

# AGENDA

## Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: **Friday 18 March 2016**

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Time: **2.00 pm**

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

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

For any further information please contact:

**David Penrose, Democratic Services Officer**

Tel: 01432 383690

Email: [dpenrose@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:dpenrose@herefordshire.gov.uk)

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If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format, please call David Penrose, Democratic Services Officer on 01432 383690 or e-mail [dpenrose@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:dpenrose@herefordshire.gov.uk) in advance of the meeting.

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

## **Membership**

### **Chairman**

**Councillor J Stone**

**Councillor EPJ Harvey**

**Councillor MT McEvelly**

**Mrs. C Ault**

**Mrs L Barker**

**Mrs S Bryant**

**Venerable Tsultrim Tenzin Choesang**

**Mrs A. Daniel**

**Ms H Tong**

**Mrs Gurmit Jutle**

**Ms A 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**

**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**

	<b>Pages</b>
<b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> To receive apologies for absence.	
<b>2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)</b> To receive details any details of members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.	
<b>3. MINUTES</b> To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2015.	7 - 10
<b>4. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)</b> To answer any pre-received written questions from members of the public.	
<b>5. RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR 2015</b> To receive a presentation on the religious studies examination results for 2015.	11 - 16
<b>6. 2016/17 SACRE BUDGET UPDATE</b> To receive a verbal report on the 2016/17 SACRE budget.	17 - 18
<b>7. PLANS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2016/17</b> To receive a report on plans for professional development in 2016 and 2017.	19 - 22
<b>8. UPDATE ON ANY NEW INITIATIVES IN RE</b> To consider a report on recent national reports and their implications for the teaching of religious education in Herefordshire schools.	23 - 30
<b>9. UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 2016</b> To consider the invitation of dignitaries and faith representatives to the celebration of the United Nations International Day of Peace 2016 to be held in Hereford Cathedral in September 2016.	31 - 32
<b>10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING</b> To note that the dates of the next meetings of SACRE will be 18 November 2016 and 17 March 2017 at 2pm in Committee Room 1 in the Shire Hall, Hereford.	



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- Inspect background papers used in the preparation of public reports for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting. (A list of the background papers to a report is given at the end of each report). A background paper is a document on which the officer has relied in writing the report and which otherwise is not available to the public.
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## **HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

**SHIRE HALL, ST PETER'S SQUARE, HEREFORD, HR1 2HX.**

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HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held at Committee Room 1, Shire Hall, St Peter's Square, Hereford HR1 2HX on Friday 20 November 2015 at 2.00 pm**

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

Ms V Avery, Linda Barker, Sheila Bryant, Venerable Tsultrim Tenzin Choesang, Angela Daniel, EPJ Harvey, MT McEvilly, Anna Nugent, Miss A Taylor, Hannah Tong and Michelle Williams

**Officers:** L Fraser (Lead Officer) Stephen Pett (RE Consultant) and C Lloyd (Governance Services)

**10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mrs C Ault, Mrs C Wolfe, Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins and Ms K Mayglothling.

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

Ms V Avery substituted for Ms K Mayglothling and Mr P Hulme substituted for Mrs C Ault.

**12. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 20 March 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record.

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

There were no written public questions.

**14. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2015/2016**

The Chairman welcomed Councillors EL Harvey and Councillor MT McEvilly to their first meeting of the committee.

The Chairman confirmed that he had attended both the Primary and Secondary School launch in May and June this year.

A discussion took place around the 2015 conferences with the following points made:

- It was pleasing to see that over 60 teachers had attended the Primary school conference.
- The Committee was grateful to Whitecross School for hosting the Conference.
- The Chairman and Committee thanked the Religious Education consultant for organising both conferences.
- Further links were being developed with Worcester with a view to developing a common syllabus for both Hereford and Worcester.
- The syllabus had been well received by key stage 3 students and compliments the Primary School curriculum.

- The feedback received was that both conferences had been well received and had been enjoyable experiences for those attending.

Suggestions were invited for next year's conference with a speaker's corner idea to be explored.

Next year's Primary conference venue was likely to be Whitecross School whilst the Secondary School conference was likely to be a joint conference with Worcester and would be held at Bank House, Bransford.

In response to a members request that other faiths are included in future conferences, the RE Consultant confirmed that this could be done possibly as a feature in the speakers' corner idea.

A member raised a question regarding the inclusion of special school provision on future curriculum. It was confirmed that this was still on the agenda and an update would be provided at the next meeting.

A short discussion took place around British values with a view that delivery on the subject could be made through the religious education curriculum.

**Resolved: That the updated report be noted.**

#### **15. SACRE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/15**

SACRE received the Annual report on the Herefordshire academic year 2014/15 with the following points raised:

- Acknowledged that there were limited resources available.
- Possibility of a survey both on line and at the next conference with a view that feedback from teachers was essential to both develop the curriculum and raise student performance results.

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

#### **16. RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR 2015 (TO FOLLOW)**

SACRE received the Religious Studies examination results for 2015.

It was noted that the data presented was provisional and that no national figures were available.

The following points were raised by SACRE:

- A pleasing upward trend was noted in the take up of the subject
- The inclusion of national figures in future reports would be welcome for benchmarking purposes.
- There was some concern regarding data gaps, and it was confirmed that these would be investigated.
- A decline in achievement was noted.
- That the relevant website required updating

**Resolved: That a report on exam results be made available to members at the next SACRE meeting.**



**17. UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 2015**

A verbal report on the United Nations International Day of Peace held in Hereford Cathedral on the 20 September 2015 was received. The following comments were made:

- A further event was planned for 2016
- More representatives from other faiths would be welcomed
- International Women's Day would be celebrated on 5 March 2016, although a venue had yet to be confirmed.

**Resolved: That arrangement be made to invite dignitaries to future International days.**

**18. UPDATE ON ANY NEW INITIATIVES IN RE**

SACRE received a report on recent national initiatives and their implications for the teaching of religious education in Herefordshire schools.

**Resolved:**

**That:**

- a) the report be noted;
- b) the Chairman write to the two local Members of Parliament for Herefordshire to encourage them to sign the pledge 'Make Religious Education flourish'; and;
- c) Local Members sign a County pledge 'Make Religious Education flourish'.

**19. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be the 18 March 2015.

The meeting ended at 15:30

**CHAIRMAN**





<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>18 March 2016</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>RE Results 2015</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>SACRE Lead Officer, Head of Learning and Achievement</b>

## **Classification**

Open

## **Key Decision**

This is not an executive decision.

## **Wards Affected**

Countywide

## **Purpose**

To receive a presentation on the RE results for the county for 2015.

## **Recommendation**

**THAT: the RE results for 2015 be noted.**

## **Alternative options**

1 There are no alternative options.

## **Reasons for recommendations**

2 To note the RE results for 2015.

## **Community impact**

3 Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 requires Herefordshire Council to establish a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), to advise them on matters concerned with the provision of religious education and collective worship in county Schools.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
David Penrose on Tel (01432) 383690

## **Equality duty**

4 SACRE should pay due regard to its public sector equality duty

## **Financial implications**

5 There are no financial implications.

## **Legal implications**

6 There are no legal implications.

## **Risk management**

7 There are no risks associated with this report.

## **Consultees**

8 None.

## **Appendices**

- None.

## **Background papers**

- None identified.

## Report for SACRE

### 2015 Herefordshire examination results in religious education



## Types of Examination

There were 3 types of examination taken by students in 2015 in religious education:

- - entry level
- - GCSE
- - GCSE short course





Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE Full Course (310)

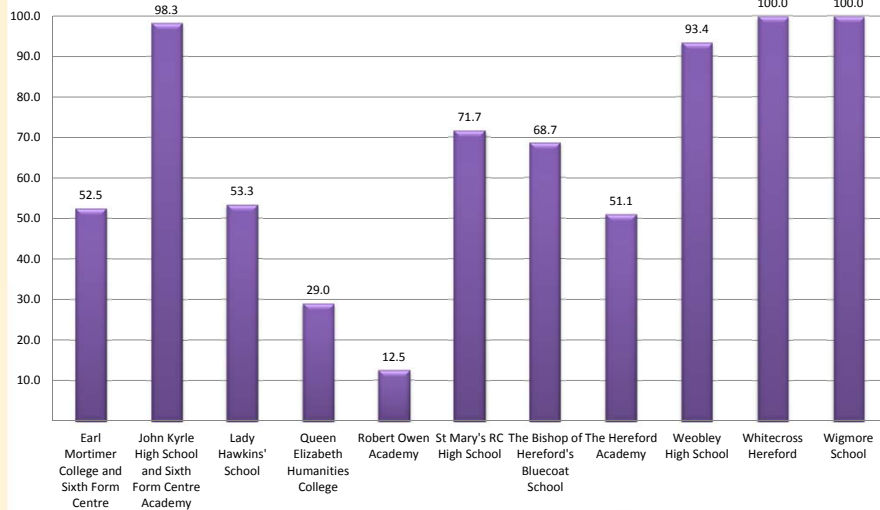
Centre	NOR	NOE	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	X	A*-C	A*-G
National (All Schools)	611079	269248	11.1	19.0	23.3	18.8	11.6	7.2	4.4	2.6	1.7	0.4	72.2	97.9
National (State Funded)	553218	253196	9.7	18.2	23.5	19.5	12.0	7.6	4.6	2.7	1.8	0.4	70.9	97.8
LA (State Funded)	1861	774	7.5	17.1	20.9	20.5	13.3	8.4	6.6	3.1	2.5	0.1	66.0	97.4
Earl Mortimer College and Sixth Form Centre	104	99	1.0	11.1	21.2	19.2	20.2	10.1	10.1	6.1	1.0		52.5	99.0
John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre Academy	208	59	18.6	32.2	37.3	10.2	1.7						98.3	100.0
Lady Hawkins' School	66	30		13.3	13.3	26.7	30.0	6.7	6.7	3.3			53.3	100.0
Queen Elizabeth Humanities College	63	62	3.2	3.2	12.9	9.7	17.7	17.7	19.4	11.3	4.8		29.0	95.2
Robert Owen Academy	29	24				12.5	12.5	16.7	20.8	8.3	29.2		12.5	70.8
St Mary's RC High School	146	145	7.6	21.4	21.4	21.4	12.4	4.8	7.6	1.4	2.1		71.7	97.9
The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School	229	217	7.4	16.6	19.8	24.9	9.7	11.5	4.6	2.8	2.3	0.5	68.7	97.2
The Hereford Academy	138	47			10.6	40.4	36.2	10.6	2.1				51.1	100.0
Weobley High School	99	61	13.1	36.1	34.4	9.8	4.9	1.6					93.4	100.0
Whitecross Hereford	180	11	18.2	18.2	36.4	27.3							100.0	100.0
Wigmore School	94	19	36.8	26.3	15.8	21.1							100.0	100.0

Aylestone
Kingstone High
Fairfield High School

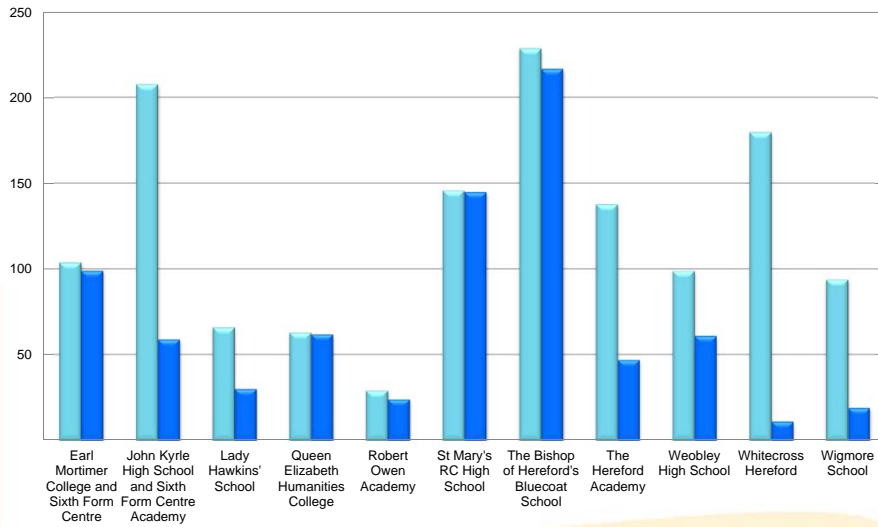
covering the statutory duty to teach within Humanities but they do not take GCSE RE



% achieving A\*-C GCSE Religious Studies



### NOR v NOE GCSE Religious Studies



Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: ELQ Band C (342)

QAN: 60007126 AQA Entry Level Certificate in Religious Studies		NOR	NOE	1	2	3	U	X	Avg Pts
Est. No.	Centre								
-	National (All Schools)	611079	1474	5.2	32.0	55.0	1.5	6.3	
-	National (State Funded)	553218	1349	5.0	32.2	56.5	1.4	4.9	
-	LA (State Funded)	1861	11		72.7	27.3			
4045	Weobley High School	99	11		72.7	27.3			

QAN: 60046818 Pearson Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in Religious		NOR	NOE	1	2	3	U	X	Avg Pts
Est. No.	Centre								
-	National (All Schools)	611079	1490	4.2	23.1	67.9	0.4	4.4	
-	National (State Funded)	553218	1478	4.3	23.2	67.9	0.4	4.3	
-	LA (State Funded)	1861	6	16.7	50.0	33.3			
4014	Whitecross Hereford	180	6	16.7	50.0	33.3			



KS4 Grade Summary by Subject (beta)



Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE Short Course (320)

AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Religious Studies B (Short Course)													
Centre	NOR	NOE	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	X	Avg Pts
National (All Schools)	611079	21327	6.6	12.3	18.6	19.1	13.2	10.8	7.8	5.3	4.8	1.5	
National (State Funded)	553218	20141	5.7	11.8	18.6	19.6	13.7	11.2	8.0	5.4	4.8	1.3	
LA (State Funded)	1861	24				29.2	29.2	25.0	12.5	4.2			
Weobley High School	99	24				29.2	29.2	25.0	12.5	4.2			

Pearson EDEXCEL Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Religious Studies (Short Course)													
Centre	NOR	NOE	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	X	Avg Pts
National (All Schools)	611079	25273	7.6	8.6	15.9	16.2	17.5	13.9	9.1	5.8	4.0	1.4	
National (State Funded)	553218	23805	6.4	7.8	15.5	16.4	18.1	14.5	9.5	6.1	4.2	1.4	
LA (State Funded)	1861	156	3.8	3.8	20.5	17.3	25.0	18.6	5.8	1.3	3.8		
John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre Academy	208	136	2.2	2.9	19.1	18.4	26.5	19.1	5.9	1.5	4.4		
Whitecross Hereford	180	20	15.0	10.0	30.0	10.0	15.0	15.0	5.0				

WJEC Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Religious Studies B (Short Course)													
Centre	NOR	NOE	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	X	Avg Pts
National (All Schools)	611079	6504	5.0	9.1	16.4	20.8	13.8	12.2	9.5	7.2	3.7	2.3	
National (State Funded)	553218	6346	4.9	8.8	16.2	21.1	14.1	12.5	9.7	7.2	3.7	2.1	
LA (State Funded)	1861	20			5.0	80.0	10.0		5.0				
The Hereford Academy	138	20			5.0	80.0	10.0		5.0				



## Summary

- Herefordshire A\*-C in GCSE full course religious education is below national average
- Herefordshire A\*-G in GCSE full course religious education is broadly in line with the national average
- Few schools score higher than national at A\* in GCSE full course religious education
- Some schools enter relatively few pupils for the examination in GCSE full course religious education
- Some schools do not enter pupils for a qualification in religious education







<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>18 March 2016</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>SACRE BUDGET 2016/17</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>SACRE Lead Officer, Head of Learning and Achievement</b>

## Classification

Open

## Key Decision

This is not an executive decision.

## Wards Affected

Countywide

## Purpose

To note the budget for SACRE for 2016/17.

## Recommendation

**THAT: the SACRE budget for 2016/17 be noted.**

## Alternative options

1 There are no alternative options.

## Reasons for recommendations

2 To note the budget for 2016/17.

## Key considerations

3 Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 requires Herefordshire Council to establish a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), to advise them on matters concerned with the provision of religious education and collective worship in county Schools. The budget allocated for this activity for 2016/17 is £5k.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
David Penrose on Tel (01432) 383690

## **Equality duty**

4 SACRE should pay due regard to its public sector equality duty

## **Financial implications**

5 There are no financial implications.

## **Legal implications**

6 There are no legal implications.

## **Risk management**

7 There are no risks associated with this report.

## **Consultees**

8 None.

## **Appendices**

- None.

## **Background papers**

- None identified.



<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>18 March 2016</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES 2016/17</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>RE Consultant – RE Today</b>

## Classification

Open

## Key Decision

This is not an executive decision.

## Wards Affected

Countywide

## Purpose

To receive a report on opportunities for professional development in 2016 and 2017.

## Recommendation

THAT:

- (a) the report be noted.

## Alternative options

- 1 There are no alternative options as the broad role of SACRE is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and collective worship in schools.

## Reasons for recommendations

- 2 To provide SACRE with up to date information on opportunities for professional development in 2016 and 2017.

## Key considerations

- 3 SACRE decided at its meeting on 20 November 2015 to support, within the

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
David Penrose on Tel (01432) 383690

constraints of the available budget, on-going continuing professional development (CPD) training for schools and in particular to support the implementation of its revised agreed syllabus, the production of which is a statutory duty for Herefordshire Council. The theme, focus and content of the CPD are discussed by SACRE, but the setting up, running and delivery of the CPD is undertaken by RE Today Services on behalf of SACRE. This report will enable SACRE to ensure that the quality and focus of CPD suits Herefordshire schools and reflects current local needs and national developments. This is not a change from the current situation, but feedback from previous CPD shows how highly Herefordshire schools value the CPD provided by SACRE via RE Today and how much this supports and improves local RE in schools. Failure to provide these CPD opportunities would limit development of quality RE.

## **Community impact**

- 4 Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 requires Herefordshire Council to establish a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), to advise them on matters concerned with the provision of religious education and collective worship in county Schools.

## **Equality duty**

- 5 SACRE should pay due regard to its public sector equality duty.

## **Financial implications**

- 6 There are no financial implications.

## **Legal implications**

- 7 There are no legal implications.

## **Risk management**

- 8 There are no risks associated with this report.

## **Consultees**

- 9 None.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Professional Development Opportunities for 2016/17.

## **Background papers**

- None identified.

## **SACRE Item 6: Plans for professional development 2016-2017**

### **June 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 Primary RE Conference**

Venue to be confirmed (hopefully Whitecross School)

Building on launch of agreed syllabus in 2015

The day will have a practical focus, with sessions exploring excellent teaching and learning. A 'Speaker's Corner' session to include teachers and SACRE faith representatives.

Cost is £100 per school or £175 if two people from the same school attend. All resources downloadable from RE Today website after the event.

This event is a repeat of a Worcestershire SACRE event on June 7<sup>th</sup>. As both LAs have the same syllabus, teachers can cross the border, as suits their location and availability. Both dates are being advertised to all schools in both counties.

### **June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016 Secondary RE Conference**

Venue: Bank Hotel, Bransford.

This is a joint conference with Herefordshire and Gloucestershire secondary schools, building on the launch of the agreed syllabus in 2015.

Practical sessions, focusing on deeper learning, teaching Christianity, and SOLO taxonomy. A 'teach meet' session allows teachers to contribute some of their own ideas.

Cost is £100 per school or £175 if two people from the same school attend. All resources downloadable from RE Today website after the event.

### **October 11<sup>th</sup> 2016 Special RE day**

This day is for all special schools in the Three Counties, plus South Gloucestershire and Bristol. We have booked Anne Krisman again – specialist RE teacher in an Essex special school. This is the third special RE day we have held, and they have been very well received, offering a rare opportunity for special school RE subject leaders to meet together and receive training from an expert.

Venue is likely to be Puckrup Hall Hotel.

Cost likely to be £100 per delegate.

### **Autumn 2016 RE and Citizenship**

We can offer a day on RE and Citizenship. Details to be discussed at the meeting.





<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>18 March 2016</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>UPDATE ON RE COMMUNITY NEWS</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>RE Consultant – RE Today</b>

## Classification

Open

## Key Decision

This is not an executive decision.

## Wards Affected

Countywide

## Purpose

To receive an update on recent national reports and RE initiatives and their implications for the teaching of religious education in Herefordshire schools.

## Recommendation

**THAT:**

- (a) **Subject to any comments from SACRE, the report be noted.**

## Alternative options

- 1 There are no alternative options as the broad role of SACRE is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and collective worship in schools.

## Reasons for recommendations

- 2 To provide SACRE with up to date information on recent national reports and RE initiatives and their implications for the teaching of religious education in Herefordshire schools.

## **Key considerations**

- 3 Updating SACRE meetings on local and national initiatives is a standing item on agendas for SACRE. The adviser to SACRE outlines headlines for discussion in order to decide whether there are implications for local schools. This report will inform decisions about the content of future continuing professional development (CPD) for RE teachers in the county. The benefits are that RE in Herefordshire schools takes note of new curriculum or assessment models and draws on best practice. If SACRE neglected to note these national developments, the quality of RE provision could potentially be reduced. SACRE's advice can affect the content and focus of future CPD, improving its relevance and usefulness. There are no immediate procurement, ICT, HR or communications issues arising from this, unless SACRE decide that the only way progress can be made is through increasing the funding to enable more CPD opportunities for schools.

## **Community impact**

- 4 Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 requires Herefordshire Council to establish a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), to advise them on matters concerned with the provision of religious education and collective worship in county Schools.

## **Equality duty**

- 5 SACRE should pay due regard to its public sector equality duty

## **Financial implications**

- 6 There are no financial implications.

## **Legal implications**

- 7 There are no legal implications.

## **Risk management**

- 8 There are no risks associated with this report.

## **Consultees**

- 9 None.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 - New initiatives in RE: Report update for Herefordshire SACRE.
- Appendix 2 – RE Quality Mark: Recognising outstanding learning in religious education.

## **Background papers**

- None identified.



## New initiatives in RE: Report update for Herefordshire SACRE

- 1 The National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) are running a survey of RE in primary schools. All schools are encouraged to fill in the survey, which provides valuable data for supporting RE in discussions with the Department of Education (DfE) and other parties. The survey is open until the end of March and can be found at:  
<http://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/2016-natre-primary-survey/>
- 2 The results of the NATRE annual secondary RE survey are now available and may be found at:  
<http://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/Additional%20Documents/NATRE%20EBacc%20Survey%202015%20v1%202%20060116%20FINAL.pdf>

key findings include:

- a) The Provision of RE, where 90% of schools responding to the survey meet their legal requirement for RE at KS3. 30% of community schools and 40% of academies without a religious character do not meet their legal or contractual requirements for RE.
- b) The GCSE full course was very popular with schools who responded. Only 7% of schools reported that they will make no entries for the Full Course in 2015. There has been a rapid decline in entries to the GCSE short course, with 61% of the schools that responded stating that they will have no entries in 2015.
- c) More schools are offering GCSE Religious Studies courses over three years instead of two: 42% of schools compared with 25% in 2012. The two-year model is still dominant (57.7% of entries). Almost a third of the schools in the survey now attempt to deliver this course over less than the recommended teaching time.
- d) 68.5% of the schools that responded reported that they had received no subject specific training in school in the last academic year. 43.8% reported that they had attended no training outside of school and just over 16% reported that they had attended two days of training outside of school. In 38% of schools more than one in five, and in 52% of schools more than one in ten RE lessons are delivered by teachers whose main time is spent in another curriculum area.

### 3 Three major reports have emerged in the last 12 months:

[A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools](#) by Linda Woodhead and Charles Clarke

The report explores the current situation for RE and collective worship. It strongly supports the place of RE in schools. It makes recommendations about its content and the mechanism for developing and supporting RE, calling for a national RE curriculum, devised by a National SACRE. The report also looks at collective worship and what it calls 'faith schools'. Report available here: <http://faithdebates.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/A-New-Settlement-for-Religion-and-Belief-in-schools.pdf>

[Living with Difference](#), the report of the *Commission on Religion and Belief in Public Life*. This celebrates the role that religious education plays in preparing pupils for life in 'modern Britain'. It calls for religious education to be accorded the same status as other humanities subjects, and for consideration for it to be included within the English Baccalaureate. The report sees RE as the "best and earliest chance of breaking down ignorance and developing individuals who will be receptive of the other, and ask difficult questions without fear of offending". It recognises that good RE is "vital ... for a fairer, more cohesive society".

Full report available here:

<http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/uploads/Living%20with%20Difference.pdf>

***RE for Real***: Report on RE in secondary schools from the Faiths & Civil Society Unit at Goldsmiths, University of London release a major new report on RE in secondary schools. The report highlights broad support for RE from students, parents, and employers. It calls for RE that reflects the real religious landscape, drawing on 'cutting edge theory and data in the study of contemporary religion and belief'. It calls for a National Framework for Religion and Belief Learning to establish appropriate content.

The students in the study stated that 'learning about religion and belief is becoming more and more relevant' and almost all of them stated that RE allowed to them to 'engage positively with diversity'.

#### **4 Religious Studies GCSE Judicial Review 2015**

A High Court ruling was made on the place of non-religious worldviews in the context of the new GCSE Religious Studies criteria, making it clear that the teaching of RE at KS4 in schools without a religious character must take account of both religious and non-religious worldviews.

There are implications for agreed syllabuses too. The Judgment was on the statement that the DfE criteria makes that following a GCSE course would fulfil the legal requirement for RE. Three families of Humanist teenagers challenged this, given the exclusion of Humanism from the GCSE criteria as a separate focus of study alongside the big six religions. The judgment says that GCSE RS *may* fulfil the legal requirement for RE, but does not necessarily do so.

The judgment points out that the state has a duty to take care that information or knowledge included in the curriculum is conveyed in a pluralistic manner. It says that, subject to certain threshold requirements, the state must accord equal respect to different religious convictions, and to non-religious beliefs. The state is not entitled to discriminate between religions and beliefs on a qualitative basis and its duties must be performed from a standpoint of neutrality and impartiality. However, it also points out that this does not require 'equal air-time to be given to all shades of belief or conviction'.

The full implications are not yet settled, but this issue will need to be considered in revisions/updates to local agreed syllabus.

Full judgment available here: <http://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/R-Fox-v-SSfE-2015-EWHC-3404-Admin-251115.pdf>

#### **5 Good news for RE ITE recruitment**

The number of people applying to train as RE teachers in England and Wales has soared in the first few months of the 2015/16 recruitment cycle, far outperforming applications in other subjects as a whole.

Applications are up over 30 per cent compared with the same time last year, according to the University and College Admissions Service (UCAS), while overall applications for all secondary subjects combined are down by just under 1 per cent.

The UCAS figures also reveal that the number of applicants who have been offered a conditional place has more than doubled from 80 by January 2015 to 170 at the same point this year.

The surge in applications follows the launch last year of a campaign by the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC) to encourage graduates and career changers to train as RE teachers. The Beyond the Ordinary campaign was initiated in March last year, highlighting the stimulating and rewarding nature of RE teaching, as well as the availability of tax-free bursaries to cover training costs. The campaign has included a promotional video, direct mail campaigns, social media promotions and media partnerships.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4696031.ece>

## **6. RE Quality Mark**

Westhill Funding is available to support Herefordshire schools applying for the RE Quality Mark. Details on next page; more details available from [stephen@retoday.org.uk](mailto:stephen@retoday.org.uk) .

Stephen Pett  
RE Today  
Adviser to Herefordshire SACRE  
February 2016





# Recognising outstanding learning in religious education

## What is the RE Quality Mark?

The RE Quality Mark:

- ★ has been developed to celebrate high quality religious education
- ★ provides community schools, faith schools and academies with a framework to capture good practice
- ★ encourages the development and celebration of school wide commitment to excellent teaching and learning in religious education



## How does the RE Quality Mark work?

The REQM has five strands:

- ★ Learners and Learning
- ★ Teachers and Teaching
- ★ Curriculum
- ★ Subject Leadership
- ★ Continuing Professional Development

There are three award levels: bronze, silver and gold.

Schools applying for the REQM highlight where they think they meet the criteria. After applying for the REQM an assessor will visit the school, interview learners and meet the subject leader and a member of the senior leadership team.

There is generous funding from the Westhill Trust for small schools (150 pupils or fewer) and for those which were RI or in a category at the last inspection. Schools are eligible if they are in one of the following dioceses: Birmingham, Coventry, Hereford, Lichfield (including Shrewsbury, Stafford and Wolverhampton) and Worcester.

**Westhill**  
make things happen

## What do I do next?

[www.reqm.org](http://www.reqm.org)

- ★ Visit the website and explore the criteria: [www.reqm.org](http://www.reqm.org)
- ★ If you think your school could achieve the award, email [admin@reqm.org](mailto:admin@reqm.org) to find out more.
- ★ The cost of REQM is £475 per school.

**RE**  
Quality Mark





<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>18 March 2016</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 2016</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>The Chairman, SACRE</b>

## Classification

Open

## Key Decision

This is not an executive decision.

## Wards Affected

Countywide

## Purpose

To consider invitations to the celebration of the United Nations International Day of Peace 2016 to be held in Hereford Cathedral in September 2016.

## Recommendation

**THAT:**

- (a) **suggestions for individuals to be invited to the Day of Peace be provided by members of SACRE.**

## Alternative options

- 1 That SACRE does not involve itself in the organisation of the Day of Peace celebrations, and that invitations to the event are left to the Herefordshire Interfaith Group.

## Reasons for recommendations

- 2 To consider the invitation of dignitaries and faith representatives to the celebration of the United Nations International Day of Peace 2016 to be held in Hereford Cathedral in September 2016.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
David Penrose on Tel (01432) 383690

## **Key considerations**

- 3 The International Day of Peace (“Peace Day”) is observed around the world each year on 21 September. Established in 1981 by resolution 36/37, the United Nations General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.
- 4 Hereford Cathedral hosted its first Peace Day Service on 20 September 2015. The service was organised by the newly formed Herefordshire Interfaith Group and opened by the Canon Chancellor of Hereford Cathedral and the Venerable Tenzin Choesang.

## **Community impact**

- 5 Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 requires Herefordshire Council to establish a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), to advise them on matters concerned with the provision of religious education and collective worship in county Schools.

## **Equality duty**

- 6 SACRE should pay due regard to its public sector equality duty

## **Financial implications**

- 7 There are no financial implications.

## **Legal implications**

- 8 There are no legal implications.

## **Risk management**

- 9 There are no risks associated with this report.

## **Consultees**

- 10 None.

## **Appendices**

- None.

## **Background papers**

- None identified.