

MONITORING OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

Report By: Consultant For Religious Education

Purpose

1. To report on the monitoring of Religious Education in Herefordshire schools.

Background

2. The review of Ofsted inspection reports in Herefordshire schools in relation to Religious Education, Collective Worship and Spiritual Moral Social Cultural development included 2 Community High Schools and 1 Community Primary School. The following is a summary of the findings. The Consultant for Religious Education will report further upon the monitoring of RE at schools at the meeting.

Report

Religious Education - Secondary

Strengths:

3. RE in both secondary schools is characterised by very good teaching and learning in **KS3**. Both use a wide range of effective teaching and learning strategies to develop pupils skills and understanding of key concepts and questions. Both have very good leadership and management. Whilst the standards by the end of KS3 in one school are satisfactory, in the other they are well above the expectations of the Agreed Syllabus.

Weaknesses

4. **Neither of these secondary schools meets the statutory requirements for provision in KS4.** In one a module of RE per year is proposed, not to be taught by the RE staff and not yet implemented. It is unlikely that this will meet the expectations of the Agreed Syllabus and, as the Ofsted report says '*it is rare for such a module to provide any more than partial coverage*' In the other the lack of provision is put down to staffing problems, and no immediate plans to address RE requirements appear to be in place.
5. One of these two schools is also failing to meet statutory requirements for RE in the 6th form.
6. Both schools in the sample have some excellent specialist teaching in KS3 and yet neither extends this into KS4 for all pupils. This is a whole school management issue.
7. SACRE should consider whether to bring the matter of the provision for RE at KS4 and Post 16 to the attention of the LEA?

Religious Education - Primary:

8. Only one inspection report was available in this sample. In this school the provision for RE was satisfactory and the teaching and learning was at least good and sometimes very good. Standards met the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus. An enthusiastic and

experienced co-ordinator led the subject well – the only aspect for development was finding opportunities to monitor RE across the school.

Collective Worship:

9. Issues of compliance remain in both secondary schools.

Spiritual Moral Social Cultural development of pupils:

10. SMSC was judged to be very good in one secondary school and good overall in the other, although lack of provision for RE at KS4 denied the good opportunities for spiritual development found in KS3.
11. SMSC was judged good in the primary school.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be noted and consideration be given to bring the matter of the provision for RE at KS4 and Post 16 to the attention of the LEA.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.