

Update on National Developments in Relation to SACRE

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 28th September 2010.

Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services / SACRE Adviser

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To update the SACRE on national developments in relation to the provision of RE.

Recommendation

SACRE is requested -

1. To note the report and the national developments in relation to RE.
2. To endorse the Director of Schools and Learning and SACRE Advisor advising schools of the new exemplification materials for RE.
3. To recommend that these developments be taken into account by the Agreed Syllabus Conference in relation to the consideration of the next Agreed Syllabus.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 The SACRE has a duty to help schools fulfil their statutory obligations with regard to religious education. It is important that the SACRE be kept informed of national developments in relation to RE in order to support schools effectively.

4. Detail

Exemplification Materials for RE

- 2.1 The Department for Education has recently approved the publication of assessment exemplification materials for foundation subjects and RE. These offer a clearer view of progression and appropriate challenge, to assist with lesson planning. The materials are available on the QCDA curriculum webpages (<http://curriculum.qcda.gov.uk/key-stages-3-and-4/assessment/exemplification/standards-files/re/religious-education-level3.aspx>).
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Director of Schools and Learning and SACRE Advisor advise schools of these materials via the next Schools Bulletin.

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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Agreed Syllabus Collaboration Network

- 2.3 An Agreed Syllabus Collaboration Network has been set up to encourage SACRES to work together on new agreed syllabuses that reflect the aims, opportunities and structure of the curriculum and good practice in planning and teaching RE. A fuller description of the Network Project is attached as background information to the Agenda to the Agreed Syllabus Conference. The SACRE Advisor is a member of the Network and will keep informed of the developments and represent the Swindon and Bristol SACREs.
- 2.4 The SACRE will be aware that the Qualification and Curriculum Authority will cease to exist in October 2010. The outgoing lead officer for RE, Mark Chater has offered to come to a future Swindon SACRE meeting, and the SACRE Advisor with the agreement of the Chair, has written to invite him to the next suitable meeting of the SACRE. He will be able to update the SACRE in particular in relation to the Collaboration Network project.

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

- None

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