

National Developments in RE

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: 27th March 2012

Author: SACRE Advisor

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To update the SACRE on National developments in a RE.

Recommendation

SACRE is requested -

- To note the report.
- To consider the questions set out in Section 2, and consider how the SACRE wishes to respond.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 The SACRE has a duty to help schools fulfil their statutory obligations with regard to religious education and to do so needs to keep up to date on the latest national developments in RE.

2. Detail

New Ofsted Framework

- 2.1 Ofsted issued a new framework for school inspections from January 2012.
- 2.2 The Ofsted Subject specific grade descriptors for RE are attached for information at Appendix '1'. The SACRE is asked to discuss these and consider the following questions:
- Does SACRE think it would be useful to have these disseminated to schools ?
 - How might that be best achieved?
- 2.3 The Ofsted exemplar of Outstanding Secondary Practice in RE Subject specific grade descriptors for RE is attached for information at Appendix '2'. The SACRE is asked to discuss this and consider the following questions:
- Does SACRE agree with Ofsted that this is "Outstanding practice"?
 - Does this indicate a distinct vision of the place of RE in the curriculum?

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Katy Staples on 0117 927 7454 or katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org

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All Party Parliamentary Group for the safeguarding of RE

- 2.4 An all-party Parliamentary Group for the safeguarding of RE was set up on 17th February by Stephen Lloyd MP for Eastbourne. The SACRE is asked if it would wish to support this group and bring it to the attention of other MPs and what action might be appropriate? A sample letter that might be sent to MPs from an individual can be found at Appendix '3'. The SACRE may wish to take into account the responses set out under 'Chair's Correspondence' earlier on this agenda, to its letter to local and national MPs and religious leaders.

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. Any costs of support to schools from the SACRE will be met from its annual budget of £5000.

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- Any legal implications are set out within the body of the report. There are no specific 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

- Appendix 1 – Ofsted RE grade descriptors
- Appendix 2 – Ofsted exemplar for Outstanding Secondary RE practice
- Appendix 3 – A sample letter for an individual to send to an MP asking them to support the APPG for safeguarding RE