

AGENDA

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: **Monday 22 November 2010**

Time: **2.00 pm**

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

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

For any further information please contact:

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

Membership

Chairman	Councillor J Stone	
	Councillor WU Attfield	The Local Authority
	Mrs. C. Ault	Bahai faith
	Mrs L Barker	Secondary Teachers
	Revd. P. Barlow	Church of England
	Mr. P. Bowen	Church of England
	Mrs S Bryant	Church of England
	Ani-La Choesang	Buddhist
	Councillor Brig P Jones CBE	The Local Authority
	Mrs Gurmit Jutle	Sikh Faith
	Mrs S McCamley	Primary Schools
	Sr. D. O'Donnell	Roman Catholic Church
	Mr. Z. Pandor	Muslim Faith
	Ms D Vickress	Special Education Schools
	Ms C Wolfe	Jewish Faith
Non Voting	Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins	Co-opted member
	Mrs A. Daniel	Co-opted Member
	Ms. K. Mayglotling	Co-Opted Member

GUIDANCE ON DECLARING PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

The Council's Members' Code of Conduct requires Councillors to declare against an Agenda item(s) the nature of an interest and whether the interest is personal or prejudicial. Councillors have to decide first whether or not they have a personal interest in the matter under discussion. They will then have to decide whether that personal interest is also prejudicial.

A personal interest is an interest that affects the Councillor more than most other people in the area. People in the area include those who live, work or have property in the area of the Council. Councillors will also have a personal interest if their partner, relative or a close friend, or an organisation that they or the member works for, is affected more than other people in the area. If they do have a personal interest, they must declare it but can stay and take part and vote in the meeting.

Whether an interest is prejudicial is a matter of judgement for each Councillor. What Councillors have to do is ask themselves whether a member of the public – if he or she knew all the facts – would think that the Councillor's interest was so important that their decision would be affected by it. If a Councillor has a prejudicial interest then they must declare what that interest is. A Councillor who has declared a prejudicial interest at a meeting may nevertheless be able to address that meeting, but only in circumstances where an ordinary member of the public would be also allowed to speak. In such circumstances, the Councillor concerned will have the same opportunity to address the meeting and on the same terms. However, a Councillor exercising their ability to speak in these circumstances must leave the meeting immediately after they have spoken.

AGENDA

	Pages
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive apologies for absence.	
2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY) To receive details any details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.	
3. MINUTES To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2010.	1 - 4
4. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY) To answer any pre-received written questions from members of the public.	
5. RESIGNATION OF THE FREE CHURCH MEMBER To note the resignation of Rev L Rickards (Free Church representative on Committee A) and that Herefordshire Churches Together has been contacted regarding a replacement member.	
6. RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATION RESULTS IN 2010 To consider the Religious Studies examination results for the 2010 academic year for Herefordshire.	5 - 10
7. SACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010 To receive a report on the 2010 SACRE Annual Conference held 30 th September, 2010 at Earl Mortimer College, Leominster.	11 - 12
8. DRAFT HEREFORDSHIRE SACRE ANNUAL REPORT - ACADEMIC YEAR 2009/10 To comment on the draft SACRE Annual Report for the academic year September 2009 to July 2010 prior to submission to QCDA. NOTE: The draft report has been issued with the agenda to Members as a separate document.	13 - 14

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 5 July 2010 at 2.00 pm

Present: Councillor J Stone (Chairman)

Councillor WU Attfield, Revd. P. Barlow, Mr. P. Bowen, Mrs S Bryant, Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins, Ani-La Choesang, Councillor Brig P Jones CBE, Mrs G Jutle, Ms. K. Mayglothling, Mrs S McCamley, Sr. D. O'Donnell and Ms C Wolfe

37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from: Mrs M Ault; Mrs L Barker; and Mrs A Daniel.

38. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

There were no named substitutes.

39. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held 15 March 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman reported that a two day multi-faith event had been held at the Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School and he congratulated Peter Bowen and all concerned on organising such a successful event which had been well attended.

40. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No written questions were received.

41. SACRE MEMBERSHIP

SACRE considered its membership.

Church of England Member

The Chairman reported that Mr Tony Leach, Director of Education for the Church of England Diocesan Board of Education, had resigned on health grounds. The Clerk's representative reported that SACRE's best wishes had already been forwarded to Mr Leach.

SACRE noted that Ms T Gregory, nominated substitute for Mr T Leach, had left the Diocesan Board of Education.

SACRE noted that Mrs Sheila Bryant had been nominated by the Diocese to replace Mr Leach on Committee B and that the local authority had approved the nomination. SACRE welcomed Mrs Bryant to the meeting.

Buddhist Member

On considering nominations for new membership the Chairman reported that the Venerable Tsultrim Tenzin Choesang, who was a senior nun within the Tibetan tradition of Buddhism, had been nominated as the member for the Buddhist faith on Committee A. SACRE agreed the nomination and noted that the local authority had approved the nomination. SACRE welcomed Ani-La Choesang to the meeting.

Special Education Teaching Member

The Chairman further reported that following the resignation of Mrs J Brown the local authority proposed that Ms D Vickress (Barrs Court Special School) become the member for special education teaching on Committee C. SACRE agreed the appointment of Ms D Vickress to Committee C.

42. SACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010 - UPDATE

SACRE received an update on the organisation of the SACRE Annual Conference.

The Interim Lead Officer reported that to date only 13 places had been confirmed and that only half were fee paying delegates. Due to the financial position the annual conference had to break even, which currently it was far from doing, and she sought the views of SACRE.

SACRE debated: whether to postpone the conference or amalgamate it into the new Agreed Syllabus launch; the optimum time period in the school year for teachers to attend; the inspiration the conference had on teachers at the beginning of the school year and the possibility of using a different venue.

Head Teacher members commented that they would remind their colleagues about the importance of the conference either in writing or at the next HASH meeting.

RESOLVED: That following consultation with the Chairman the decision whether to proceed with the Annual Conference, and if so at what venue, be left with Interim Lead Officer.

43. OFSTED PUBLICATION 'TRANSFORMING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION'

The publication by Ofsted 'Transforming Religious Education' was brought to SACRE's attention.

The Consultant for RE reported that on 6 June 2010 Ofsted had published their report, the full version of which was available from the Ofsted web site.

The report evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of religious education provision in primary and secondary schools and discussed the key issues at the heart of RE teaching today. The report was principally based on evidence from visits to 94 primary and 89 secondary schools in England between 2006–2009. None of which had been in Herefordshire. The report also contained a number of recommendations for the Department for Education; the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (OfQual); local authorities, SACRES and schools.

The Consultant for RE highlighted that the report had positive elements concerning examination rates; cohesion and personal development and RE lessons. However, it also highlighted a lack of clarity in both teacher training and syllabuses and teacher competences to plan RE lessons.

Of particular relevance to SACRE was the recommendation:

Local authorities, in partnership with their SACRE and Agreed Syllabus Conference should:

- Ensure that the work of SACRE and ASC has good access to subject expertise to enable them to support schools effectively in promoting high quality RE;
- Ensure that high quality professional development in RE is available to their schools and encourage them to make the most of these opportunities to improve the quality of RE teaching;
- Ensure that agreed syllabuses and related advice:
 - Offer guidance about the systematic use of enquiry skills in RE to enable schools to plan the subject in a more coherent and rigorous way
 - Provide greater clarity about the use of concepts and the definition of progress in RE;
 - Include guidance to schools about ways of incorporating RE within more innovative and creative approaches to curriculum planning.

In noting the report SACRE questioned whether any of the concerns could be addressed by the SACRE Annual Conference.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and, if thought appropriate, issues of concern be incorporated into the SACRE Annual Conference 2010.

The meeting ended at 2.46 pm

CHAIRMAN

SACRE 22 November, 2010**Children & Young People's Directorate****Blackfriars
PO Box 185
Blackfriars Street****Religious Studies Examination results in 2010****SUMMARY**

There are several strengths in the 2010 examination outcomes to celebrate:

- an increased number of entries for the GCSE full course;
- a continued rise in the percentage of high grades gained at GCSE full course;
- an increased number of entries for A-Level;
- a 100% pass rate at A-level in the school sixth form that offered A-level.

One school entered candidates for a Humanities GCSE. All other schools entered candidates for an accredited religious studies examination.

In the short course GCSE examination the percentages of candidates gaining A*-C grades are lower than the national average for this examination and lower than the percentages gaining A*-C grades in the full course GCSE examination locally. The range of grades candidates gained is wide with some candidates gaining the top grades of A* and A. It may be that most schools enter higher attaining candidates for the full course. A minority of schools enter all candidates for one course.

ENTRY PATTERNS

At Key Stage 4, the 13 LA maintained schools entered 1270 candidates for an accredited examination (618 Boys, 652 Girls). This number represented 65% of the cohort in LA maintained schools, a decrease from the proportion in 2009 which was 1291 (639 Boys, 652 Girls) representing 67.4% of the cohort. Several schools had a different pattern of entry from 2009.

One high school has not entered candidates for a GCSE Religious Studies examination for several years; it enters students for Humanities GCSE.

Full course GCSE

550 students (226 Boys, 324 Girls), 28.1% of all students at the end of KS4 in Herefordshire maintained schools in 2010, entered for the full GCSE, an increase from the 387 students, 20.1% of all students (166 Boys, 221 Girls) in 2009. As in recent years, The Hereford Academy entered a small number of candidates (3 boys, 6 girls)

Ten LA high schools and The Hereford Academy entered candidates for the full GCSE examination. Two schools entered candidates for the full GCSE examination in 2010 who had not entered any candidates in the last 2 years, one entered 66 and the other 29. One school entered 124 candidates in 2010, significantly more candidates than in 2009 when they entered 22.

In nine of the LA schools and in the Hereford Academy high percentages of candidates gaining A*-C grades (five schools over 90%, three over 80%) and some small entries might suggest that mostly high attaining students opted to study for the full GCSE. One school had comparatively

lower results with a wider spread of grades and appeared to have entered all students for the full GCSE examination.

Short course GCSE

655 students (348 Boys, 307 Girls), 33.5% of the county's end of KS4 cohort in LA maintained schools, took the Short Course. This was a decrease from 2009 when 897 students (466 Boys, 431 Girls) 43.6% of the cohort took the examination.

Eleven LA high schools entered candidates for the short course GCSE in 2010. Two schools entered candidates for the short course and none for the full course GCSE examination. The remaining nine schools entered candidates for both GCSE examinations. However three schools only entered one candidate that might suggest that the course was not a taught option.

The percentages of candidates gaining higher grades were almost always lower in the schools that entered some candidates for the full course GCSE examination. However, eight schools had candidates who gained A* and A grades. The numbers entered and the range of results compared to results in the full course GCSE examination might suggest that some schools entered students from across the ability range who had not opted for a full GCSE course or lower attainers for the short course GCSE examination.

The two schools that entered candidates only for the short course GCSE examination both had higher percentages of candidates gaining A*-C grades than the national average.

In four schools that entered candidates for full and for short course GCSE examinations the percentages of candidates gaining grades A*-C were higher than the national average.

The percentages of candidates gaining A*-C grades in the short course GCSE examination are lower than the national average and lower than the percentages gaining A*-C grades in the full course GCSE examination. The range of grades candidates gained is wide with some candidates gaining the top grades of A* and A. from A* to that appears to mirror the and Results are Entry numbers suggest that overall

Entry Level Qualifications

Two schools entered candidates for a pre GCSE examination. One school entered a very small number in addition to a big entry for the full course GCSE that might suggest the candidates have learning difficulties. One school entered candidates for the first time and entered the same number for the short course. Pass rates were high. (100% and 96.5%).

GCE A-Level and Advanced Supplementary Level Religious Studies / Theology

In 2010 one school sixth form and Hereford Sixth Form College entered students for A-level and/or AS level examinations. 84 students (31 Boys, 53 Girls) took A level in 2010, which is 14 more than in 2009 when there were 70 (25 Boys, 45 Girls))

The numbers taking AS level decreased from 43 (23 Boys, 20 Girls) in 2009 to 27 (14 Boys, 13 Girls) in 2010.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Results for the 2010 GCSE and GCE A Level examinations for Religious Studies (subject to final validation) are summarised in Appendix A together with comparative data from 2009.

Key Stage 4 GCSE Religious Studies

In the 2010 full GCSE examination 83.8% of students entered gained A* - C passes (Boys = 75.7%, Girls = 89.5%) which was above the national average of 71.9% and above the 2009 results of 76.5% (Boys= 66.9%, Girls=83.7%).

In the 2010 short course GCSE examination 47.8% of students gained A* - C passes (Boys = 38.5%, Girls = 58.3%) which is below the national average of 52.9% and below the 2009 results of 55.2% (Boys = 50.4%, Girls = 60.3%).

Key Stage 4 entry level (pre GCSE) accreditation

In 2010 two schools entered candidates for an entry level qualification. 65 students (44 Boys, 21 Girls) took Entry Level Qualifications in 2010. In 2009 7 (7 Boys, 0 Girls) students sat an entry level examination. The rise in number is due to one school entering 57 candidates for the first time.

A-level 2010

John Kyrle High School had a 100% pass rate in 2010 with 75% of the candidates gaining grades A* -C in Religious Studies. In Hereford Sixth Form College 90% of candidates gained A*-C in Theology.

AS-level 2010

John Kyrle High School had a 100% pass rate in 2010 with 56% of the candidates gaining grades A* -C in Religious Studies. In Hereford Sixth Form College 69% of candidates gained A*-C in Theology.

APPENDIX A

An overview of results showing 3 year trends is provided.

Vicky Ward, School Improvement Service

Paul Leo Cooper, Quality and Improvement Team

Date: 2/11/2010

Appendix A

GCSE 2010 Results for Religious Studies

GCSE 2009 Results for Religious Studies

Religious Studies

Religious Studies

	Full Course				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	Number A* to G	% A* to G
Boys & Girls	550	461	83.8%	544	98.9%
Boys	226	171	75.7%	221	97.8%
Girls	324	290	89.5%	323	99.7%

	Full Course				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	Number A* to G	% A* to G
Boys & Girls	387	296	76.5%	386	99.7%
Boys	166	111	66.9%	165	99.4%
Girls	221	185	83.7%	221	100.0%

Religious Studies

Religious Studies

	Short Course				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	Number A* to G	% A* to G
Boys & Girls	655	313	47.8%	631	96.3%
Boys	348	134	38.5%	330	94.8%
Girls	307	179	58.3%	301	98.0%

	Short Course				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	Number A* to G	% A* to G
Boys & Girls	897	495	55.2%	886	98.8%
Boys	466	235	50.4%	460	98.7%
Girls	431	260	60.3%	426	98.8%

Religious Studies

Religious Studies

	ELQ Band C				
	Entered	No. Grds 1-3	% Grade 1	% Grade 2	% Grade 3
Boys & Girls	65	63	13.8%	35.4%	47.7%
Boys	44	42	11.4%	50.0%	34.1%
Girls	21	21	19.0%	4.8%	76.2%

	ELQ Band C				
	Entered	No. Grds 1-3	% Grade 1	% Grade 2	% Grade 3
Boys & Girls	7	7	85.7%	0.0%	14.3%
Boys	7	7	85.7%	0.0%	14.3%
Girls	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

GCE A' Level 2009

GCE A' Level 2009

Religious Studies

Religious Studies

	A Level				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to E	% A* to E
Boys & Girls	18	9	50.0%	12	66.7%
Boys	3	1	33.3%	3	100.0%
Girls	15	8	53.3%	9	60.0%

	A Level				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to E	% A* to E
Boys & Girls	12	10	83.3%	12	100.0%
Boys	3	3	100.0%	3	100.0%
Girls	9	7	77.8%	9	100.0%

AS Level

AS Level

	AS Level				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to E	% A* to E
Boys & Girls	9	5	55.6%	9	100.0%
Boys	5	2	40.0%	5	100.0%
Girls	4	3	75.0%	4	100.0%

	AS Level				
	Entered	Number A* to C	% A* to C	No. A* to E	% A* to E
Boys & Girls	7	4	57.1%	7	100.0%
Boys	1	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
Girls	6	4	66.7%	6	100.0%

Results from Hereford Sixthform College:

Results from Hereford Sixthform College:

A2 Level

A2 Level

Subject	Entries	% A-B	% A-C
Theology	66	71.0%	90.0%

Subject	Entries	% A-B	% A-C
Theology	58	82.8%	100.0%

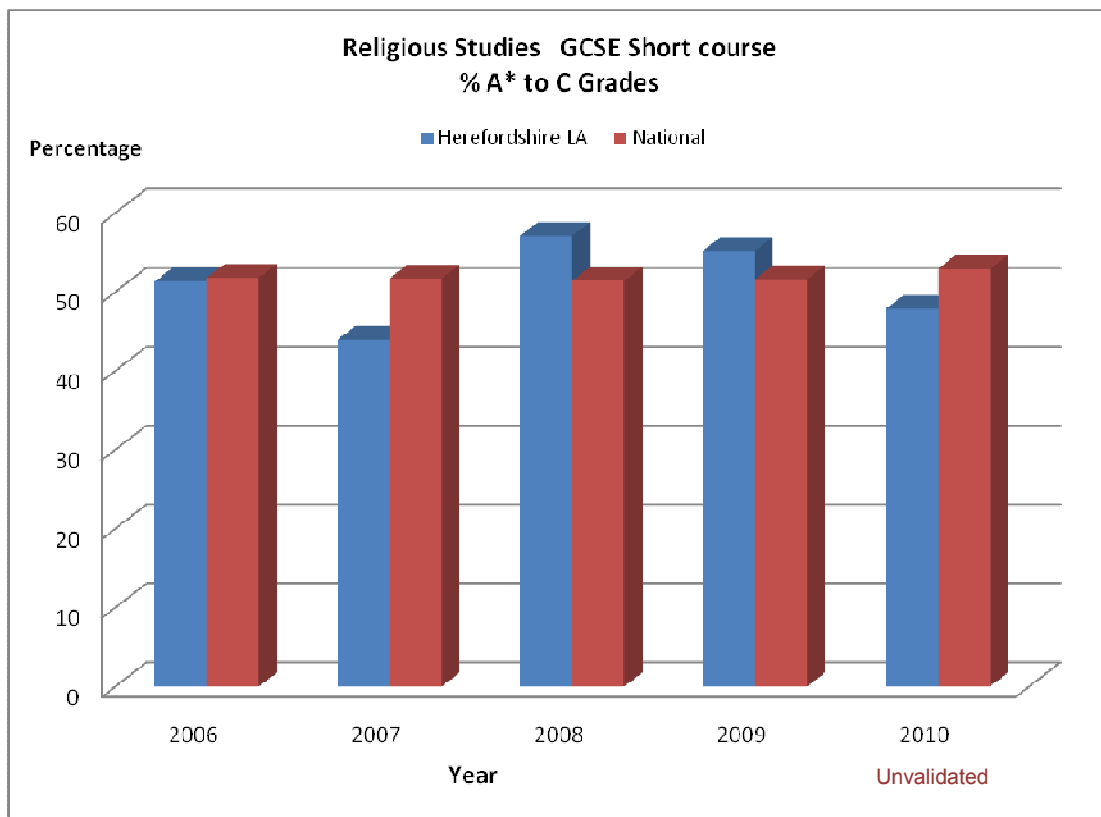
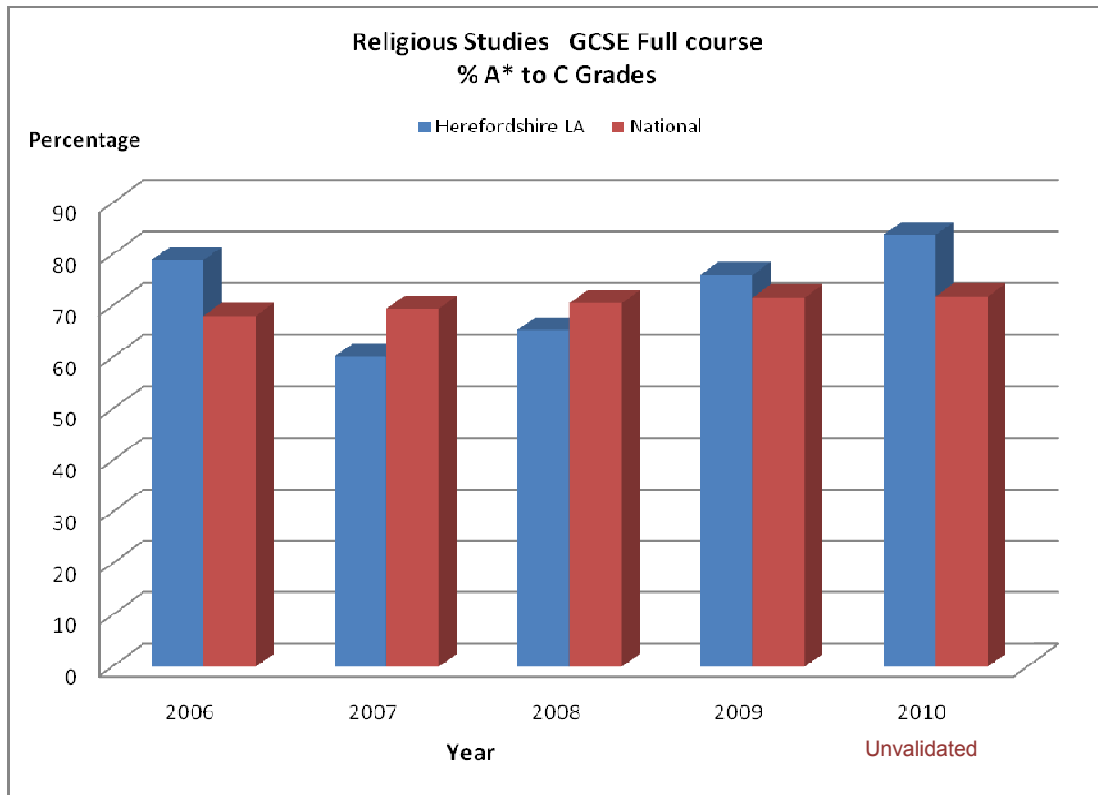
AS Level

AS Level

Subject	Entries	% A-B	% A-C
Theology	18	47.0%	69.0%

Subject	Entries	% A-B	% A-C
Theology	36	50.0%	69.4%

Local Authority Maintained Schools only



SACRE

22 November 2010

SACRE Annual RE Conference September 2010 - Report

Summary

RE Today provided an excellent, busy and varied programme that balanced a wealth of practical and creative ideas with opportunities for teachers to discuss and work together. There was a real buzz throughout the day.

Programme

- Better RE: opening minds and connecting learning
- Thinking Skills for 5-11s
- Respect for all, 4-11s
- "Letting go but not losing it!" Enquiry based learning 11-16s
- Curriculum linking for 5-11s
- Creative storytelling for 4-7s
- Building cohesion through encounter at KS3
- Getting pupils and teachers thinking in RE

Evaluations

Teachers who attended gave highly positive feedback; they rated the keynote talk very highly indeed and every other session highly, mostly excellent. Many teachers added their thanks and comments.

Outcomes

Teachers clearly felt they had gained ideas that they would be able to put into practice in school. Frequent remarks included:

- "thought provoking";
- "packed full of exciting, practical ideas";
- "lots of great ideas to take back and share and use";
- "I feel inspired and motivated".

Delegates who were new to teaching Religious Studies appreciated the opportunity to work in phase specific groups. Primary and secondary teachers were keen to sign up to an email network.

The exhibition

A few teachers commented that they were very pleased to find out more about resources.

The venue

The Earl Mortimer College staff were most helpful and made us welcome. The generosity of the college in hosting the event enabled the conference to run and stay within budget. Several teachers commented on what an excellent venue Earl Mortimer College was for the day.

Vicky Ward

Lead Officer for SACRE
10 November 2010

DRAFT HEREFORDSHIRE SACRE ANNUAL REPORT – ACADEMIC YEAR 2009/2010

Report By: Democratic Services Officer

Purpose

1. To comment on the draft SACRE Annual Report for the academic year September 2009 to July 2010 prior to submission to QCDA.

Report

2. SACREs are required to produce an annual report for submission to QCDA (formerly QCA). The draft annual report, copies of which have been issued to members of SACRE, gives an indication of the work of Herefordshire SACRE during the academic year September 2009 to July 2010. Copies of the draft have been issued to members with the agenda and are available to the public on request.
3. Members may be aware that the Government decided to close QCDA as part of its wider reform of education. The Clerk to SACRE has made enquiries of QCDA concerning the future of Annal Reports, and received the following: “As part of QCDA’s function of keeping the curriculum under review until March 2011, we will ensure that evidence from SACRE reports as a whole is appropriately considered. However, as QCDA is being abolished, this is likely to be the last year in which we will be able to receive SACRE reports. In due course, the Department for Education will decide on any alternative arrangements regarding SACRE reports”.
4. Members will recall that QCDA introduced an annual report template which set out the themes and key questions for the report. In the absence of further guidance from QCDA the same report template has been used for this years report.
5. SACRE will have received at this meeting a report on the results of Religious Education examinations in the County and these details, together with any appropriate comments made by SACRE, will also be included in the final document.
6. Information from the reports and minutes of your meetings have been used by officers to complete the report in accordance with the report template. SACREs input is requested in relation to the last section headed ‘Summary’ on which SACRE may wish to offer its thoughts.
7. Final proof reading will be undertaken prior to finalising the report. The final report is required to be submitted to QCDA before the end of December 2010.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT a) SACRE offer its thoughts on the completion of the section headed ‘Summary’; and

b) subject to any comments by SACRE and final proof reading the SACRE Annual Report 2009/10 be submitted to QCDA.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.

