

14 October 2013**Agenda Item: 10****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS &
INCLUSION****OUTSIDE BODIES REPORT: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Committee of the work of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), an outside body upon which the Council is represented.

Information and Advice

2. The Local Authority (LA) is required by the Education Act 1996 to constitute a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) and is also required by Circular 1194 for the SACRE to broadly represent the proportionate strength of local religious groups. The statutory duty is reaffirmed in the 'Religious Education Guidance in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010 which states, 'An LA should fund and support a SACRE and an ASC satisfactorily in line with the duty to constitute or convene each of these bodies and to enable them effectively to carry out their function.'
3. In addition to these central statutory duties, the Nottinghamshire SACRE has a range of functions, some advisory, and some executive.

Advisory Functions

4. There are two key advisory functions for which the SACRE is responsible: firstly, to advise the Children, Families and Cultural Services upon matters connected with religious worship in County Schools and secondly to advise on matters related to the religious education curriculum in accordance with an Agreed Syllabus. This includes SACRE advising on teaching methodology, choice of materials and resources as well as the provision of training for teachers.

Executive Functions

5. There are three key executive functions for which SACRE is responsible: firstly, to consider and determine in accordance with chapter 3 of the 1996 Education Act, applications from head teachers of County Schools in relation to altering in any way the requirement of Christian collective worship. A second key function is to review the

Agreed Syllabus for RE every 5 years and finally, there is a responsibility to publish an annual report on the national SACRE website.

SACRE Membership

6. Nottinghamshire's SACRE is made up of a representative from each of the following faith groups: Baptist, Hindu, Jewish, Methodist, Muslim, Religious Society of Friends, Roman Catholic (2 members), Salvation Army, Sikh, United Reformed Church, Assemblies of God and Buddhist. In addition there are representatives from County Councillors, the Children, Families and Cultural Services and the teacher associations, alongside teachers from all phases of education.
7. The Council is represented on the Nottinghamshire SACRE by two officers from the Support to Schools Service which also provides administrative support for SACRE meetings, development networks and conferences. The County Councillors who will sit on SACRE in 2013-14 are still to be determined.

SACRE Achievements 2012-2013

8. During 2012-13 SACRE has supported the development of Teacher Networks across the County at both primary and secondary level and has developed its links with the institutions of Higher Education with the Post 16 Revision Day which involved the University of Nottingham Theology Department as well as St John's College. The day also attracted some schools from other authorities.
9. In addition, a day course was held on "Help I'm an RE Co-ordinator" and was well supported by teachers from within and beyond the LA. SACRE has also offered further support to schools on the effective delivery of RE and collective worship and the development of partnerships with academies.
10. Priorities for 2013-14 will include the review of the Agreed Syllabus, a post 16 conference and development networks open to teachers in primary, secondary and special schools. In line with recent national developments, SACRE is beginning to develop links with the six Teaching Schools in Nottinghamshire, with a view to offering a coherent package of professional development opportunities to teachers of RE across the County.

Other Options Considered

11. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service

and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

14. The cost of operating SACRE is included in the wider Support to Schools Service budgets.

Crime and Disorder Implications

15. Appropriate consideration has been given to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It is the view of the County Council that this outside body supports the development of responsible citizens.

Safeguarding of Children Implications

16. The outside body takes due account of safeguarding needs and requirements in all aspects of its responsibilities and functions

Human Resources Implications

17. Appropriate levels of human resources have been allocated to the outside body.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the work of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), an outside body on which the Council is represented, be noted.

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Constitutional Comments

18. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (KLA 29/08/13)

19. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

The national SACRE web site can be accessed at <http://www.nasacre.org.uk/> and the local web site accessed at <http://www.rsresources.org.uk/index.php?pg=sa>

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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