

Meeting:	Standing advisory council for religious education (SACRE)
Meeting date:	Friday 17 November 2017
Title of report:	Plans for professional development of religious education 2018
Report by:	Religious Education Consultant – RE Today

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose and summary

To review the feedback from the 2017 conferences and to consider arrangements for the 2018 conferences and other opportunities for supporting the implementation of the new agreed syllabus.

Recommendation(s)

That: having regard to the feedback from the 2017 conferences SACRE agrees the arrangements for the proposed 2018 conferences.

Alternative options

1. The broad role of SACRE is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and collective worship in schools. This report enables SACRE to fulfil this role therefore no alternative options are proposed.

Key considerations

2. The Herefordshire SACRE Primary and Secondary annual conferences are the sole RE CPD opportunity supported and promoted by SACRE to enable the implementation of the

agreed syllabus. The conferences are an opportunity for RE teachers to: consider current issues in RE; assess practical classroom ideas and strategies; and meet other RE teachers and share ideas. Feedback arising from the conferences in 2017 is attached in appendices 1 and 2.

3. There is a long tradition of annual conferences in Herefordshire, and the 2018 conferences will continue the links with Worcestershire SACRE, with whom Herefordshire shares an agreed syllabus. Appendices 3,4 and 5 – provides detail of the proposed programme for the conferences in 2018 for SACRE to consider.

Community impact

4. The provision of Religious Education and collective worship seeks to increase understanding and tolerance of all religions in local communities.

Equality duty

5. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
6. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires the council to consider how it can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations and demonstrate that 'due regard' is paid during decision making concerning the design of policies and the delivery of services. The provision of religious education seeks to contribute positively to the specific duty by increasing the understanding and tolerance of all religions in local communities. SACRE contributes to this duty by advising the LA on its arrangements for religious education.

Resource implications

7. There are no resource implications involved in the production and consideration of this report. The cost of the primary and secondary conferences is met through existing operational budgets.

Legal implications

9. Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 requires The Herefordshire LEA 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.
10. SACRE's main function is to advise Herefordshire Council 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. The organisation of the annual conferences and this report assist SACRE to fulfil its statutory function.

Risk management

11. During the production of this report there has been an assessment of the likely risk management implications. It is not considered that risk of any significance arises from the production or contents of this report.

Consultees

12. None

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Herefordshire Primary Conference 2017 evaluations

Appendix 2 – Secondary RE Conferences 2017 evaluations

Appendix 3 – Worcestershire and Herefordshire SACREs: Primary RE Conference 2018

Appendix 4 – Herefordshire SACRE: Primary RE Conferences 2018

Appendix 5 – Special RE day 28 March 2018

Background papers

None identified