

Update on Implementing the SACRE Development Plan 2011/13

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 6th December 2011

Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services / SACRE Adviser

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- For SACRE Members to discuss the delivery of the SACRE Development Plan for 2011/13

Recommendation

- That the SACRE note the updates to the SACRE Development Plan for 2011/13, as attached at Appendix '1', and agree any additional actions arising.
- That the proposal to offer support to schools on the delivery of the Agreed Syllabus be endorsed, and the SACRE Advisor make arrangements with the Group Director of Children for provision at Nythe training centre.
- That a SACRE Sub-Group be set up to prepare guidance for schools on Collective Worship, and report back with recommended guidance to a future meeting.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 The SACRE's Development Plan enables it to plan the delivery of its statutory role.

2. Detail

- 2.1 The SACRE approved its Development Plan for 2011/13 meeting in March 2011 and the Development Plan is reported at each meeting for the SACRE to review how its budget is being spent, and to show progress against its agreed priorities. The latest document is attached at Appendix '1'.
- 2.2 Target A (1) of the Development Plan, relates to the introduction of the Agreed Syllabus and the provision of training for teachers. At the last meeting it was agreed that there was a need to offer additional training to teachers on the Update to the Locally Agreed Syllabus. The SACRE Advisor is proposing to provide this via the Nythe training centre, and offer schools the opportunity to pay for some training for RE teachers.
- 2.3 One of the key targets for the current year (Target B (1)), was for the SACRE to review the Collective Worship Guidance for schools. The SACRE has previously provided some guidance for schools, but this needs to be updated, taking into account the latest best practice. It is

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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recommended that a small Sub-Group of the SACRE be set up to carry out a review of the existing guidance, and recommend amendments or a new document to a future meeting of the SACRE. SACRE Members are invited to volunteer to be part of the Sub-Group to develop the guidance.

- 2.4 As part of Target C (1), the SACRE Advisor will be drafting the SACRE Annual report for the period September 2010 to September 2011, to be presented for approval to the next meeting. As part of reviewing the last Annual Report, it was agreed that the next edition should be made more accessible for schools, with exclusion of examples of RE work from the year. There is a great deal of information available from the Celebrating RE events that took place early in 2011 and from the events launching the Agreed Syllabus. However, members of the SACRE are invited to provide any additional information on RE in local schools from the last year to the SACRE Advisor, which could be included in the report.

Alternative Options

- The SACRE could choose to amend its Plan or change the way in which it will be delivered.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- Costs of delivering the SACRE's Development Plan must be contained within the £5k annual budget provided to support the SACRE's work, which includes funding for support from the SACRE Advisor.

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.

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 Foukes, Principal Advisor School Improvement

Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix 1 – SACRE Development Plan 2011/13 as at December 2011

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