

SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA FOR

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Wednesday 6 July 2011

2.00 pm

The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford

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NEW AGREED SYLLABUS LAUNCH AT SACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**Report by: Lead Officer for SACRE****Purpose**

To receive an update on the launch of the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2011-2016 and a report of the SACRE annual conference.

Report**• Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE 2011-2016**

Each school has received a booklet copy of the Agreed Syllabus that contains programmes of study for all key stages, related guidance and information and sample planning.

A new dedicated site within the Herefordshire Council website has been set up and the Agreed Syllabus is available for teachers to download relevant sections as they require. The site may be found at:

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/religiouseducation

The lead officer for SACRE has submitted an article to the Council's Communications Team for the weekly electronic information update to schools, *Schoolsonline*. The article reminds schools of statutory requirements with regard to their provision of RE, the Agreed Syllabus booklet they have been given and how to access the Agreed Syllabus from the website.

• SACRE Annual conference 2011

The conference took place on Friday 10th June at Queen Elizabeth Humanities College. The change of date from the 8th June accommodated a rescheduled meeting between the People's Directorate leadership team for children's services and head teachers.

58 teachers or head teachers attended. Registration was slow initially with a sudden rush in demand in the last few days. The continuing professional development (CPD) manager was helpful in permitting the conference to be offered at a reduced fee and to go forward with insufficient delegates by the normal deadline.

Conference evaluations are very positive.

- Teachers commented especially on their appreciation of the practical ideas for planning and delivery of the Agreed Syllabus in lessons and that they felt inspired by the many creative ideas to make lessons engaging for pupils.
- The summer date seemed popular; primary school colleagues liked it after the test period. Teachers also seemed to like the event in the summer when they are reviewing their planning for the next school year.
- Teachers were delighted with the opening meditation and there was a lot of interest to know more.
- Teachers liked the Queen Elizabeth school venue.

There are common threads to teachers' stated follow up intentions.

- To study the revisions in the new Agreed Syllabus.
- To use the model planning to update school planning.
- To access the documents on the website.
- To lead staff and governor update training.
- To encourage colleagues in school to use more creative approaches in lessons.
- To focus on questioning techniques.

Teachers identified some aspects where they would welcome help.

- A list of representatives of different faiths who would come into school.
- Opportunities to collaborate on planning units of work.
- More ideas for teaching Early Years children.
- Help with assessment at P-Level.
- Help with moderating work at secondary level.
- A website where they could share ideas.

Recommendations

- That SACRE continues to hold a school based conference in mid June.
- That SACRE agrees that the next conference and / or other training events respond to the requests for support from schools identified in the conference evaluations.
- That SACRE considers how to publicise and maximise the impact of successful training events such as the conference and of good practice in schools, for example, through a newsletter.
- That SACRE considers how it can monitor RE provision and the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus.

PROVISION OF RE CONSULTANCY SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS FROM APRIL 2011**Report by: Lead Officer for SACRE****Purpose**

To update SACRE on budget provision and the commissioning of specialist RE consultancy

Report**• Budget update**

The leadership team for children's services within the People's Directorate has confirmed a budget for the current financial year. The lead officer for SACRE will manage the budget.

The major expenditure is to secure specialist RE consultancy for advice and support for SACRE and schools.

SACRE pays an annual subscription to NASACRE. The benefits are advice and guidance from a national council that networks with SACREs across the country and provides guidance.

There is a small contingency amount that might remain flexible, for example to enable a representative of SACRE to attend the annual NASACRE conference, to respond to an unplanned opportunity or need or to extend planned work.

• Consultancy support for schools from April 2011

At the request of the lead officer for SACRE on behalf of the Council's school improvement service, the contracts officer has issued a contract to RE Today requesting 20 days consultancy from Stephen Pett.

The lead officer to SACRE will liaise with Stephen over priorities for supporting schools and new protocols for working with schools in the context of service level agreements with LA maintained schools and non LA maintained schools.

Some contracted consultancy time will be allocated to supplement support for the NASACRE multi faith project.

• Monitoring school provision and performance

The lead officer will liaise with the Quality and Improvement Service data team on collection of examination data and school provision of RE information to inform reports to SACRE.

Recommendation

That SACRE note this report.

