

PROVISION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS 2010-2011

Report By: Lead Officer for SACRE

Purpose

1. To report the findings following the School Improvement Partnership (SIP) survey into 'Schools provision for RE'.

Report

Primary schools

2. The response to the survey conducted by school improvement partners was small representing 27 out of 82 primary schools. All schools use the Agreed Syllabus as the base for planning schemes of work except in schools that use the syllabus of the RC Archdiocese.
3. Half of the schools responding (13) judge that the RE curriculum and teaching in their school is outstanding. A recent SIAS or Ofsted inspection had confirmed this view in most of these schools. A further 25% judge that the RE curriculum and teaching in their school is good. No school expressed concern about the quality of provision of RE.
4. In more than half the schools non specialists, usually the class teachers, deliver RE lessons and in some cases the quality of their teaching is outstanding.
5. The support of a headteacher or effective and enthusiastic co-ordinator committed to RE appears to be a factor in promoting good provision and teaching.
6. The take up of training and networking opportunities varies. One school identified a wish for support in teaching mixed age classes.

Secondary schools

7. Just over half the schools responded to the SIP survey, 8 out of 13. All schools responding use the Agreed Syllabus as the base for planning schemes of work except St Mary's where the syllabus of the RC Archdiocese is used.
8. Some high schools have more than one specialist RE teacher. Only one school does not have a degree level specialist teacher but their RE co-ordinator is highly committed and engaged in training opportunities. All schools responding judge the quality of teaching and learning to be at least good and in several cases outstanding.
9. The great majority of schools teach and enter all students for GCSE accreditation in religious studies. Attainment is generally above national averages.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT SACRE note the report and comment upon the result of the survey.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.