

Appendix 4 – statement from the Gloucestershire Humanist Representative

A note about my role on the SACRE in Gloucestershire:

I have been a member of Gloucestershire SACRE for approximately 2 years, taking over the position from another member of our group. I am an advisory member of SACRE and have no voting rights. During the time of my involvement there has not been a review of the curriculum so I have not yet been involved in that process.

The SACRE meet regularly, approximately every quarter to discuss RE learning in the county. Looking at the data for RE uptake, organising annual conference with workshops for teachers and also sharing and discussing learning ideas to support the curriculum. Very recently we have been discussing the possible future changes to the subject of RE to be more inclusive of 'world views' and what the phrase 'world views' means. My participation in these discussions has been from the perspective of someone who values freedom of thought, right to participate and a love of learning as well as from a humanist perspective. With my colleagues I am there to consider not only whether a broad and inclusive curriculum is being offered but also whether the support activities underpinning the curriculum is broad, inclusive and balanced. Suggestions can be made for future activities and supportive learning ideas and materials are shared. Very recently Humanists U.K. have released a new short video on finding meaning in life entitled 'How can I be happy'. I will be sharing this with the group when we next meet (for example) as I think it is an accessible resource which can be used by teachers, furthermore the video discusses humanism from the perspective of what it is rather than what it is not (belief in God).

As a humanist, I am keen to see a move away from the traditional style of teaching humanism from the perspective of how it differs from the main religions preferring to see humanism taught with a focus on its core beliefs and values. I have that focus when reviewing supportive activities, resources and workshops and I am hoping to be involved in the next curriculum review to ensure humanism is included in the curriculum from this perspective.

*I hope this is helpful to your group.
Sarah Pinegar*