

Collective Worship Working Party

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 27th March 2012

Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services / SACRE Advisor

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To receive an update from the Collective Worship Working Party and to agree next steps.

Recommendation

- That the SACRE approve the recommendation of the Collective Worship Working Party that the Guidance set out at Appendix '1' be used as the basis for the new Swindon Collective Worship Guidance to be offered to Swindon Schools.
- The SACRE Advisor be authorised to complete amendments to the Guidance, in consultation with the Collective Worship Working Party as required, and to offer the Guidance to Swindon Schools.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 The SACRE has a duty to help schools fulfil their statutory obligations with regard to the provision of religious education and Collective Worship.

2. Detail

- 2.1 At the last meeting it was agreed that the Collective Worship Working Party of the SACRE be set up to review the guidance available for Collective Worship in Swindon and review best practice from other Local Authority areas, and draw up revised guidance to recommend to all Swindon Schools.
- 2.2 The Working Party met on Wednesday 8th February 2012. A copy of the minutes of the meeting, with their recommendations is attached at Appendix '1'.
- 2.3 The Working Party recommended that the newly written North Somerset Guidance provided the best model for guidance to Swindon Schools, and the Swindon SACRE Advisor and SACRE had permission to use and adapt it as required, as long as the original author was recognised. A copy of the Guidance is attached at Appendix '2' for the SACRE to consider.

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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- 2.4 The Working Party agreed that schools be invited to submit snippets of wise quotations and inspiring pictures from children and young people to be included in the final Guidance document. A copy of the flyer going out to Schools and Governors is attached at Appendix '3' for information.
- 2.5 Example guidelines for those visiting a school to lead Collective Worship are also attached at Appendix '4'.
- 2.6 The SACRE is asked to consider whether it is happy to adopt the recommended Guidance, subject to the SACRE Advisor, in consultation with the Working Party as required, finalising this guidance to be provided to schools. The SACRE is also asked to consider how it is best disseminated.
- 2.7 A further meeting of the Working Party has been scheduled for 18th April 2012, if required, to complete work on the Guidance.

Alternative Options

- As set out in the report above.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- None associated with this report.

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 Corporate Plan 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 Foulkes, School Improvement Adviser

Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Minutes of the Collective Worship Working Party
- Appendix 2 – Draft Collective Worship Guidance for Schools
- Appendix 3 - Invitation to Schools to contribute 'Words of Wisdom' to Guidance

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- Appendix 4 - Draft example Guidelines for those visiting a school to lead Collective Worship.