

To all SACRE Chairs and Clerks,

As you are probably aware, the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC) has initiated a national Subject Review of Religious Education, to parallel the review of other subjects on the curriculum that is currently being undertaken.

I attach for your consideration an overview of the RE Review process which is intended to take place over the next academic year as well as a timeline for the first phase of the review. We very much hope that you will want to be actively involved in this process.

Currently a small group is meeting to prepare a preliminary report on the current state of play. We have invited two members of the NASACRE Executive to offer that panel of Experts in RE an overview of the current state of play from a SACRE perspective. We will also ensure representation from one or two individual SACREs at the second (and final) meeting of that group.

Once the preliminary report has been drafted we will circulate this for wider public consultation. Our aim is for it to go on-line on the REC website in early November. At this stage we will be inviting all other SACREs to download and discuss the report and return feedback to us by early December. We are looking to you to tell us whether we have painted the picture accurately; what we have got right as well as any constructive criticism you wish to offer us.

Further information about the process, including monthly updates, is available on the REC website at www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk

All good wishes and thanks in anticipation for your contribution to this important initiative for the future of our subject.

Janet Orchard
Project Manager, REC RE Review

Religious Education Council
Voluntary Sector Centres
76 Shoe Lane
London
EC4A 3JB

Phone: 020 7842 8514

Website: www.recouncil.org.uk



RE Subject Review: Phase One (Preliminary)

June

Agree criteria for selection + proposed panel
Project Manager (PM) & Expert Panel Chair (EPC) agree key documents
(Background info + terms of ref + documentation list + expert witnesses + formats for response)



Steering Group meeting (10th July)

Notify Expert Panel (EP) members (if ratified)
Send out key documents to EP members
Encourage general email communication between EP members



EP meeting 1 (10th August, London)

Hear from expert witnesses
Formulate initial ideas & hunches



10th August – 19th September

EP read key documents & record reactions
Response forms sent out to expert witnesses
Receive submissions + record
General email communication between EP group members (e.g. exploring ideas)



EP meeting 2 (19th September, Birmingham)

Hear from further expert witnesses
Agree format & key ideas of report
Progress report to Steering Group on 26th September
Circulate draft report to Steering Group 24th October



Meeting with Steering Group (31st October)

Presentation of first draft report
Responses & discussion
Small matters addressed in second draft
Second draft circulated to Reference Group



Meeting with Reference Group (7 November)

Presentation of second draft report
Amended approved third draft published on REC website for wider consultation by proforma & blog



Report considered by REC Board (6 December)
(Final approval to be given by Steering Group in late December/ early January)

Phase 1

Appoint expert panel members and agree terms of reference

Produce evidence bundles and invite expert witnesses to speak to panel

Panel produce report for Steering Group with key findings and recommendations for Phase 2

Consultation and approval of report by Reference & Steering Groups

Phase 2

Constitute working groups and agree terms of reference; appoint a lead for each group and identify timescale, outcomes & budget/resources available

Set up tasks modelled on NC review; create proformas for reporting

Working groups produce interim reports for Steering Group and final reports for Reference & Steering Groups for approval

OVERVIEW: THE RE SUBJECT REVIEW

Phase 4

Evaluation report submitted to Steering Group & REC board

Final budget submitted for approval and review signed off

Phase 3

Bring together working group leads + expert panel chair to compile final composite report from Phases 1 & 2 and to plan and deliver dissemination of findings

Identify opportunities for follow up work by appropriate parties and potential sources of funding