

AGENDA

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: **Friday 18 November 2016**

Time: **2.00 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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If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format, please call John Coleman, Democratic Services Manager on 01432 260382 or e-mail john.coleman@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 McEvilly

Mrs. C. Ault
Mrs L Barker
Mrs S Bryant
Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins
Venerable Tsultrim Tenzin Choesang
Mrs A. Daniel
Mrs Gurmit Jutle
Mrs K Mayglothling
Anna Nugent

Sr. D. O'Donnell
Miss Allyson Taylor
Hannah Tong
Mrs M Williams
Ms C Wolfe

Bahai faith
Secondary School Teachers
Church of England
Co-opted member
Buddhist
Primary School Teachers
Sikh Faith
Co-opted Member
County Ecumenical Officer,
Herefordshire
Roman Catholic Church
Co-opted Member
Barrs Court School
The Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat School
Jewish Faith

Non-Voting

Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins
Mrs K Mayglothling
Hannah Tong
Miss Allyson Taylor

Co-opted member
Co-opted Member
Barrs Court School
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 18 March 2016.	7 - 10
4. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY) To answer any pre-received written questions from members of the public.	
5. PLANS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2017 To review the feedback from the 2016 conferences and to consider arrangements for the 2017 conferences and other training events as well as considering the most effective way to monitor the impact of the agreed syllabus.	11 - 16
6. DRAFT SACRE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR SEPTEMBER 2015 TO JULY 2016 To comment on the draft SACRE Annual report for the academic year September 2015 to July 2016.	17 - 22
7. RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR 2016 To receive a verbal update from the head of learning and achievement on the Religious Studies examination results for 2016.	
8. UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 2016 To receive a verbal report from the Venerable Tsultrim Tenzin Choesang on the Service held in Hereford Cathedral on 25 September 2016 to mark the UN International Day of Peace.	
9. UPDATE ON ANY NEW INITIATIVES IN RE To consider a report on recent national initiatives and their implications for the teaching of religious education in Herefordshire schools.	23 - 26
10. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS To note that the next SACRE meeting will be held at 2.00pm at the Shire Hall, Hereford on Friday 17 March 2017.	

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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 18 March 2016 at 2.00 pm

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

Councillors: Carolyn Ault, Linda Barker, Venerable Tsultrim Tenzin Choesang, EPJ Harvey, MT McEvilly, Anna Nugent, Sr. Denise O'Donnell, Miss A Taylor, Hannah Tong and Michelle Williams

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Angela Daniel and Kate Mayglothing.

21. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)

None.

22. MINUTES

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

23. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

None.

24. RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR 2015

SACRE received a presentation on the religious studies results for 2015 from the lead officer.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

25. 2016/17 SACRE BUDGET UPDATE

SACRE noted that the budget for 2016/17 would be £5,000. The budget had remained unchanged from the previous year.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

26. PLANS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2016/17

SACRE noted a report on plans for professional development in 2016. During the discussion, the following points were made:

- That the 2016 primary school RE Conference would be held at Whitecross School on the 8th June, and would build on the launch of the agreed syllabus for RE in 2015. The day would follow one held in Worcester on the 7th, and as the counties had the same syllabus, schools should be able to attend one or other of the events.
- The secondary school conference would be held, in association with Worcestershire, at the Bank Hotel, Bransford.
- That there might be scope for doing a session on British values at the conferences in 2017. The initial meeting to plan the conference would be held at Whitecross on the 1 July, and the matter would be discussed at that meeting.
- It was agreed that there should be a strategy group meeting in July. Members who volunteered to join the group included Mrs Ault, Mrs Barker, Councillor EPH Harvey, The Venerable Tsultrim Tenzin Choesang and Mrs Williams.

Resolved:

a) That the report be noted; and;

b) The strategy group would meet on a date in July, yet to be agreed, at Whitecross School

27. UPDATE ON ANY NEW INITIATIVES IN RE

SACRE noted a report on new initiatives in RE.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

28. UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 2016

SACRE noted a report on the United Nations International Day of Peace. During the ensuing discussion the following points were made:

- That the celebrations for International Woman's Day had been very successful, and it was possible that the event would be run in the future as a charity in its own right, rather than under the aegis of the Herefordshire Interfaith Group.
- This year, the Peace Day Service would be held on the 25th September at 5.30pm.
- SACRE was asked to suggest individuals to be invited to the event.

- It was envisaged that there would be a One World Week in 2017 in place of the Peace Day service.

Resolved: That the report be noted

29. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

It was noted that the dates of future meetings were the 18 November 2016 and the 17 March 2017. Both meetings would be held in Committee Room 1, the Shire Hall, Hereford.

The meeting ended at 3.45 pm

CHAIRMAN

Worcestershire and Herefordshire SACRE Primary RE Conference 2016
7th June Worcester Racecourse: EVALUATIONS
40 delegates; 34 forms returned

	excellent	good	satisfactory
Session 1 Thoughtful, knowledgeable RE Stephen Pett (33 responses)	88%	12%	
Workshop A Teaching Christianity, Islam and Judaism with 4-7s Fiona Moss (17)	88%	12%	
Workshop B Teaching religions through texts and stories Stephen Pett (17)	76%	24%	
Speakers' corner Tracy Lister, Jo Smith, Sarah Pearson (28)	82%	18%	
Final session: Create, talk, sing! Fiona Moss (30)	80%	20%	
Venue: how do you rate it? (34)	65%	35%	
Overall value of the conference (34)	85%	15%	

Further comments (Representative sample)

- A fantastic course – great to hear ideas for lessons and share my own. Inspiring. Reassuring for things we already do in school. Motivating for next steps. Thank you.
- Wonderful to have the opportunity to be given lots of ideas to make the syllabus come to life.
- Always good practical ideas, many of which I will use and always great to meet other RE teachers and share ideas.
- It was a very quick day, full of engaging teaching ideas. Can't wait to have a go.
- Lots of ideas I can take back into school and implement in my own teaching. Good to talk to colleagues about their own practice.
- Super ideas of activities to use practically to engage and challenge the children. Thank you very much.
- Excellent ideas that are easy to implement and transfer to different stories/religions.
- Really good to have publications to look through and buy. Loved listening to people from other schools to share ideas – would have loved handouts from them.
- This is the 3d I have been to and the best by far. The speakers' corner was especially useful, as I think network groups would provide the same practical advice if they were available. It was a friendlier (smaller?) event this year and less theoretical. Lots of great ideas to use – playdough! Film clips using 5 senses to make poems; draw the story etc.(Herefordshire)
- Very interesting and great ideas, advice and guidance for teaching RE.
- Love the practical activities – very engaging for us. Like ow the activities are cross-referenced to the syllabus. Lots of good ideas to use back in school.
- A really good day. I have lots of ideas to take back and will try to implement them, A practical engaging and fun day.
- Enjoyable to meet with other teachers and discuss RE and school life in general. Like lots of the ideas and strategies suggested across all sessions, but especially during the speakers' corner. Important to maintain the profile of RE.
- Great to be able to see/hear in comfort. Very engaging mix of look, listen, discuss, do, reflect. Very useful lesson suggestions which tie in with AS and provide high quality learning opportunities. Specifically like 'text & stories' ideas which can be applied to different situations, not just 'one off' ideas.
- As a new coordinator the course was highly beneficial. Great resources and ideas.
- Speakers' Corner was really useful – thanks to all who presented.
- The sharing of good practice was brilliant but far too short. More time would have been nice.
- A valuable course – really enjoyed the Workshop A, some great ideas to use in the classroom.

Actions you will take to follow up from this conference (Representative sample)

- Further training for staff – check their understanding of various religions. Incorporate super creative ideas more.
- Share with colleagues who teach RE. Use ideas to become more creative.
Will purchase Christmas book to help to develop understanding of this Christian festival over year groups – have been searching for ideas. Will use some of these activities in units.
- Feed back to staff in PDM. Implement some of the practical ideas in my teaching.
- Have RE inset next year.
- Teacher training day showing staff teaching ideas and exploring units of work. Introducing big question songs.
- Draw up whole school overview; relay back to staff; ask to purchase books/get whole-school TED course.
- The poetry formation from the first session will be repeated for my next lesson observation!
- Transfer all info and ideas to incoming RE teacher; share ideas for cross-curricular links with all staff.
- Immediate links to SOW with ideas from today – add to year group folders and put on network; plan carefully resources needed for next year and order now; plan how to share key ideas, esp related to SMSC; sort Christmas and Easter!
- Deliver a staff meeting to share ideas and evaluate how the syllabus has been taught over the year.
- Enter NATRE art competition; download resources and organise.

Suggestions/requests for future support in Worcestershire and Herefordshire? (Representative sample)

- School links – possible links with a school with high ethnicity/inner city. We are an eco, semi-rural small school with 3 pupils who are not white British.
- Multi-faith days.
- Lists/pool of multi-faith/non-religious visitors to schools to be interviewed.
- List of suitable places of worship for children to visit for Hinduism, Islam and Judaism
- Do we have a database of speakers from a range of faiths who would be willing to come into schools?
- Links for school visits and visitors; matching of schools.
- Opportunity for teachers to exchange ideas/worksheets/own powerpoints
- Worcs booklet with addresses and phone numbers of places of worship and a bank of visitors from different faiths who could visit?
- More support needed to work on child-friendly 'I can' statement addressing the skills of RE with a view to inserting them into the front of books for assessment purposes. End of KS statements could be broken down, I feel.
- Would there be a possibility of a loan service for resources/artefacts? Perhaps a forum/website to share ideas/lessons?
- More discussion about assessment
- Keep this Agreed Syllabus – don't change it on 2020! Too many changes – let's embed this and get great quality RE rather than more organising and shuffling of paper and creating yet another long term plan.
- Continue link with RE Today – an efficient way of resourcing RE with material written by hands-on experts, unlike much on the web.
- More support for effective assessments in RE – to keep work minimal for already busy teachers.
- Ideas for visits to places of worship; successful workshops to provide first-hand experience of different religions; continued CPD opportunities
- Early years RE resources for new curriculum
- Meetings with other RE co-ordinators or teachers – EY to Y6

**Herefordshire and Worcestershire SACRE Secondary RE Conference 2016
EVALUATIONS
8 teachers; 6 forms returned**

	excellent	good	satisfactory
Session 1 Deeper learning in RE Stephen Pett	100%		
Session 2 SOLO taxonomy Joanne Harries	100%		
Session 3: TeachMeet	100%		
Session 4 Teaching Christianity Stephen Pett	100%		
Venue: how do you rate it?	100%		
Overall value of the conference	100%		
Further comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brilliant and inspiring • Really great support – thank you so much! • Although a small group, a quality day, full of ideas • Excellent and valuable day • Very informative and a welcoming atmosphere. Some inspirational resources and ideas were shared. As a non-specialist I felt at ease and encouraged to begin planning. • Amazing fabulous ideas 			
Actions you will take to follow up from this conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-evaluate some units so refresh with even better • Will use as much SOLO taxonomy as possible! Great ideas for teaching Christianity. • SOLO taxonomy – introduction of ideas into dept with the plan to engage the rest of the school? • We need to update our KS3 curriculum so this has provided me with lots of new and exciting ideas to being with. • Consider SOLO taxonomy and implementation in Wigmore HS. Purchase some RE Today resources. Consider Understanding Christianity resources. 			
Suggestions/requests for future support in Herefordshire/Worcestershire? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As many meetings/catch-ups as possible • Meetings to network, esp about new GCSE 			
Comments on how the Agreed Syllabus is working in your school: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapted well – trying to juggle PSHE element within new Ethics curriculum whilst supporting new RS GCSE • Slow, steady progress! • Made a good start – more to do! 			
Name / school / email			

Special RE with purpose: October 2016
EVALUATIONS: 17 delegates; 14 evaluation forms completed

	excellent	good	satisfactory
1. Planning RE	50%	43%	7% (1)
2. Core knowledge	50%	43%	7%
3. TeachMeet	36%	57%	7%
4. Singing bowls	43%	50%	7%
5. British Values & SMSC	43%	50%	7%
Venue: how do you rate it?	36%	43%	21%
Overall value of the conference	36%	57%	7%

Further comments

- A well-balanced and focused course
- Everyone REALLY friendly. Lovely to have a specific SEN day
- Lots of examples given but less about strategies and ideas to take away. Good to network and meet people in other special schools.
- A really nice relaxed day, which provided time to chat with other schools about different strategies/practices used. The different sessions have given me confidence in my planning, resourcing and a next step plan.
- Sharing ideas with other teachers was beneficial
- It has been useful to talk to other teachers who lead RE – swap ideas etc. It’s given me the confidence that what I have planned and developed is ok!
- A good chance to consider RE further and how to make it suitable and relevant to my students.
- The resource ideas were great and inspiring – I would like to see the planning and teaching behind the end result.

Actions you will take to follow up from this conference

- Dissemination of info gained from planning RE. Exploration of use of singing bowls within the school
- More individual-based teaching; focus on key points/themes; use of RE days and RE weeks
- Looking at how to fit 5 Keys approach into the school curriculum; encourage staff to address RE in explicit way
- Getting to the core; being more creative/experiential
- Network with other schools; add to resources; buy singing bowls!
- Network with people from the course. Send a staff survey around to gauge current understanding; plan for multimedia sessions
- Continue to develop the RE curriculum and collective worship. Lead staff twilight session on RE. Network with other RE teachers.
- Talk with the teaching staff as a whole to further promote RE outside of assemblies

Suggestions/requests for future support

- It was fantastic to have a specific focus on special education. It would be good to have more courses like this to allow us as professionals to share ideas. Maybe one of the carousel options at the SACRE conference could focus on special schools.
- Assessment ideas
- Whole-school advice on planning and distribution of topics of learning shared throughout school; time for collaborative key stage planning
- Directory of local visitors who come into schools.
- More courses like this!



MEETING:	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MEETING DATE:	18 November 2016
TITLE OF REPORT:	HEREFORDSHIRE SACRE ANNUAL REPORT – ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/16
REPORT BY:	RE Consultant – RE Today

1. Classification

Open

2. Key Decision

This is not an executive decision

3. Wards Affected

County-wide

4. Purpose

- 4.1 To receive the SACRE Annual Report for the academic year September 2015 to July 2016.

5. Recommendation

THAT: Subject to any comments by SACRE the Annual Report 2015/16 be approved and a copy be forwarded to NASACRE

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – SACRE Annual Report 2014/15

7. Background Papers

None identified.

**Herefordshire
Standing Advisory Council on
Religious Education
(SACRE)**

**Draft SACRE Annual Report for the Academic
Year 2015/16**

1 Herefordshire SACRE Annual Report 2015-2016

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is a statutory body set up to advise the Local Authority on matters related to religious education and collective worship. Its members are drawn from teachers, Local Authority representatives including Councillors, faith representatives from the Church of England and a range of Christian denominations, and representatives from other religious groups represented in the region.

SACRE's key functions include monitoring the provision and quality of RE, and providing advice and support on the effective teaching of RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus. This includes advice on methods of teaching, choice of teaching material and provision of teacher training. This is primarily done through the review and implementation of the locally agreed syllabus, a process which is required every five years. This is followed by on-going monitoring of its effectiveness in the light of changing national education policy.

SACRE is grateful to Herefordshire County Council for its continuing support, but notes that in the current reduction in funding across the Council, SACRE has not been spared. SACRE endeavours to offer maximum support to schools through its use of conferences and network meetings. However, it has had to reduce the number of SACRE meetings from three to two, replacing one with a meeting of a 'strategy group', who undertake to prepare reports or undertake research to move the business of SACRE forward.

Herefordshire SACRE met twice in 2015-2016. The minutes of these meetings are available from Governance Support on councillorservices@herefordshire.gov.uk. Herefordshire SACRE's strategy group met in July 2016.

2 Supporting RE in Herefordshire

The key activities of SACRE over the period 2015-16 have focused on maintaining support for teachers as they implement the revised agreed syllabus for RE, launched in the summer of 2015. 66 teachers from 47 primary schools attended the primary launch; ten teachers from seven secondary schools attended the secondary launch. Copies of the revised Agreed Syllabus were sent to all schools who had not been able to make it to the launch conferences, with an accompanying letter from the School Improvement Adviser.

Worcestershire and Herefordshire SACREs now share the same agreed syllabus, so training that is available for either county is made available to neighbouring schools.

3 SACRE Primary RE Conference 2016

Two conferences were planned, on 7th June 2016 (Worcester Racecourse) and 8th June 2016 (Whitecross School, Hereford). The conferences had the same programme and they were both offered to teachers in both counties. Numbers for the Hereford-based conference were insufficient to allow it to go ahead but the majority of teachers who had booked were able to attend the Worcester-based day.

40 teachers attended overall, although only six of those were from Herefordshire schools. The programme took teachers deeper into the new agreed syllabus and included sessions on teaching Christianity, Islam and Judaism with 4-7s, teaching religions through texts and stories, and creative teaching and learning approaches. These were led by Stephen Pett and Fiona Moss from RE Today. A highly successful part of the conference was the "Speakers' Corner", where three Worcestershire teachers talked about how they had been implementing the new syllabus in their schools, with practical ideas and suggestions.

Overall, 85% of delegates rated the value of the conference as excellent, and 15% as good.

Comments from head teachers and teachers attending included the following representative sample:

- A fantastic course – great to hear ideas for lessons and share my own. Inspiring. Reassuring for things we already do in school. Motivating for next steps. Thank you.
- Wonderful to have the opportunity to be given lots of ideas to make the syllabus come to life.
- Always good practical ideas, many of which I will use and always great to meet other RE teachers and share ideas.
- Super ideas of activities to use practically to engage and challenge the children. Thank you very much.
- Excellent ideas that are easy to implement and transfer to different stories/religions.
- Love the practical activities – very engaging for us. Like how the activities are cross-referenced to the syllabus. Lots of good ideas to use back in school.
- Great to be able to see/hear in comfort. Very engaging mix of look, listen, discuss, do, reflect. Very useful lesson suggestions which tie in with AS and provide high quality learning opportunities. Specifically like ‘text & stories’ ideas which can be applied to different situations, not just ‘one off’ ideas.
- As a new coordinator the course was highly beneficial. Great resources and ideas.
- Speakers’ Corner was really useful – thanks to all who presented.

SACRE Strategy Group discussed the disappointing turnout from Herefordshire schools. This was a significant drop: we have regularly had over 30 Herefordshire teachers attending for a number of years now. Suggestions as to reasons were to do with cost (although £100 for quality CPD is well below the market rate); more effort needed in communicating with schools – e.g. getting a slot at Primary Heads’ Forum, outlining benefits for schools; include information in ‘Spotlight’ bulletin from the LA, and Diocesan newsletter (although they did advertise conference 3 times). Issues about the timing were also raised, but the move from a September conference in 2008 to the summer conferences since 2009 has proved successful. SACRE will work to ensure that the conference in summer 2017 will reach as many Herefordshire schools as possible.

4 Secondary RE Conference: June 2016

A joint conference was held with Worcestershire secondary schools. Numbers were small but the conference ran anyway, and was a great success with all who attended. All sessions were rated ‘excellent’ by all delegates, and the 100% rated the overall value of the conference ‘excellent’. Topics included ‘deeper learning in RE’ and ‘Teaching Christianity’, with Stephen Pett from RE Today; SOLO taxonomy with Joanne Harries, and a session where teachers shared their ideas and resources. Two new heads of department attended and they found the support offered by other delegates extremely helpful. The following comments make clear how teachers found the day:

- Brilliant and inspiring
- Really great support – thank you so much!
- Although a small group, a quality day, full of ideas
- Excellent and valuable day
- Very informative and a welcoming atmosphere. Some inspirational resources and ideas were shared.
- As a non-specialist I felt at ease and encouraged to begin planning.
- Amazing fabulous ideas

SACRE strategy group discussed the low numbers. One significant factor was that there had been an alternative day conference earlier in the year for local heads of RE at South

Bromsgrove High School as part of their teaching school role. If schools are only allowed out on one training day a year (and some have no training), then attending that one would have affected their booking for the SACRE conference. In 2017 the plan is to combine the SACRE conference with South Bromsgrove High School, to maximise numbers and impact through support and cooperation rather than competition.

6 Commentary on exam results summer 2015

[To follow]

7 Quality of teaching in Herefordshire.

SACRE has been unable to monitor quality of teaching in Herefordshire this year. Ways of monitoring will be considered by SACRE in 2016-2017 as part of the monitoring of the impact of the revised agreed syllabus.

8 Future support for RE

On-going support for teachers, developing their ability to plan, using the new agreed syllabus planning steps, and for improving teaching and learning in RE, is planned for 2016-2017, including:

- A day for teachers in local Special Schools took place in October 2016
- Annual SACRE conference for primary teachers, focusing on ideas for teaching and learning, based on the new syllabus, including planning, assessment and deeper learning in four religions, in partnership with Worcestershire SACRE.
- Annual SACRE secondary conference, in partnership with Worcestershire SACRE and South Bromsgrove High School, focusing on supporting teachers in deepening their understanding of Islam, as part of the challenge of teaching the new GCSE specifications, as well as ways of developing assessment and planning for progress, and handling difficult issues surrounding Islamophobia in the classroom.
- School Survey to assess impact and value of revised agreed syllabus.

9 Other matters:

SACRE considered several pertinent issues over the year, including:

- GCSE and A level results
- National reports on RE (*A new settlement: religion and belief in schools*, by Linda Woodhead and Charles Clarke; *RE for Real* from Goldsmiths College; *Living with Difference*, from the Commission on Religion and Belief in Public Life
- The High Court judgment by Justice Warby on the place of non-religious worldviews in the new GCSE Religious Studies criteria and its impact on local RE.

The chairman thanks members of SACRE for their support and Herefordshire RE teachers for their commitment and enthusiasm as they implement the revised agreed syllabus. He also thanks Stephen Pett for all his advice and professional support.

Cllr John Stone
Chair of SACRE
November 2016



MEETING:	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MEETING DATE:	18 November 2016
TITLE OF REPORT:	UPDATE ON RE COMMUNITY NEWS
REPORT BY:	RE Consultant – RE Today

1. Classification

Open

2. Key Decision

This is not an executive decision

3. Wards Affected

County-wide

4. Purpose

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

5. Recommendation

THAT: The report be noted

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Update on RE Community News

7. Background Papers

None identified.

National RE Update; Herefordshire SACRE, November 2016

Understanding Christianity: major new project material launched

A significant resource to support teaching and learning about Christianity was launched on 26 May. For more details, see www.understandingchristianity.org.uk 29 Units of work from EYFS to Y9, providing a coherent approach across the age range and substantial resources. Access is via training – see website for details. Diocese of Hereford is running training for church and community schools.

GCSE Numbers

The key outcomes for Religious Education in England and Wales at KS4 in 2016 are as follows:

- There were 284,057 entries for the full course in GCSE RS, a rise of 0.1% from 2015 (283,756)
- There were 71,299 entries for the short course in GCSE RS, a decline of 17.7% from 2015 (86,679)
- There were 355,356 entries for GCSE RS (combined short and full courses), a decline of 4.1% from 2015 (370,435)
- There were 22.9% fewer entries in England for the short course GCSE in RS than there were in 2015. This represents a continuation of a steep decline in entries for the short course, down from 254,698 in 2010 to just 53,093 in 2016.
- In 2014 there were 1,197 schools making no entries for any RS qualification; a rise from 268 in 2010. This echoes research by NATRE (published in January 2016) that found that 30% of community schools and 40% of academies without a religious character are still failing to meet their legal or contractual agreements to provide religious education for this key age group.
- 29.2% of entries for the full course in GCSE RS were awarded an A or an A*
- 19.2% of entries for the short course in GCSE RS were awarded an A or an A*

<http://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/highest-number-of-entries-for-full-course-gcse-in-religious-studies-since-2002/>

A-level numbers

The key outcomes of the 2016 A level results in England and Wales for Religious Education are as follows:

- 24,966 RS A level entries were recorded, an increase of 6.8% on 2015 and more than double the number in 2003 (11,132 entries were recorded in 2003)
- The number of entries for RS A level has increased by 124% since 2003, more than for any arts, humanity or social science subject (the nearest subject is Economics with an increase of 69%). Among all subjects, only Further Maths has seen more rapid growth than RS
- 3% of entries for RS A level were awarded an A or an A*
- There were 35,808 entries for RS at AS level, a decrease of 2% on 2015, a far smaller fall than across all subjects where the drop was 14.1%, and still more than double the number in 2003 (15,482 entries were recorded in 2003)

<http://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/entries-for-religious-studies-a-level-rising-faster-than-for-any-other-arts-humanity-or-social-science-1/>

Religious Studies examinations update

All GCSE and A level specification were accredited for starting teaching in September 2016. The teaching of two religions at GCSE is challenging some RE teachers.

RE Council for England and Wales: Commission on Religious Education

The RE Council are proceeding with their commission on RE. The commission's purpose is to review the legal, education and policy frameworks for RE, by a wide-ranging, inclusive and evidence-based process designed to inform policy makers about these areas.

The ultimate aim will be to improve the quality and rigour of religious education and its capacity to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain. The timeline looks to have a midway report next summer and a final report in summer 2018. The Commissioners will look at a wide range of evidence and explore key questions of concern in RE, including the nature, purpose and scope of RE, legal structures, teaching and learning, ITT, CPD, right of withdrawal etc.

The Commission has appointed its commissioners and Project Manager (Jon Reynolds). It is beginning the process of following its remit, which is:

- To consider the nature, purposes, and scope of religious education.
- To identify the enabling factors that currently promote high quality RE, and the barriers that currently limit it.
- To identify what changes are needed to ensure the highest quality provision of RE.
- To ensure that recommendations focus on realistic and specific proposals aimed at both immediate and long-term implementation in the context of continuing educational reform.

<http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/commission-on-re/news/2016-07-08/commission-on-re-press-release>

New2RE: 3 years of funded support and training for secondary NQTs

NATRE and RE Today, supported by a number of trusts, are into the third year of their New2RE programme. 25 RE NQTs have three years of support, including a mentor over three years and access to a residential conference in the summer term. Cohorts 1 and 2 are well into their RE careers. Cohort 3 has just begun.

<http://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/Course%20and%20Event%20Flyers/New2RE%20flyer%202016%20FINAL.pdf>

New report on religious literacy

The All-Party Parliamentary Group enquiry into Religious Literacy is another report calling for greater support for RE in schools. <http://nasacre.org.uk/file/nasacre/1-971-appg-on-re-improving-religious-literacy-full-report.pdf> <http://nasacre.org.uk/useful-documents>

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November 2016