

AGENDA

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: **Friday 20 March 2015**

Time: **2.15 pm**

Place: **Committee Room 1, Shire Hall, St Peter's Square,
Hereford HR1 2HX**

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 CNH Attwood
Councillor EMK Chave**

**Local Authority
Local Authority**

**Mrs. C. Ault
Mrs L Barker
Mrs S Bryant
Venerable Tsultrim Tenzin Choesang
Mrs A. Daniel
Miss Emilie James
Mrs Gurmit Jutle
Anna Nugent
Sr. D. O'Donnell
Mrs M Williams
Ms C Wolfe**

**Bahai faith
Secondary School Teachers
Church of England
Buddhist
Primary School Teachers
Special School Teachers
Sikh Faith
County Ecumenical Officer, Herefordshire
Roman Catholic Church
The Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat School
Jewish Faith**

Non Voting

**Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins
Mrs K Mayglothling
Miss Allyson Taylor**

**Co-opted member
Co-opted member
Co-opted member**

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 21 November 2014.	5 - 8
4. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY) To answer any pre-received written questions from members of the public.	
5. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE NEW AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RE Following formal agreement of the new Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education by the Agreed Syllabus Conference, SACRE will receive an update on progress in producing the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education for introduction into schools in September 2015.	
6. 2015/16 SACRE BUDGET UPDATE To consider any implications arising from any changes to the 2015/16 SACRE budget.	9 - 10
7. RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATION RESULTS 2014 To receive a report on the Religious Studies A level exam results for the County.	11 - 12
8. UPDATE ON ANY NEW INITIATIVES OR NEWS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION To report any news or further changes to the government's education strategy that may affect the teaching of religious education in Herefordshire schools.	
9. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS To note that dates for SACRE meetings have been scheduled for 2.00pm at the Shire Hall, Hereford on Friday 20 November 2015 and Friday 18 March 2016.	

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held at Whitecross School, Three Elms Road, Hereford on Friday 21 November 2014 at 2.00 pm

Present: Councillor J Stone (Chairman)

Councillor CNH Attwood, Mrs L Barker, Mrs S Bryant, Councillor EMK Chave, Mrs A Daniel, Mr P Hulme, Miss E James, Mrs A Nugent and Mrs M Williams

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs C Ault, Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins, Venerable Tsuilitrim Tenzin Choesang, Ms K Mayglothling, Sr O'Donnell, Miss A Taylor and Ms C Wolfe.

13. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)

Mr P Hulme for Mrs C Ault.

14. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 March 2014 were approved and signed as a correct record.

15. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

None.

16. PLANS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2015

The feedback from the Primary School RE Conference 2014 and the Secondary School Conference was noted.

The arrangements for the upcoming conferences in 2015 were noted.

Resolved: that the report be noted

17. SACRE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/14

The SACRE Annual Report for 2013/2014 was noted.

Resolved: That the Annual Report 2013/14 be approved and a copy be forwarded to NASACRE

18. RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR 2014

A report on the Religious Studies Exam Results for 2014 was noted.

In the ensuing discussion the following points were made:

- That there had been an increase in students taking the full course, and that Herefordshire consistently entered more learners for a full GCSE than the national average.

- That there had been a drop in the numbers taking the short course in 2014, with 260 pupils representing the lowest number that the County had seen since 2009.
- That schools were committed to developing the spiritual moral, social and cultural (SMSC) aspects of education and Ofsted's inspection teams were required to consider the impact of a school's provision as part of the judgement of leadership and management. Herefordshire had been judged as having 80.0% of its schools to be good or better by Ofsted. Due to the interrelationship between leadership and management and the judgement for overall effectiveness, it can be assumed that the quality of SMSC is good or better.

Resolved:

That

- a) The Religious Studies examination results for 2014 be noted; and;**
- b) The A level results be submitted to the next meeting.**

19. AGREED SYLLABUS REVIEW

SACRE considered a report on the RE Agreed Syllabus:

During the discussion, the following points were made:

- That SACRE must consider reviewing its RE Agreed Syllabus after five years. An Agreed Syllabus Conference can be set up to conduct the review. The development of a clear, well-structured agreed syllabus is probably the single most important function of SACRE. Combined with on-going implementation training and resources, a new syllabus offers the possibility of raising achievement in RE in all local schools.
- That Ofsted reports in 2010 and 2013 highlighted the need for syllabuses to; be clear about expected knowledge and understanding about religions and beliefs; support and empower teachers to plan effectively; offer coherent progression across the ages and key stages and support clear and focused assessment and encourage enquiry-based RE. The Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus 2011-2016 had been praised by Ofsted for its quality in meeting these requirements.
- That the RE Council (REC) Review of RE produced the National Curriculum Framework for RE (NCFRE) in October 2013, to run in parallel with National Curriculum changes. The links will enable RE programmes of study to be easily understood and implemented alongside the new orders for National Curriculum subjects such as Science or History.
- That there were three options for SACRE for an Agreed Syllabus Review, and these were laid out in the report and discussed at length.

Recommendation

THAT:

- a) the report be noted; and;**
- b) Option C in the report be approved as the way forward for a Review of the**

Agreed Syllabus Review, and be recommended to the Cabinet Member(Young People and Children's Wellbeing).

20. UPDATE ON ANY NEW INITIATIVES IN RE

A report on national RE news was received. The following points were highlighted:

- That national 20,196 national RS A level entries had been recorded, which was 96% up on the number in 2002/03 and that RS A level entries had increased more than any arts, humanity or social science subject in 2014. In line with other subjects the results were generally lower, but the percentage of students achieving A* at RS A level had increased from 5.4% to 6.8%
- GCSE Results 2014 had seen an increase in full course numbers, but a decrease overall combined with a dramatic fall in short course numbers.
- The draft criteria for new GCSE and A-level examination specifications had been published by the Department for Education on 7 November. Public consultation was open until 5th January. Once amended and approved, these criteria would be sent to exam boards, from which they would develop a range of specifications for teaching from September 2016.
- That the International Day of Peace would be celebrated in Hereford Cathedral on 20 September 2015.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

21. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on the 20 March 2015.

The meeting ended at 3.30 pm

CHAIRMAN



MEETING:	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MEETING DATE:	20 March 2015
TITLE OF REPORT:	SACRE Budget 2014/15
REPORT BY:	SACRE Lead Officer

1. Classification

Open

2. Purpose

2.1 Report on the SACRE's budget for the financial year 2014/15.

3. Recommendation

THAT: the SACRE budget for 2014/15 be noted.

4. Key Considerations

4.1 Income and expenditure:

- The SACRE was allocated a budget for £5000.00 for the financial year 2014/15.
- In addition, the SACRE had income of £2280.00. This was a one-off payment and it is not expected in the coming financial year.
- £4000.00 was ring-fenced at the start of the year to pay for consultancy fees from RE Today.
- Additionally, it was agreed that the new model agreed syllabus would be purchased this financial year at a cost of £4185.00.
- £905.00 has been moved into the SACRE budget to account for the shortfall between the SACRE's budget and its financial commitments this year.
- Currently awaiting confirmation of the budget for 2015/16.

5. Appendices

5.1 Not applicable

6. Background Papers

6.1 None identified.



MEETING:	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MEETING DATE:	20 March 2015
TITLE OF REPORT:	RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR 2014
REPORT BY:	SACRE Lead Officer

1. Classification

Open

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To consider the Religious Studies A Level examination results for 2014 based on Key Stage 5 data set issued by the National Consortium of Exam Results.

3. Recommendation

THAT: the Religious Studies A level examination results for 2014 be noted.

4. Key Considerations

4.1 Performance

- The number of entries for GCE A level Religious Studies in the county was 76 in 2014 compared to 95 in 2013 (79 in 2012; 73 in 2011; 84 in 2010).
- The number of entries for GCE AS level Religious Studies in the county was 16 in 2014 compared to 26 in 2013 (19 in 2012; 25 in 2011; 18 in 2010).
- Of this year's full course A level entries, 100% achieved grade E or above, compared to 99.8% nationally.
- The AS course saw 100% of learners achieve grade A*-E, compared to 86.4% nationally. Hereford Sixth Form College was the only centre to offer this qualification.
- The percentage of A*-A grades at A level and A-B grades at AS level in the county outperformed the national figure.
- In 2014, more girls than boys sat AS and A level Religious Studies exams. This reflects the national picture and has done for a number of years.

5. Appendices

5.1 Appendix A - Religious Studies A Level examination results for 2014

6. Background Papers

6.1 None identified.