

# AGENDA

## Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: **Monday 19 March 2012**

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Time: **2.00 pm**

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Place: **The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road,  
Hereford**

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Notes: Please note the **time, date** and **venue** of the meeting.

For any further information please contact:

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If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please call Paul James, Democratic Services Officer on 01432 260460 or e-mail [pjames@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:pjames@herefordshire.gov.uk) in advance of the meeting.

# Agenda for the Meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

## Membership

### Chairman

### Vice-Chairman

**Councillor CNH Attwood**  
**Councillor EMK Chave**  
**Councillor J Stone**

Local Authority  
 Local Authority  
 Local Authority

### Non Voting

**Mrs. C. Ault**  
**Mrs L Barker**  
**Revd. P. Barlow**  
**Mr. P. Bowen**  
**Mrs S Bryant**  
**Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins**  
**Venerable Tsuiltrim Tenzin**  
**Choesang**  
**Mrs A. Daniel**  
**Miss Emilie James**  
**Mrs Gurmit Jutle**  
**Ms. K. Mayclothling**  
**Rev DT Meachem**  
**Sr. D. O'Donnell**  
**Miss Allyson Taylor**  
**Ms C Wolfe**

Bahai faith  
 Secondary School Teachers  
 Church of England  
 Church of England  
 Church of England  
 Co-opted member  
 Buddhist  
  
 Primary School Teachers  
 Special School Teachers  
 Sikh Faith  
 Co-Opted Member  
 Churches Together in Herefordshire  
 Roman Catholic Church  
 Co-opted Member  
 Jewish Faith

<b>GUIDANCE ON DECLARING PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AT MEETINGS</b>
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#### What is a personal interest?

You have a personal interest in a matter if that matter affects the well-being or financial position of you, your relatives or people with whom you have a close personal association more than it would affect the majority of other people in the ward(s) to which the matter relates.

A personal interest can affect you, your relatives or people with whom you have a close personal association positively or negatively. If you or they would stand to lose by the decision, you should also declare it.

You also have a personal interest in a matter if it relates to any interests, which you must register.

#### What do I need to do if I have a personal interest?

You must declare it when you get to the item on the agenda headed "Declarations of Interest" or as soon as it becomes apparent to you. You may still speak and vote unless it is a prejudicial interest.

If a matter affects a body to which you have been appointed by the authority, or a body exercising functions of a public nature, you only need declare the interest if you are going to speak on the matter.

#### What is a prejudicial interest?

You have a prejudicial interest in a matter if;

- a) a member of the public, who knows the relevant facts, would reasonably think your personal interest is so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgment of the public interest; and
- b) the matter affects your financial interests or relates to a licensing or regulatory matter; and
- c) the interest does not fall within one of the exempt categories at paragraph 10(2)(c) of the Code of Conduct.

#### What do I need to do if I have a prejudicial interest?

If you have a prejudicial interest you must withdraw from the meeting. However, under paragraph 12(2) of the Code of Conduct, if members of the public are allowed to make representations, give evidence or answer questions about that matter, you may also make representations as if you were a member of the public. However, you must withdraw from the meeting once you have made your representations and before any debate starts.

## AGENDA

		Pages
1.	<p><b>NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)</b></p> <p>To receive details any details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.</p>	
2.	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p>To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2011.</p>	1 - 6
3.	<p><b>RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)</b></p> <p>To answer any pre-received written questions from members of the public.</p>	
4.	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>To receive apologies for absence.</p>	
5.	<p><b>SURVEY INTO RE IN HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS</b></p> <p>To report the results of a survey into the provision of RE in Herefordshire Schools.</p>	7 - 12
6.	<p><b>NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b></p> <p>To update SACRE on the national position concerning Religious Education.</p>	13 - 16
7.	<p><b>SACRE CONFERENCE 2012 - UPDATE</b></p> <p>To receive an update on arrangements for the SACRE 2012 Conference.</p>	
8.	<p><b>PROPOSED TRAINING ON THE AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RE FOR SPECIAL SCHOOLS</b></p> <p>To consider supporting a training day on the implementation of the revised Agreed Syllabus for RE 2011-16 being specifically targeted at Special Schools. It is proposed that the event will be sponsored by both Herefordshire and Gloucestershire SACREs.</p>	
9.	<p><b>TEACHER NETWORK MEETINGS - UPDATE</b></p> <p>Ro report on attendance at regional network meetings for teachers (twilight sessions) and consider how to encourage greater attendance.</p>	
10.	<p><b>NASACRE AGM 2012</b></p> <p>To consider nominating a delegate to attend the National Association of SACRE (NASACRE) 2012 AGM and nominating to vacancies on NASACRE</p>	17 - 18
11.	<p><b>REVISED SACRE CONSTITUTION</b></p> <p>To consider and approve the revised SACRE Constitution.</p>	19 - 24
12.	<p><b>DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS 2012 - 2013</b></p> <p>To note that provisional dates for SACRE meetings have been arranged for 2.00pm at Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on:</p> <p>Friday 13 July 2012            Tuesday 27 November 2012            Friday 1 March 2013.</p>	



HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held at The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on Monday 21 November 2011 at 2.00 pm**

**Present:** Councillor J Stone (Chairman)

Councillor CNH Attwood, Mrs C Ault, Mrs S Bryant, Miss E James, Ms. K. Mayglothling, Rev DT Meachem and Councillor FM Norman

**79. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from: Revd. P Barlow; Councillor EMK Chave; Venerable Tsultrim Tenzin Choesang, Mrs A Daniel, Mrs G Jutle, Miss a Taylor.

**80. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)**

Councillor FM Norman substituted for Councillor EMK Chave.

**81. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held 6 July 2011 were approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

**82. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)**

No written questions had been received.

**83. MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE - UPDATE**

SACRE noted the resignation of Mr Z Pandor, Muslim faith Member from Group A and considered a request from the British Humanist Association to become a member of Herefordshire SACRE.

**Muslim faith Member**

The Democratic Services Officer reported that Mr Zack Pandor, Muslim faith Member from Group A, had resigned from SACRE due to a change in work circumstances.

On behalf of SACRE the Chairman undertook to write to Mr Pandor to thank him for his valuable input to the work of SACRE and his knowledgeable contributions to Religious Education in the County.

SACRE requested that the Local Authority seek a suitably accredited replacement Muslim member.

**British Humanist Association**

The Democratic Services Officer reported upon an approach from the British Humanist Association seeking a full member place on SACRE. SACRE were advised that in the interests of being inclusive a number of SACREs had appointed a Humanist Member to

Group A, however, advice from NASACRE was that while the new government guidance does not reiterate the explicit prohibition set out in Circular 1/94, the law itself had not fundamentally changed and proper clarification of this issue would need to be tested in law.

SACRE were reminded of the valuable input received from a Humanist representative during the recent training day and contributions made to lessons at various schools which accorded with the wider view taken to teaching RE.

Members briefly discussed the principal of co-opting; the terms of membership and whether the SACRE Constitution needed to be revised.

**RESOLVED: That**

- 1. The Local Authority be requested to seek a suitably accredited Muslim faith representative to serve on Group A;**
- 2. The Local Authority be requested to seek a suitably accredited Humanist representative to serve as a non-voting Co-opted member.**
- 3. The Clerk to SACRE be authorised to amend the SACRE Constitution to reflect these changes.**

**84. RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR 2011**

SACRE considered the Religious Studies examination results for 2011.

The Lead Officer for SACRE reported that since publication of the agenda further work had been undertaken in analysing the examination statistics. In an attempt to enable like for like reporting, a revised report was issued at the meeting. She confirmed that the 2011 results were still unvalidated.

In summarising the results she highlighted that:

- Full course GCSE results in Herefordshire remained above the national average but had dropped in terms of students achieving A\*-C across the county by 4% from 2010.
- Short Course results at GCSE A\*-C were just below the national average and also 4% lower than in 2010.
- Within the cohort of students taking Religious Studies or similar at KS5 the pass rate had dropped marginally for A level compared to 2010 and slightly more at AS level.

During the course of debate the following principal points were noted:

- The revised report presented an overview of the entry for the courses.
- In some cases the percentage variation in outcomes in Key Stage 5 related to only one student.
- Some schools had increased the numbers taking the full course and reduced the numbers in the short course – or vice versa – however, most schools had entered students for a course. Where there had been no entry the school had included RE as part of the humanities GCSE course.
- It was probably too early for any discernible impact to be seen in the results arising from the E.Bacc, however, while schools provided a broadly balanced curriculum, SACRE anticipated that an adverse effect may be seen in the 2012 results.
- The Lead Officer reported that an on-line questionnaire was being drafted for schools in an attempt to find out more about RE in schools and whether the E.Bacc was driving the curriculum decisions. A report would be made in due course.

- While the number entering courses (55% in 2011) had been down on the previous year (65% in 2010) it was difficult to tell how this compared at a national level. However, SACRE encouraged more schools to enter pupils for RE courses.

The Lead Officer reported that when compared to the overall examination results for the County the RE results were broadly comparable. There was no discernible pattern for RE results across the County due to the variations in the entry pattern, girl/boy ratio and number in each cohort in each school. It was very difficult to reach a definitive view when comparing results year on year.

On behalf of SACRE the Chairman thanked the students and RE teachers for the efforts they had made in achieving these results. He also thanked the Lead Officer and the Quality and Improvement Team for providing the report and statistics.

**RESOLVED: That the position set out in the revised report be noted.**

#### **85. REGIONAL NETWORK MEETINGS (TWILIGHT SESSIONS)**

The Consultant for RE reported that the implementation of the revised Agreed Syllabus for RE was to be supported this year through regional network meetings (twilight sessions). The autumn networks would be focusing on implementing the syllabus, considering examples of long term planning, including ideas for small schools and those with mixed age-group classes. While meeting dates had been arranged and advertised via the CPD website, very few schools had so far booked to attend and he requested that the teacher representatives spread the word among their colleagues.

**RESOLVED: That the position be noted.**

#### **86. 2012 SACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

SACRE considered the arrangements for the 2012 SACRE Annual Conference.

The Consultant for RE reported that the 2012 SACRE Annual Conference would be held on 26 June 2012 at the Hereford Academy, Hereford, and circulated a draft programme for the day. The program had been based on the changes to the Ofsted Framework as suggested at the last meeting. The key note speaker would be Alan Brine, HMI at Ofsted, who would focus on 'what takes RE from being Good to Outstanding'. The previous conference had been partially subsidised by CPD as it had focused on the launch of the new RE Agreed Syllabus, however, the 2012 conference had to break even.

The Chairman thanked the Consultant for RE for bringing together an interesting programme and emphasised the need for delegates to sign up for the conference as it not only covered a motivating topic but brought together like minded colleagues at an interesting new venue.

The Lead Officer reported that the conference would be listed on the CPD website and schools would be notified by e-mail.

Following the success of starting the previous conference with a spiritual meditation session, lead by the Venerable Tsultrim Tenzin Choesang, plans were in hand to repeat the session.

**RESOLVED: That**

- a) the draft programme for the 2012 SACRE Annual Conference be approved and the Consultant for RE and the Lead Officer be authorised to continue with arrangements;
- b) the RE Consultant to finalise arrangements for the Conference and put the details on Herefordshire CPD on-line and the Lead Officer continue to ensure that schools are made aware of the Conference and the need to sign up delegates as soon as possible;
- c) in view of the necessity to financially break even following consultation with the Chairman the Lead Officer be authorised to make the final decision on whether the Conference goes ahead based on the number of delegates and the financial viability of the event.

#### 87. 'LOOKING FOR MEANING' PROJECT (WESTHIL/NASACRE AWARD) - UPDATE

SACRE received an update on the 'Looking for Meaning' project supported by Westhill/NASACRE Award funding.

The Consultant for RE presented the agenda report which provided an overview of the events that had taken place as part of the project and formed the basis of the case study report back to NASACRE. The 'learning opportunities' from the Training Day proved useful for the subsequent KS4 Conference.

The Chairman thanked Kate Mayglothing for organising the conference and Wigmore High School, Al-Hijrah School, Birmingham and St Mary's High School, Hereford, for making the KS4 Conference such a success. He also thanked Stephen Pett, Consultant for RE, for his inspirational training. In addition he thanked Joyce Mackley, together with the Multi-Faith Development Group, for compiling the original submission and for managing the project and Westhill/NASACRE for awarding the funding.

It was also noted that some of the 'learning opportunities' gained from the training day were successfully being applied to various lesson planning sessions in schools.

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the time and effort made by all concerned in making the project such a success be commended.**

#### 88. UPDATE ON ANY NEW GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES IN RE

The Consultant for RE reported that no further initiatives had been announced by government.

He reported that the government had decided not to include RE in the E.Bacc. He further reported that the government's Education Select Committee had expressed its concern about the omission of RE from the E.Bacc in a recent report.

RE would therefore be excluded from the E.Bacc until 2013 at the earliest. While the curriculum for the current year had already been set he was aware of evidence nationally that the trend may be away from offering RE courses. This may be particularly bad news for the RE short course as the DfE were only interested in full courses, rather than the short modular courses, when compiling the school performance tables. He emphasised that RE remained a compulsory subject. The curriculum still had to promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and RE was a good vehicle to provide this.

The Lead Officer reported that the High schools in the County provided a balanced curriculum and she was not aware that schools were skewing away from RE, however, it was still early days.



It was noted that one positive outcome from the high profile E.Bacc debate had been that at a national level the various faith communities had come together to debate the issue.

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted.**

**89. SACRE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/11**

SACRE considered the draft SACRE Annual Report for the academic year September 2010 to July 2011.

The Democratic Services Officer presented the draft for consideration, copies having been previously been circulated to members, and highlighted that the examination statistics discussed earlier in the meeting, together with any comment made would be added to the report. He also requested that SACRE provide guidance on any comment it wished to amend or include.

It was noted that the report included in a number of sections that 'SACRE did not have the resources to establish the information'. The Democratic Services Officer commented that this reflected the position that neither SACRE or the Local Authority had the resources to monitor or provide the requested information.

**RESOLVED: That subject to the inclusion of the examination statistics and any further suggested commentary and final proof reading the Annual Report be approved.**

**90. BBC COMMISSIONED COMRES SURVEY INTO COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN SCHOOLS**

A BBC commissioned ComRes survey into Collective Worship in schools, reported on websites in September 2011, was brought to SACREs attention.

The Democratic Services Officer presented the agenda report which brought to SACRE attention that the BBC had commissioned a survey into Collective Worship in schools and that a number of websites had reported the results during September.

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted.**

**91. MINDFULNESS IN SCHOOLS PROJECT**

The Democratic Services Officer reported that the Venerable Tsultrim Tenzin Choesang had communicated to him that, to date, she had been unable to start the Mindfulness in Schools Project course. An item would be placed on a future agenda when she was in a position to report.

**RESOLVED: That SACRE noted the position.**

**92. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

SACRE noted that the next meeting would be held on 19 March 2012 and that further meeting dates will be announced in due course.

The meeting ended at 3.31 pm

**CHAIRMAN**



## SURVEY INTO RE IN HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS

Report By: Stephen Pett, Consultant for RE

### Purpose

1. To report the results of a survey into the provision of RE in Herefordshire Schools.

### Report

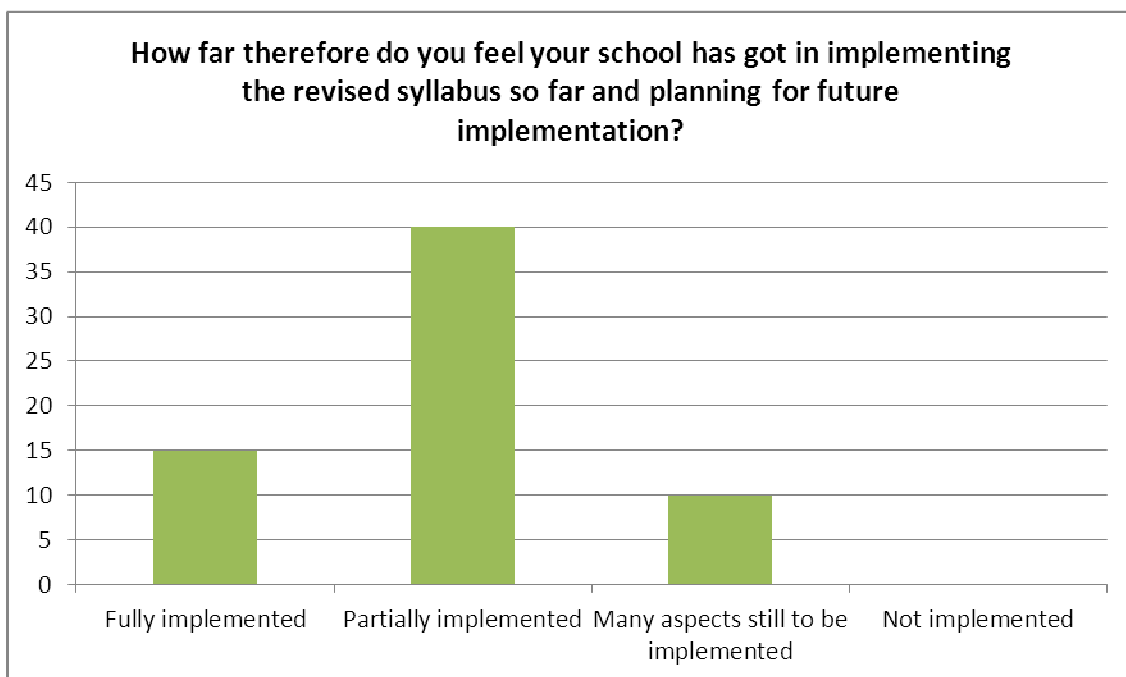
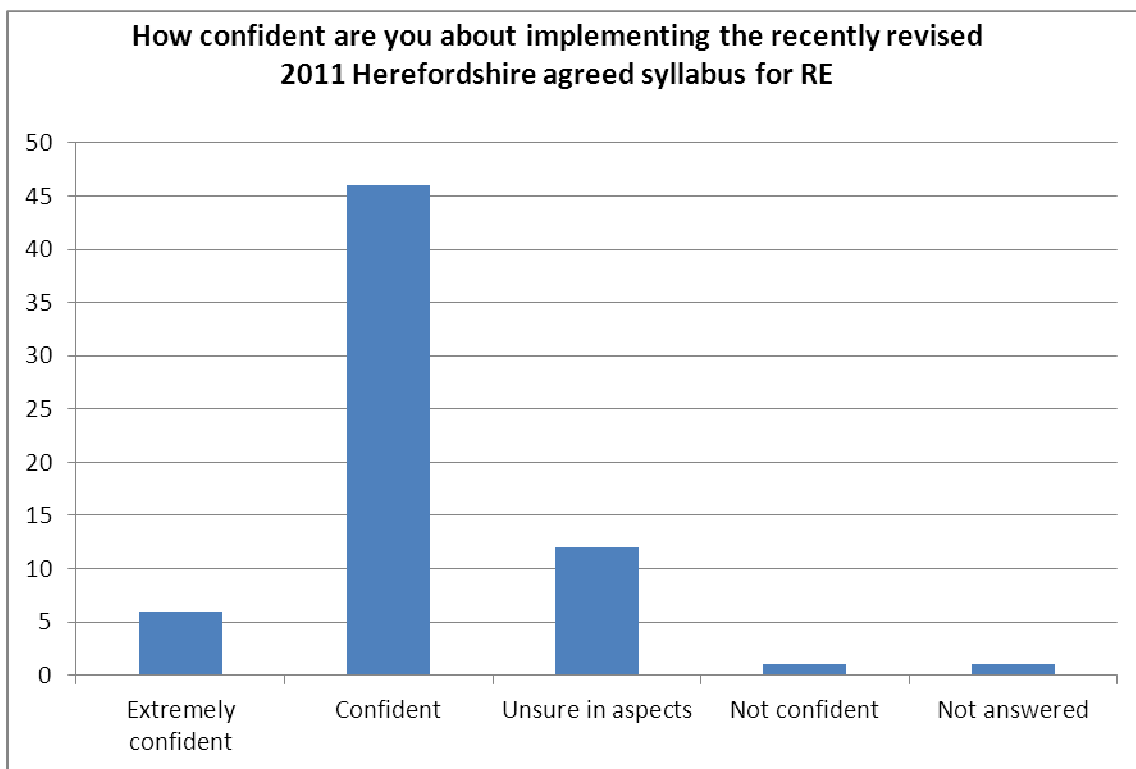
### Primary survey:

65/76 schools completed the survey (87%)

#### Headline results:

- The vast majority of RE is delivered through discrete lessons
  - 35 schools (54%) teach discrete RE throughout the school.
  - 9 schools (14%) teach cross-curricular RE at KS1 and discrete RE for KS2.
  - 2 schools (3%) teach cross-curricular RE throughout the school
  - 2 schools (3%) teach their RE wholly through RE days
  - 4 schools (6%) teach all of their RE in mixed-age classes
- RE is mostly taught by the class teacher
  - 32 schools (48%) only use class teacher
  - 31 schools (47%) use the class teacher plus either HT, PPA or HLTA
- A minority of schools use the head teacher, PPA teacher(s) and/or HLTAs
  - In 17 schools (26%), the head teacher teaches some RE
  - In 1 school, the head teacher does all the RE
  - In 9 schools (14%), HLTAs are involved in teaching RE
  - In 12 schools (18%), PPA teachers are involved in teaching RE
- No schools only use HLTAs or PPA to teach all the RE in the school
- 18 Hereford primary teachers have RE/RS-related first degrees or PGCEs

**Agreed syllabus:**



***CPD requests include:***

- Introduction to the new syllabus and how to use it [8]
- Developing cross-curricular RE [7]
- Lesson planning/ developing schemes of work [5]
- Creative teaching and learning ideas [5]
- Teaching mixed age groups [4]
- Developing knowledge of religions other than Christianity [4]

***Other requests:***

- Advice on visits and visitors
- Learning from religion
- Godly Play
- Spirituality
- RE and values

Some noted that they do not have RE as a CPD priority.

***Schools offering good/outstanding practice:***

Several schools are willing to share good practice in terms of running RE days or half days, cross-curricular RE, RE and values, compelling learning activities.

***Comments:***

- I think there should be specific training on different parts of the new agreed syllabus maybe in key stages in perhaps cluster groups. The RE conference always enthuses staff that have been able to be present but these sorts of workshop activities would be useful for whole school training or teacher training days... The syllabus gives the focus questions, themes and strands etc but teachers need ideas of how to deliver the content. Budget will continue to be a problem even releasing one teacher for a day to the conference is a luxury. If the training was carried out locally with several schools present the cost could be shared.
- Would welcome more Herefordshire-based resources and courses, newsletters, information , competitions for children - a visit from someone representing SACRE, and so on , so that we feel connected to SACRE
- It is very difficult in primary schools to find the time and to motivate staff into implementing the revised syllabus when there are so many demands on their time and if they feel that the RE they already teach is fine. Could RE coordinators be supported in their endeavour with a list of ideas or a plan to help them to do this.
- The revised syllabus should be taken a step further and planned into units ready for schools to implement. There is too much duplication and time wasted across schools.

## Secondary survey:

9 schools completed the survey, out of 13

### Agreed syllabus

- 6 schools have the revised AS in place
- 3 schools have it partially in place

### Provision

- 3 schools have discrete RE for all year groups, Y7-11, with one school including Y12
- 2 schools have discrete RE for Y7-10 but not Y11
- 1 school has discrete RE in Y7 & 10, with RE combined with other subject(s) in Y8,9,10 & 11
- 1 school has RE integrated with other subject(s) in Y7-8 and discrete RE Y9-11
- 1 school has discrete RE Y7-9 and integrated with other subject(s) in Y10-11
- 1 school has RE days for Y7, discrete lessons for Y8-9 and no RE for Y10-11

In all of these schools, RE is around an hour a week, except for one, where there is more than an hour for Y7-10.

44.5 teachers teach RE, including one school where 12 teachers are involved; only 6 have RE or RE-related qualifications.

### Examination RE

- Only one school says that provision for RE has been affected by the English Baccalaureate; this school acknowledges that the change to terminal exams has had as much of an effect on their full course GCSE numbers.
- 3 schools have no entries for full course or short course RS; one school has a non-examined course based on the short course; one uses GCSE Humanities to cover RE provision
- 5 schools have healthy GCSE full course numbers, but only two of these have short course provision for those not doing full course.
- One school is doing an alternative to short course – an Equality and Diversity unit in Vision2learn for schools.
- Only one school has students following A-level RS

### Requests for support:

- Inset on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- List of speakers or trips
- Subject content

- Training for non-specialists [2]
- Support to improve multi-cultural links
- Opportunities to share good practice
- Assessment/Assessment for learning in RE
- Potential training need for teachers if GCSE RE develops.

**Offers of support:**

- Help offered on delivering good/outstanding RE
- Some lessons and schemes of work
- Use of ICT in RE

**Comments:**

- One school reviewing their RE provision as part of a wider school vision and values programme.
- One school is moving forward with provision, despite having no RE specialist; student attitudes good.
- One school commented that they would like RE to be in the Bacallaureate, and is concerned about short course not counting to school results.

**Special Schools survey:**

The data from the Special Schools survey is still being analysed but will be reported to the meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT SACRE gives consideration to the data presented.**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None identified.





## NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Report By: Stephen Pett Consultant for RE

### Purpose

To update SACRE on the national position concerning Religious Education.

### Report

#### RE and academies

1. Academies are independently-funded state schools, outside the remit of the LA and therefore of the SACRE
2. All academies are required to teach RE. However, the Academies Act 2010 removed from academies and free schools the statutory requirement, in force since 1870, for all maintained schools to provide RE in the curriculum and a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. The requirement is now enshrined in the individual funding agreements for such schools. These funding agreements do require such provision but do not require a school to use a locally agreed syllabus.
3. Instead of following an agreed syllabus, current advice from the DfE says new academies must provide RE according to **the requirements for new agreed syllabuses** as set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act, that is they *'must reflect the fact that the principal religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teachings and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.'*
4. So, effectively, academies need to produce a school syllabus in much the same way as a SACRE produces a locally agreed syllabus. SACRE should recommend that schools make use of the work already done in the development of the locally agreed syllabus, as well as the support linked with it. SACRE should note that academies and free schools are free to amend the local syllabus.

#### DfE support for RE

5. The DfE have reiterated the compulsory nature of RE several times, both in private correspondence with teachers and in public.
6. They have stated that:
  - RE remains an essential component of a broad and balanced curriculum
  - RE remains central to the aim of the school curriculum, which is to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children and young people for their own development and to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.
  - The continuing compulsory nature of RE in schools is a signal of their view of the importance of RE.
  - The National Curriculum Review is not looking at whether RE should remain compulsory.
  - They value the local determination of RE, whether "locally" means the Local Authority or the individual school, and so have declined to include RE within the National Curriculum Review.

- Keeping RE/RS out of the Ebacc is not because it is not important but because its status is already protected through being compulsory.

### Compliance

7. The Young Person's Learning Agency is the place to go if there are complaints about whether an academy is failing to meet its statutory requirement to provide RE for all. Their functions will be taken over by the Education Funding Agency from April 2012.
8. OFSTED will not be inspecting for compliance, although they do have to assess whether schools are delivering a "broad and balanced curriculum", and there is a sharper focus on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in inspections. RE's contribution to this is acknowledged but the assessment of opportunities for SMSC is school-wide.

### Curriculum Review

9. The National Curriculum is currently under review. An expert panel reported in December 2011 (available here <https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-00135-2011>). The Secretary of State subsequently announced that the NC Review would be delayed to allow for responses to this complex area. The new NC will not be introduced in schools until 2014.
10. The expert panel report makes some recommendations that have implications for RE if they are accepted:
  - Assessment models that are not based on levels
  - An emphasis on "essential knowledge". The panel recommend that this is defined as "facts, concepts, principles and fundamental operations".
11. As stated above, the DfE have not included RE within the Curriculum Review. They anticipate producing a National Curriculum that is slimmed down to the essentials. They regard the requirements for agreed syllabuses as representing "the essentials" for an RE curriculum, namely, that the RE curriculum '*must reflect the fact that the principal religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teachings and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.*'
12. The National Curriculum will be compulsory in maintained schools and represent a "benchmark of excellence" for academies and free schools.
13. Some RE supporters asked the Government for RE to be included in the Nat Curriculum Review. Nick Gibb, Minister for Schools, refused this, but has told the RE Council that he supports their idea to have a review of the RE curriculum that is in step with the NC review, in order for RE to retain its academic rigour. The REC's Curriculum, Assessment and Qualifications Committee has already commissioned a scoping report on how such a review can be carried out. The Minister has asked the REC to produce a report on excellent teaching in RE.

### NASACRE information on SACREs and Academies

14. SACREs are increasingly opening up their previous contacts, or establishing new relationships with the academies in their area, in a variety of ways. Some are inviting representatives of academies in their LAs to be co-opted onto the SACRE. Increasingly SACREs are also approaching their main academy sponsors to offer support for their provision for RE and to try to establish what their position is on RE and collective worship. Such sponsors (Ark, Harris, and Ormiston for example) have 'families' of academies which cover a number of LA areas and/or form a cluster within a given LA.

15. The recently published RETool for SACRE self-evaluation looks at relations with the academies sector and helps SACREs assess how effectively they encourage academies to see themselves also as stakeholders in their local area, specifically by devising ways in which an academies presence is incorporated into the SACRE itself.

#### **Religion and Society Debate: faith in schools**

16. Politicians, academics, faith representatives and teachers gathered to explore the place of religion and RE in schools. 'The debate encapsulated some important questions about the future of RE and demonstrated the determination of a wide variety of people to keep it on the public and political agenda; student teachers, in particular, seemed to be in no mood to let their subject disappear from the radar.' Speakers included Professors of RE, Robert Jackson and James Conroy; Richard Dawkins; and the Bishop of Oxford, John Pritchard.

17. Podcasts available from  
[http://www.religionsociety.org.uk/faith\\_debates/faith\\_in\\_schools](http://www.religionsociety.org.uk/faith_debates/faith_in_schools)

#### **The RE Council announces the new ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR RE:**

18. 'The imminent establishment of an All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) to support RE has received widespread coverage in the national media. The APPG will meet regularly to provide a medium through which MPs and peers can discuss the current provision of religious education and to advocate for the highest standards of RE teaching for all children and young people; its inaugural meeting is expected to take place within the next couple of months. It will be chaired by Stephen Lloyd MP who recently said: "In today's globalised, multi-cultural world, where our children can be open to an enormous amount of misleading information, I believe it is absolutely essential they are taught about different cultures and religions by trained, experienced RE teachers, allowing children to make *informed* choices.'"

#### **Short course RE**

19. Short course GCSE RE/RS will continue to be available after 2012 but will not count towards performance table results for schools. It will no longer be able to take two short courses and accredit them as a full course. Schools who have previously done this should look to enter pupils into full course GCSE.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT SACRE notes the national position indicated in the report.**

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None identified.



## **NASACRE 2012 AGM**

**Report By: Democratic Services Officer**

### **Purpose**

1. To consider nominating a delegate to attend the National Association of SACRE (NASACRE) 2012 AGM and nominating to vacancies on NASACRE.

### **Report**

1. Details have been received that the National Association of SACRE 2012 Annual General Meeting will be held between 10.30am – 3.30pm on Wednesday 23 May 2012 at Friends' House, 173 Euston Road, London.

### **Nomination of Delegate**

2. The Keynote speakers will be:
  3. Bob Jackson – Professor of Religious Education, University of Warwick. The theme of his talk will be: RU 4 EC RE?. 'Research and European Policy Making on Religious Education; Taking account of young people's views in developing the subject.
  4. Lat Blaylock – 'SACRE + Teachers of RE = Good Learning'
5. The delegate fee will be £75 per delegate plus travel expenses.
6. It is worth noting that if the intended SACRE delegates include a member of NASACRE's Executive Committee which in Herefordshire's case is the Venerable Tsultrim Tenzin Choesang, NASACRE will pay for that member's attendance, except where she is the SACRE's only delegate, in which case the SACRE/LA will be expected to cover the fee.
7. The Lead Officer for SACRE may comment on the budgetary limitations in relation to nominating a delegate.

### **Nomination of Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Committee**

8. Notice has also been received that a number of vacancies will arise on NASACRE and that nominations may be made to the posts of: Secretary (to serve for 2 years) Treasurer (to serve for 2 years) and 4 vacancies on the Executive Committee (to serve for 3 years). SACREs are requested to bear in mind that in putting forward any nomination the posts are active appointments requiring a commitment of time and energy. Persons elected to serve may also be asked to represent the association on occasions.
9. The Lead Officer for SACRE may comment on the budgetary limitations in relation to nominating a local member to the positions set out above.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT SACRE gives consideration to:**

- (a) whether to nominate a delegate to the NASACRE 2012 AGM**
- (b) whether to nominate a local member to the vacancies on NASACRE.**

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None identified.

## REVISED SACRE CONSTITUTION

**Report By: Democratic Services Officer**

### Purpose

1. To consider and approve the revised SACRE Constitution.

### Report

1. Arising from debate at the November 2011 meeting a review has been undertaken of the SACRE Constitution. Over the years a number of minor changes have been made to the Constitution to reflect the wishes of SACRE. These principally arose from the appointment at various times of Baha'i, Sikh and Buddhist members.
2. A more considered review of the Constitution has been undertaken by comparing the Herefordshire constitution with the exemplar constitution found on the NASACRE website and a number of other SACRE's.
3. The law itself relating to the constitution and administration of a SACRE has not altered, and therefore no changes have been made to the core principals by which SACRE operates. However, a number of housekeeping changes have been identified and these have been amended or added as indicated in the below chart.
4. A draft revised constitution is appended for consideration and approval.
5. The main changes have been made in relation to the following constitution paragraphs (as indicated in the attached document):

Paragraph Number	Reason for the change or inclusion.
6	In accordance with the Guidance wording has been inserted to indicate that nominations should be from appropriate faith organisations or group.
9	A new section has been added to provide greater clarity concerning the nomination and appointment of co-opted members.
10	To provide more detail concerning the term of office for members.
12	To provide guidance on the process to be followed should a member or co-opted member regularly fail to attend meetings.
14	The voting procedure is in accordance with the Guidance, however, the Guidance leaves it for the SACRE to resolve any deadlock. To clarify the procedure should a vote on an issue result in a draw a procedure has been inserted but will still provide for an urgent issue to be resolved.
19	Recognising that a number of issues before SACRE do not require a formal decision this will enable a meeting to continue but that formal decisions would have to be ratified at a later meeting when it was quorate.

21	To reflect the current post holder title and provide for any future change in title. Also to regularise the position of the representative from Democratic Services.
22	To include further reference to legislation concerning the press and public.
23	To signpost to a source of further guidance.

6. SACRE are requested to consider the suggested revisions to the Constitution and approve it for immediate implementation.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT SACRE consider the suggested amendments and approve the revised Constitution for implementation with immediate effect.**

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None identified.



## THE HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONSTITUTION

### Introduction

1. Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 requires The Herefordshire LEA (referred to in this constitution as the Local Authority (LA)) to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), **to advise them on matters concerned with the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship**. This constitution sets out the main functions of the SACRE membership, the voting arrangements and the rules for the conduct of business.
2. SACRE's main function is to advise the LA upon matters connected with religious worship in County Schools and with the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the LA may refer to the SACRE or as the LA may see fit.
3. SACRE can also require the LA to review its current agreed syllabus, and must consider applications made by a headteacher that the requirement for collective worship in County Schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all of the pupils at that particular school.
4. The broad role of SACRE, therefore, is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and collective worship in schools.

### Membership

5. Under Section 390(4) of the Education Act 1996, the SACRE must include persons appointed by the LA to represent respectively -
  - A. such Christian denominations and other religions and denominations of such religions as, in the opinion of the LA, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area (not including persons to represent the Church of England);
  - B. the Church of England;
  - C. such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the LA, ought, having regard to the circumstances of the area, to be represented;
  - D. the Local Education Authority (LA).
6. In accordance with the requirements of Section 390(4), the membership of the SACRE for Herefordshire comprises -

Group (A)	One Roman Catholic representative (nominated by the Roman Catholic hierarchy); One Free Church representative (nominated by Churches together in Herefordshire); One representative of other faiths as a whole; One representative of the Bahá'í faith; One representative of the Muslim faith; One representative of the Sikh faith. One representative of the Jewish faith.
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Other than for the Roman Catholic and Free Church representatives the representatives should, as far as possible, be nominated by the appropriate local faith group.

- Group (B) Three Church of England representatives (nominated in consultation with the Diocesan Education Authority).
- Group (C) Three Teachers' representatives, with one drawn from each of the primary, secondary and special education sectors (nominated through recommendation of recognised Teacher Associations) and one Co-opted Member.
- Group (D) Three Herefordshire Council members as Local Education Authority representatives.
7. The number of members appointed to any representative group to represent each denomination or religion required to be represented shall, so far as is consistent with the efficient discharge of the group's function, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in the County.
8. The SACRE may also include co-opted members.
9. SACRE shall have the right to co-opt additional members. These may be as a result of groups making representation to SACRE for inclusion on the basis of representing a relevant faith/belief group, or in order to fulfil a specific role within SACRE. Co-opted members may take part in any of the discussions but do not belong to any of the groups and do not have voting rights.

9.1 Members of SACRE or a representative group should consider the following when co-options are decided.

Candidates should essentially

- a. have an inclusive view of the aims of religious education and collective worship;

Candidates should ideally:

- a. have some experience as religious educators
- b. where possible be representative of specific education phases, to provide a balanced spread across various phases

9.2 SACRE will decide co-options following nominations from members of SACRE or representative groups.

9.3 Co-opted members shall hold office on such terms as may be determined at the time of co-option by the representative members and shall hold office at the pleasure of, and may be removed at any time by, the representative members, through a vote. If a co-opted member leaves SACRE for whatever reason, (such as those in Para 10), the nominating body should re-apply for another co-optee; there is no right of succession.

#### **Term of Office**

10. Any member of SACRE may at any time resign his/her office. Members or co-opted members shall remain until such time as they have a) resigned; b) have been removed from membership under the rules dictated by their nominating body, or c) in accordance with the terms specified by SACRE.

### **Substitution at meetings**

11. Any member of SACRE unable to attend a meeting may appoint a named substitute to attend in his/her place.

### **Failure to attend meetings**

12. Members or co-opted members who fail to attend three consecutive meetings without a satisfactory explanation will have their membership reviewed by the SACRE. The Local Authority may remove any representative or co-opted member that has failed to attend three consecutive meetings without valid reason.

### **Voting Arrangements**

13. On any question to be decided by SACRE, only the representative groups (Groups A-D) on SACRE shall be entitled to vote, and each such group shall have a single vote.
14. In the event of an equality of votes on any issue the Chair may exercise a casting vote, however, depending on the degree of urgency the presumption will be that no action shall be taken on the issue and the existing position shall continue until it is next considered.

### **Conduct of Business**

15. Subject to the requirement of the voting arrangements above, SACRE and, in relation to any question falling to be decided by members of SACRE of any particular category, the members of that category may regulate their own proceedings.
16. The validity of proceedings of SACRE or of the members of SACRE of any particular category shall not be affected:
  - (a) by a vacancy in the office of any member of SACRE required by Section 390(4); or
  - (b) on the ground that a member of SACRE appointed to represent any religion, denomination or association does not at the time of the proceedings represent the denomination or associations in question.
17. The representative groups on SACRE, other than that consisting of persons appointed to represent the LEA, may at any time require a review of any agreed syllabus for the time being adopted by The Herefordshire Council.
18. Meetings of SACRE may be convened at the request of the Chairman or any one of the Groups.

### **Quorum**

19. No business shall be transacted at the meeting unless all representative groups are represented at that meeting. If the meeting is not quorate, the meeting could continue but decisions would have to be ratified at the next SACRE meeting.

### **Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

20. The Chairman of SACRE is appointed by The Herefordshire Council. In the absence of the Chairman from a meeting, a Chairman pro tem shall be appointed from amongst the LA representatives there present.

## Clerk

21. The Assistant Director Law, Governance & Resilience (or their successor) of The Herefordshire Council shall be the Clerk of SACRE. The Clerk may nominate an officer from Democratic Services to represent them at meetings.

## Rights of Press and Public to attend meetings

22. In accordance with the statutory requirements of the Religious Education (Meetings of Local Conferences and Councils) Regulations 1994 (SI1994 No 1304), the Education Act 1996 and associated regulations, the press and public will be entitled to attend meetings of the Council, but may be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of items containing information capable of being treated as exempt information if meetings of SACRE were meetings of a local Authority. At the beginning of each meeting, for up to half an hour, members of the public will have an opportunity to receive answers to any pre-received written questions they have submitted to the Clerk.

## Further Guidance

- 23 Further guidance on the constitution and administration of a SACRE can be found in the Department for Children, schools and families publication 'Religious education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010' or any subsequent publication.

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