

Meeting:	Standing advisory council for religious education (SACRE)
Meeting date:	Friday 23 October 2020
Title of report:	Draft SACRE Annual Report for the Academic Year September 2019 – July 2020
Report by:	RE Consultant

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose and summary

To approve the draft SACRE Annual Report for the academic year September 2019 to July 2020. The report covers those areas of work undertaken by SACRE during the year including the Religious Education (RE) conferences for primary and secondary schools.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- (a) subject to any comments by SACRE, the SACRE Annual Report 2019/20 be approved: and**
- (b) the clerk to SACRE be authorised to finalise the document to take account of any comments by SACRE and final proof reading, and to publish/circulate the report as necessary.**

Alternative options

1. The broad role of SACRE is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and collective worship in schools. This report enables SACRE to fulfil this role therefore no alternative options are proposed.

Key considerations

2. There is a duty for SACRE to publish an annual report, ideally by the 31st December each calendar year but if necessary in the following calendar year. The report must be sent to the Secretary of State for Education as well as to key partners, including schools, teacher training institutions, libraries and councillors including the cabinet member for Children and Families.
3. The annual report should report on the work of SACRE and actions taken by its representative groups, specifying any matters on which it has advised the LA, broadly describe the nature of that advice, and set out reasons for offering advice on matters not referred to it by the LA (Section 391(6) and (7), Education Act 1996).

Community impact

4. In accordance with the adopted code of corporate governance, Herefordshire Council must ensure that those making decisions and delivering services are accountable for them. To support effective accountability the council is committed to reporting on actions completed and outcomes achieved, and ensuring stakeholders are able to understand and respond as the council plans and carries out its activities in a transparent manner. The provision of an annual report assists in maintaining transparency and an understanding of where the focus for improvement should be.

Equality duty

5. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
6. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires the council to consider how it can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations and demonstrate that 'due regard' is paid during decision making concerning the design of policies and the delivery of services. The provision of religious education seeks to contribute positively to the specific duty by increasing the understanding and tolerance of all religions in local communities. SACRE contributes to this duty by advising the council on its arrangements for religious education. The provision of Religious Education and collective worship seeks to increase understanding and tolerance of all religions in local communities.

Resource implications

7. There are no resource implications involved in the production and consideration of this report. There is no cost associated with the production of the annual report which will be published and circulated electronically.
8. If there are any resource implications of actions identified in the annual report the intention is that these will be met within the existing budget for SACRE.

Legal implications

9. Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 requires the council to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), to advise them on matters concerned with the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship.
10. SACRE's main function is to advise the council upon matters connected with religious worship in schools for which the council has responsibility and with the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus. Under Section 391(6) and (7), Education Act 1996, SACRE is required to publish a report each year as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by representative groups on the council.

Risk management

11. No risks were identified in the production of this report.

Consultees

12. None

Appendices

Appendix – draft SACRE Annual Report 2019/20

Background papers

None

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

LA – Local Authority

RE – Religious Education

SACRE – Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education