necessary Director approval being received as to use of the SACRE budget in this way.

Alternative Options

- None

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- The costs of the attendance of the SACRE advisor at the SACRE AGM is £45 (a half-share of the total cost shared with Bristol SACRE) plus travelling expenses and will be met from within the SACRE's annual support budget of £5000.

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.
- Gill Ilic, Principal Advisor

Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Curriculum Map