

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Monday, 17 May 2010

2.00 pm

Kingston Centre, Fairway, Stafford ST16 3TW

John Tradewell
Director of Law and Governance
7 May 2010

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declaration of Any other Business**
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 March 2010** (Pages 1 - 6)
4. **Update on Key Issues** (Pages 7 - 10)
Report of the Corporate Director (Children, Young People & Families)
5. **NASACRE Update**
Oral report of the Chairman
6. **Kenya Visit Feedback**
Oral report from Rosemary Woodward
7. **Support Materials for the Staffordshire Syllabus** (Pages 11 - 12)
Report of the Corporate Director (Children, Young People & Families)
8. **Application for Variation of Practice** (Pages 13 - 14)



Report of the Corporate Director (Children, Young People & Families)

9. **The SACRE Awards 2010 and the SACRE Lecture 2010** (Pages 15 - 16)

Report of the Corporate Director (Children, Young People & Families)

10. **SACRE Development Plan 2009-2010** (Pages 17 - 26)

Report of the Corporate Director (Children, Young People & Families)

11. **The SACRE Budget 2009-2010** (Pages 27 - 28)

Report of the Corporate Director (Children, Young People & Families)

12. **Any Other Business**

13. **Date of next meeting**

The next SACRE meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 17 November 2010, 2.00pm.

Membership

Rummy Bajaj	Sue Blackmore
Christine Chadwick	Mary Gale
G Devadason	Colin Hopkins
Lynn Godden	Rosemary Woodward
Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal	Dorothy Kirkham
Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf (Chairman)	Dave Lyons
Janet Kemp	Peter Davies
Karen Knobbs	Veronica Downes
Dr Laow	Terry Finn
Sydney Morris	Ivan Jennings
Liz O'Brien	Liz Staples
Muhammad Parekh	Tricia Budd
Sam Phillips	Frankie Durairatnam
Gurmeet Singh	Liz Williams
Bill Walley	

MINUTES

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Meeting - 4 March 2010

Present: Christine Chadwick, Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal, Sydney Morris, Liz O'Brien, Muhammad Parekh, Sam Phillips, Bill Walley, Mary Gale, Rosemary Woodward, Dorothy Kirkham, Peter Davies, Terry Finn, Liz Staples, Tricia Budd, Frankie Durairatnam and Liz Williams

Apologies for absence: Rummy Bajaj, Lynn Godden, Karen Knobbs, Dr Laow, Sue Blackmore, Colin Hopkins, Dave Lyons, Veronica Downes and Ivan Jennings

Also in attendance - Heather Farr and Julie Plant

PART ONE

77. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2009

RESOLVED – That following amendments to various grammatical errors the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

78. RE and the School Improvement Division

As requested at the last meeting of the Council the Deputy Head of Service, Sue Bardwell attended the meeting and discussed the Directorate's future plans for provision of the service. She stressed her wish to ensure continuity of service and support for the SACRE and reaffirmed the Authority's commitment to the function.

79. An Update on Key Issues

SACRE received an up date on key issues that had developed or arisen since their last meeting. The issues raised included:

- (i) The Student Council for Religious Education – autumn term meeting held on 20 November 2009 at which a new cohort of Year 12 students was welcomed. In order to make the Council meetings as accessible as possible to all student members changes had been made to their meeting arrangements. In addition an open discussion session had been introduced on agendas giving this SACRE the opportunity to seek views on specific issues.
- (ii) Student Handbook for Religious Education – this reference book giving brief, factual accounts of six major faiths had been made available for schools with demand high. The books were particularly beneficial to primary schools where non-specialist teachers provided religious education.
- (iii) Professional development opportunities for RE – a variety of development opportunities including network meetings and activity days had been provided during the autumn term for teachers. A significant new initiative was an A-level clinic to be led by

an OCR examiner in order to address the fall in performance of Staffordshire students at post-GCSE level. In addition a “Meet the Muslims” session had been organised for all teachers and school improvement division staff with an invitation to attend extended to SACRE members.

(iv) 2009 Staffordshire Syllabus – launched in September 2009 and accessible from the web site, together with a variety of new information.

www.education.staffordshire.gov.uk/re

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

80. NASACRE Update

The Chairman reported that the NASACRE annual meeting would be held on 12 May 2010 with the keynote speaker Clare Short. Copies of the AGM papers were circulated with the Chairman particularly drawing attention to proposals to change the Constitution in terms of the handling of motions and the increase in the number of co-opted places on the Executive Committee from 3 to 6.

The Chairman explained the background to the proposed changes and sought a mandate from the meeting on how to cast the one vote allocated to the SACRE (regardless of number of members attending the AGM).

Continuing, the Chairman reported on a joint conference to be held on 24 March 2010 between NASACRE and the QCA (Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency) on “RE and the new Primary Curriculum”. Heather Farr advised the meeting that the new curriculum is scheduled to come into effect in 2011 and that the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus 2009 was written to take account of significant changes.

Concluding his update on the work of NASACRE the Chairman circulated information on “Celebrating RE”, a proposed month long celebration of religious education in England and Wales to be held in March 2011. Heather Farr explained that the intention of the celebration was for regional authorities, led by a regional champion, to stage specific events and projects, highlighting religious education in schools. She suggested that in practical terms Staffordshire as an authority would be able to organise events, but would probably not be able to commit to regional or national initiatives as no additional resources were being made available. It was suggested that current projects which were not feasible for submission for the forthcoming round of NASACRE awards might be developed for use as part of the celebrations.

RESOLVED – That the Chairman’s update report on NASACRE be noted and that he be authorised to vote in favour of the proposed motions at the AGM relating to the procedure for handling motions and the increase in number of co-opted places on the Executive Committee from 3 to 6.

81. Monitoring of Middle and Secondary School Provision 2009-2010

The Corporate Director (Children, Young People and Families) reported that middle and high schools had been surveyed on their provision of religious education, and submitted an analysis of the results of that survey.

For secondary schools 40 of 49 questionnaires issued had been received with 10 of 12 from middle schools. The secondary schools had shown good performances in examinations, a high number of schools entering pupils for those examinations, and high level of compliance with requirements. It was pleasing that almost 7,000 students had sat RE examinations with a commendable number of 23 schools offering both full and short courses.

In terms of provision within the schools, the vast majority offered a good time allocation for RE for examination groups, however the non-examination groups experienced a short fall. Attention needed to be focused on those schools offering less than one hour per week to RE groups, and to those who were including the subject within their Humanities option without approaching the SACRE. Areas of concern included insufficient time allocation, and a lack of specialist teachers in some schools.

For middle schools there were no particular areas causing concern, with all having an identified subject leader and all allocating the appropriate time in each school week. In some instances issues highlighted by schools was the problem caused by staff changes and loss of continuity.

Referring to the areas of concern, particularly for high schools, it was agreed that Heather Farr and the Chairman review the monitoring forms, pursue specific concerns with the individual schools and report back in more detail to the next meeting of SACRE.

RESOLVED – That the outcome of the monitoring exercise be noted and the proposed review of schools causing concern be approved.

82. The Work of the Advanced Skills Teacher

Emma Senior, Advanced Skills Teacher for RE reported on her work to date in that role, explaining that she was formally employed within the RE department at Alleyne's High School but was seconded to the AST role on one day each week. Initially she had concentrated on contributing to the new Agreed Syllabus and had gained an in-depth knowledge of its working. She was currently engaged in visiting individual schools and advising teachers on RE provision, student engagement and examination promotion. She saw the focus of her future activities on developing her training role while continuing to work with schools. Of note was the proactive approach being adopted by schools to RE provision inviting her in to advise and assist.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

83. Religious Education in English Schools: Non-Statutory Guidance 2010

The Corporate Director (Children, Young People and Families) circulated the recently published non-statutory guidance on Religion Education in English Schools, commenting on the considerable changes made to it since publication of the draft version. The document replaced the long standing Circular 1/94. Heather Farr

circulated a copy of a section of the guidance, which provided a check list for an effective partnership between a Local Authority and its SACRE, and the meeting considered each individual point in detail concluding that all criteria were met.

In discussing the check list, the Council discussed the extent to which SACRE contributes effectively to the community cohesion agenda, and considered that whilst not specifically referred to by name, community cohesion was a theme that ran through the whole work of SACRE. Examples of suitable projects included the "Meet the Muslims" initiative. All members felt it important to maintain the focus of SACRE on religious education provision and to maintain its independence from inter-faith groups purposely established to promote community cohesion.

RESOLVED – (a) That the recently issued guidance be noted and that the check list for governors and headteachers included at page 30 be circulated by the Chairman and Senior Advisor for RE to all schools; and
(b) – That members of SACRE highlight any particular areas included within the guidance for further discussions.

84. The SACRE Budget 2009-2010

The Corporate Director (Children, Young People and Families) gave details of the SACRE budget 2009/10 which had an allocation of £11,650 with £11,819.54 spent to date.

RESOLVED – That the budget position be noted.

85. Any Other Business

The Senior Advisor for RE reported on a request from a representative of the Burton-upon-Trent Muslim Community to be allocated a seat on SACRE, indicating that that request had yet to be formalised. The Council discussed the number of Muslim Community Groups in the Burton-upon-Trent area and the need to ensure that the proposed applicant was suitably representative.

It was agreed that Mrs. Staples and Mr. Davis, as elected representatives from the Burton-upon-Trent area, liaise with the Senior Advisor for RE on any formal application received.

Heather Farr reported that the SACRE awards would be held at the Seabridge QLS on 30 June 2010 and invited all members to attend to celebrate her retirement.

Hisfah Haroon-Iqbal reported on a proposed multi-face group event to be held in Victoria Park, Stafford on Sunday 4 July 2010, and invited all faith groups to participate.

86. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 17 May 2010 at 2.00 pm at the Kingston Centre, Stafford.

**Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf
Chairman**

Documents referred to in these minutes as Schedules are not appended, but will be attached to the signed copy of the Minutes of the meeting. Copies, or specific information contained in them, may be available on request.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
17th May 2010
Report of the Corporate Director (Children, Young People and Families)
An Update on Key Issues

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present members of SACRE with a brief update on key issues that have developed or arisen since the last meeting of SACRE.

2 Summary

- 2.1 Members of SACRE will receive a brief report on a number of key issues. These are matters which have either been raised at previous SACRE meetings and which have moved forward, or matters on which it is appropriate to brief members of SACRE.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report and note the contents

4 Background

- 4.1 Since the spring term meeting of the SACRE there have been developments in a number of areas which had previously been agenda items for SACRE or which have local or national importance for RE.
- 4.2 Members will be briefed on these key developments. A summary is attached to this paper.

5 Equal Opportunities

- 5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

6 Financial implications

- 6.1 Financial implications may be raised by individual items. These have been dealt with elsewhere, or will be raised at future meetings of SACRE.

Contact Officer
Telephone number:

Heather Farr
01785 277997

The Student Council for Religious Education

The Student Council met on March 5th and April 29th 2010. In response to requests from Councillors that the meetings should finish earlier than 4.15, the format of the sessions has been reviewed. Students now arrive at the Seabridge Centre mid-morning and leave just after 2.00. This has also meant that there is time in the morning for invited guests to talk at some length, while leaving the afternoon free for Council business. The guest on the 5th was Alan Foster, School Improvement Division Officer and practising Mormon. His session was well received, and councillors asked some thoughtful questions. On April 29th, Hifsa Haroon Iqbal and Afshan Haque presented a Muslim perspective and again responded to questions. This format seems to be very popular. The minutes of the meeting held on March 5th are attached. Those for April 29th will be presented at the meeting.

Funding for the Student Council

A bid to the Staffordshire Study Support initiative to provide funding for the Student Council has been successful. A budget of £3717 has been granted to meet the cost of transport, shirts and refreshments. This will mean that the Council can be a little more adventurous in its activities!

Recruitment and retention

Since the last meeting the following posts have been advertised within Staffordshire:

Head of Religious Education: Cheslyn Hay Sport and Community High School, Sir Thomas Boughey High School.

7 Newly Qualified Teachers joined the county in September but two have since left their schools.

Subject Focused inspections

Following a one year break, Staffordshire has again had a subject focused inspection in RE led by Jackie Wordsworth. Cheslyn Hay Sport and Community High School was inspected on March 21st and 22nd. The department was judged to be good.

Meet the Muslims

This is a new, informal initiative. Teachers, SACRE members and SID employees were invited to attend a twilight session with Hifsa Haroon Iqbal and Afshan Haque as guests. Hifsa and Afshan gave a brief introduction to their faith and the work of the Muslim community in Stafford before inviting questions. Just under twenty people attended and the response was excellent. It is hoped that other members of SACRE may be prevailed upon to offer their services for similar sessions.

Meet the Jains

An approach has been made by Colin Hynson who is the educational consultant for the Institute of Jainology. Colin has offered free training to the LA and will be leading a morning session on October 13th 2010. Although Colin is not a Jain himself, he will be bringing with him a colleague who is a member of the faith. Members of SACRE are cordially invited to attend the session.

Offers: Student Handbook for Religious Education

In the spring term, 150 copies of the Student Handbook were sold to Staffordshire schools. A further 150 copies were ordered to meet demand. These compact reference books are ideal for teachers in primary schools looking for concise information about the six major faiths.

Primary/Secondary monitoring

Pressure of work to support the launch of the Agreed Syllabus and to prepare for a new Senior Adviser for RE has meant that monitoring questionnaires have not yet been issued to primary schools. These will be sent into selected primary schools as soon as possible

Secondary monitoring forms have now been received from all butschools.

The Senior Adviser for RE

An advertisement for the post of Senior Adviser for Religious Education was placed in the county bulletin in April. There have been a number of expressions of interest. The closing date for applications was May 14th 2010 and interviews will take place on Wednesday 26th May. Members will be kept informed of developments.

Approach by Muslims in Burton on Trent

Members were advised at the last meeting that there had been an expression of interest in providing a representative of the Burton Muslim community to the SACRE. No further contact had been made since the last meeting.

Minutes of the Staffordshire Student Council for Religious Education

Date	5 th March 2010
Time	10.00 till 2.15
Location	Seabridge Centre

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes and matters arising
3. Welcome to new members
4. An update on events since the last meeting
5. The Annual Report
6. What's the story?
7. Future projects, future meetings

Dates of future meetings:

29 th April 2010	Council Meeting
17 th June 2010	Council Meeting
30 th June 2010	SACRE Awards

2 Minutes and matters arising

The group agreed to Heather sending Lauren Cartwright a 'get well soon' card, as she has not been well and could not join us today.

Heather explained to the group about the SACRE awards. Members have the opportunity to nominate someone for an award, someone that they feel has made a contribution to Religious Education; this can be a teacher, a pupil or another member of SSCRE.

The fundraising for St Giles' Hospice was discussed in school groups, and it was decided that, if possible, each school should raise some money this year. Ideas had moved on from the 'pyjama day' to a non-uniform day, or a 'dress as a pirate' day.

The council discussed guest speakers; the group had much enjoyed and benefited from the Mormon speaker Alan. For future guests, the possibility of the two Muslim women was still popular, as was the Jehovah's Witness and Jewish guests. Heather will try to arrange the Muslim women for the next meeting. It was agreed that a Scientologist would be inappropriate, but Hannah and Harriet will do some research and bring a PowerPoint presentation to the next meeting, for some background information.

3 Welcome to new members

It was Jess Cai's first meeting, and as she had missed the introduction to SSCRE last meeting, the group explained briefly what the council involves. Jess had signed her commitment to the council, which was witnessed by other members.

The group agreed that the formal setting works well for meetings, but that they would like more debating time during meetings. Next meeting, time for a debate will be allotted, with a subject matter of current ethical issues. Suggestions were made of the euthanasia cases that have been followed in the news, or the allegations of Gordon Brown's bullying. Heather encouraged something with a direct religious perspective, and Harriet suggested the issue of homosexuality within the church, based on the lesbian woman that has been appointed as a vicar in America.

This debate is to be had on SSCRE's Facebook page and continued briefly at a meeting, which all new members can join. The Facebook name is "SSCRE Flapjack".

4. An update on events since the last meeting

Most of the events since last meeting had been covered in agenda items two and three. Lauren Woodward had recently turned 18, which opened a discussion about voting. The group repeated their appreciation of having Alan join the meeting, and commented that his sincerity and honesty had made the morning very helpful and interesting. Heather updated the council on the latest SACRE meeting, and Michael emphasised the fact that the SACRE members would value some SSCRE councillors to attend a meeting. The next meeting will be on 12th May in Stafford. Hannah suggested filming the council having a debate which could then be shown at a SACRE meeting, and uploaded onto the Facebook page to show what it is SSCRE does.

5 The Annual Report

6 What's the story?

These two agenda items were combined, as councillors spoke to the group about things that they are individually involved in. Esther and Becky are going to Auschwitz later in the year, and they will speak to the group about their experiences afterwards. Katie spoke about her gap year. Leading up to a degree in social work, she will be doing youth work in schools and estates in South East London, with the Christian organisation XLP. Harriet is going to study Law in America this year, and she hopes to apply her Religious Education there to ethical issues such as capital punishment. Stephen is hoping to be a surgeon, applying issues such as euthanasia and suicide with a medical perspective. Lizz is involved in a South Africa project with her church and local high schools, taking a group in the summer to visit and work with two charities, which will benefit both the people visiting and the groups working with the charities. Dan spoke about his interest in music. He plays the trumpet and tuba, and will be playing in a music festival next week. He will investigate the role of music in religion, including the contemporary styles of worship, for example Christian rock. Liz told the council about her leadership of a Cub group; she started this for her Duke of Edinburgh, and now continues this despite it not counting towards her D of E Gold award. She spoke of the sense of achievement and fulfilment that she gets from both the D of E and Cubs. Hannah had also done Duke of Edinburgh Gold award, and shared Liz's feeling of achievement. Ellie has an interest in animals, keeping ducks, and would like to do something in the area of animal psychology as a career. Robert commented on how RE helps him in working in Next, especially dealing with customers. Also, Next supports ethical issues by selling Fairtrade products and donating money to Newlife. Kathryn and Lauren are going to V Festival this summer, and will investigate modern music and culture. Heather asked each member to write their Annual Report article on the subject that they spoke about, and those that did not speak were encouraged to give some thought to their article.

7. Future projects, future meetings

It was agreed that the 10am start for meetings was better than the previous set up, and dedicating the morning to the guest speaker had been beneficial. This will be the structure for future meetings. Hannah will be in charge of putting together a journal of councillor's comments on guest speakers, to show people what SSCRE does. For this, members that read the Book of Mormon will give comments on it. The council had not had time to design a new SSCRE poster; this will be done at a future meeting. Heather gave ideas for this year's poster, with the possibility of "RE is coool". Heather showed the group the range of previous posters that the council has designed in the past.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
17th May 2010
Report of the Corporate Director (Children, Young People and Families)
Support materials for the Staffordshire Syllabus

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To raise members awareness of the support materials now available for schools on the LA RE website.

2 Summary

2.1 The Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus 2009 was issued to schools in September 2009. Schools were advised that support materials would be made available during the academic year 2009-2010

2.2 Members will be alerted to the materials now available on the LA RE website.

2.3 Attention will be drawn to the way in which community cohesion is addressed as a matter of course through the planning.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members receive the report and note the materials available.

4 Background

4.1 Following the introduction of the Agreed Syllabus 2009 it was agreed that support materials would be made available to teachers.

4.2 In order to reduce costs and to make materials available to all teachers in the LA, these have been added to the LA RE website.

4.3 Schools have been advised that they must have evidence to show that they are taking account of the new syllabus from September 2009. To that end, examples of long and medium term planning are available on the website to support subject leaders.

4.4 Long term planning was added to the website at the end of the autumn term 2009, skeleton medium term planning at the end of the spring term.

4.5 Additional support will be added by the end of the summer term.

4.6 At the meeting, members will be shown the materials already available on the website. Specific examples will be used to demonstrate the way in which these materials support community cohesion.

5 Equal Opportunities

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

6 Financial implications

6.1 There are no immediate financial implications.

Contact Officer **Heather Farr**
Telephone number: **01785 277997**

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
17th May 2010
Report of the Corporate Director (Children, Young People and Families)
Application for variation of practice

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To consider any requests that have arisen since the last meeting for variation of practice in accordance with the procedures identified in the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2009.

2 Summary

2.1 In order to raise standards and ensure quality of provision at key stage 4 the 2009 Agreed Syllabus states that schools wishing to base their RE provision on an examination specification (Full Course, Short Course or Entry Level) which is not designated as Religious Studies must take advice from the SACRE

2.2 A pro-forma has been made available to schools to support applications for variation and can be downloaded from the LA RE website.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE consider the requests presented at the meeting.

4 Background

4.1 During the academic year 2008-2009 members were advised of concerns regarding the provision of RE at Clough Hall Technology School, Kidsgrove. The new protocol was followed and the school received three letters from the SACRE requesting information.

4.2 Following the third request, positive relations have been established with the school and a request for variation has been received.

4.3 A copy of the request will be provided at the meeting. Members will be invited to consider the request and suggest ways forward for the school.

5 Equal Opportunities

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

6 Financial implications

6.1 There are no immediate financial implications

Contact Officer
Telephone number:

Heather Farr
01785 277997

Agenda Item 9

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

17th May 2010

Report of the Corporate Director (Children, Young People and Families) The SACRE Awards 2010 and the SACRE Lecture 2010

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To advise members of arrangements for the SACRE Awards and the SACRE Lecture 2010.

2 Summary

2.1 The SACRE Awards 2009-2010 will be held at the Seabridge Centre on Wednesday June 30th.

2.2 The SACRE Lecture will be held at the Kingston Centre on the evening of Tuesday 21st September 2010.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report and make any recommendations regarding these two SACRE initiatives

4 Background

4.1 The **SACRE Awards** have been held annually since 2006. It is an opportunity to celebrate achievement and excellence in RE in Staffordshire. Nominees are invited to an informal afternoon at the Seabridge Centre, where refreshments and entertainment are followed by presentation of certificates. The event is much appreciated by those who attend. Awards are given in four categories: pupils, teachers, schools/departments, members of the wider community.

4.2 Schools will be invited to submit nominations for the 2010 awards, but it is proposed that, on this occasion, the afternoon is an opportunity to recognise those who have been a particular support to the Senior Adviser for Religious Education over a period of almost twenty years.

4.3 Members of SACRE are invited to attend to mark the end of service of the Senior Adviser and, hopefully, to welcome the new Senior Adviser to the role.

4.4 The speaker for the **SACRE Lecture** has been booked provisionally. Laurie Rosenberg, Jewish Educational Consultant, has agreed to speak. Laurie has been involved in education and professional development for teachers for many years, and led a very successful Staffordshire Conference in 2009. Members are invited to note the date and to make suggestions regarding the format of the evening.

5 Equal Opportunities

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

6 Financial implications

6.1 The cost of the Awards and the Lecture will be met from the SACRE budget.

Contact Officer
Telephone number:

Heather Farr
01785 27799

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

17th May 2010

**Report of the Corporate Director (Children, Young People and Families)
SACRE Development Plan 2009-2010**

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To review the development plan for 2009-2010 and to set targets for 2010-2011.

2 Summary

2.1 At the meeting held in June 2007 it was agreed to merge the existing Staffordshire action plan with the Ofsted self-evaluation documentation to create a single document addressing the key issues.

2.2 It was also proposed that progress against the self-evaluation document be reviewed at the summer term meeting annually, with targets also being set and agreed for the forthcoming academic year.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members review the development plan and set targets for the academic year 2010-2011.

4 Background

4.1 SACREs are strongly encouraged to use the self-evaluation documentation provided by Ofsted to review their own practice. Staffordshire SACRE first addressed this process during the meetings held in 2005 and has reviewed its finding on a regular basis.

4.2 At the summer term meeting 2007 members agreed to merge the SACRE action plan with the self-evaluation document to form a single development plan which would clearly identify areas of good practice and issues to address.

4.3 A copy of the current development plan is attached to this document. Changes to practice and achievements over the year are highlighted in italics

4.4 Members are invited to note changes and progress and to review targets for the coming academic year.

4.5 Key areas for action in 2010-2011 could be identified as:

Supporting the further development of web-based guidance materials to accompany the 2009 syllabus.

Making greater use of the county's monitoring and progress check initiative to gather information

Closer monitoring of recruitment in the authority

Commissioning work from the Student Council

Members' own professional development

5 Equal Opportunities

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

6 Financial implications

6.1 There are no immediate financial implications.

Contact Officer

Heather Farr

Telephone number:

01785 277997

Staffordshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Self evaluation and Development Plan

1. Standards and quality of provision of religious education

How effectively does the SACRE, in partnership with the LA, monitor and evaluate standards and the quality of provision for RE in schools?

How effective are the strategies to improve standards and the quality of provision?

Key area	Established	Advanced	Current practice	Action to be taken Meeting at which to be discussed
1a Compliance and time allocation for RE	Informed about levels of compliance and time allocations but limited opportunities to establish strategies for action where evidence of non-compliance or inadequate time allocation is reported.	Well informed about levels of compliance and time allocations and factors impacting on these. Clear understanding of effective ways schools can provide adequate time for RE. Established strategies to take action to support schools which are non-compliant and receive feedback on the impact of interventions.	Questionnaires sent annually to special, middle and secondary schools Questionnaires sent once every three years to primary schools Summary of provision presented annually to SACRE <i>A set of procedures introduced to establish contact and develop a protocol for schools causing concern</i>	Members to consider establishing a process for raising issues of concern with schools, particularly in the case of non-compliance Autumn 2009 In place
1b Public examination entries in RE	Informed about the number of pupils in the LA entered for GCSE, AS and A2 examinations and how this compares with national figures but few strategies to increase the number of entries.	Well informed about the number of pupils in the LA entered for GCSE, AS and A2 examinations and how this compares with national figures. Clear strategies in place to increase the number of entries.	Detailed analysis of examination entries in RE presented annually by the LA, including a breakdown by gender. Through the agreed syllabus and the LA, the SACRE promotes examination courses as a means of fulfilling statutory requirements. <i>Schools to inform SACRE where there is a variation from preferred practice as stated in the Agreed Syllabus. The SACRE to encourage examination entries wherever practicable.</i>	Members to review provision at Key Stage 4 in the context of the 2009 syllabus. Autumn term 2009 Procedures in place to monitor provision and to encourage schools to work towards preferred practice.
1c Standards and achievement: including standards at the end of Key Stages 1, 2 and 3, GCSE, AS and A2 level	Informed about standards of RE in schools locally and by comparison with national figures, but limited analysis of the data and little opportunity to develop strategies to address weaknesses.	Detailed information about standards with careful analysis of data against national figures and trends. Information about standards extends to primary schools and Key Stage 3. Clear strategies in place to tackle areas of weakness. Developing independent mechanisms to gather data about performance.	Detailed analysis of examination performance in RE presented annually by the LA Schools that are performing well against a range of criteria are congratulated. <i>Schools causing concern are contacted.</i> From September 2007 the LA has, on behalf of the SACRE, collated performance data on RE for Key Stage 3.	Members to review their response to the analysis of examination results, in particular to schools that are underperforming Autumn term 2009 Procedures in place for contacting schools causing concern

<p>1d Quality of teaching</p>	<p>Information provided about findings in relation to quality of teaching derived from LA intelligence and RE subject self-evaluations, but limited analysis of strengths and weaknesses and little opportunity to develop strategies to tackle weaknesses.</p>	<p>Clear and detailed information about the quality of teaching, with some analysis of trends and strengths and weaknesses. Good strategies to share good practice and target improvement strategies on areas of weakness.</p>	<p>Presentations by teachers are an occasional feature of SACRE's termly meetings</p> <p>The SACRE endorses the LA programme of professional development which offers support and guidance on teaching and learning</p> <p>The SACRE has endorsed the county's subject monitoring initiative over a period of four years</p>	<p>Members to suggest ways to extend their knowledge and understanding of the quality of teaching in the LA, for example through presentations at the meeting 2009-2010</p> <p>Outcomes to be presented to SACRE 2009-2010 Delayed to 2010-2011</p>
<p>1e Quality of Leadership and management.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 19</p>	<p>Information provided about findings in relation to quality of leadership and management derived from LA intelligence and RE subject self-evaluations, but limited analysis of strengths and weaknesses and little opportunity to develop strategies to tackle weaknesses.</p>	<p>Clear and detailed information about the quality of leadership and management, with some analysis of trends and strengths and weaknesses. Good strategies to share good practice and target improvement strategies on areas of weakness.</p>	<p>Some information gleaned from the county's monitoring initiative.</p> <p>The SACRE endorses the LA programme of professional development which includes training for new subject leaders as well as regular network meetings to support middle managers.</p> <p>The SACRE supports the development and publication of support materials for subject leaders</p>	<p>Information to be shared with members 2009-2010. Delayed to 2010-2011</p> <p>Members receive information about professional development opportunities for subject leaders annually and are invited to make recommendations. Summer term</p> <p>Members to continue to endorse support materials for subject leaders, in particular in relation to the 2009 Agreed Syllabus. <i>Support materials available on the LA RE website</i></p>
<p>1f Recruitment and retention issues. Level of specialist provision</p>	<p>Some investigation and analysis of subject recruitment and retention issues. The SACRE is aware of the level of non-specialist teaching of RE but has limited opportunity to take action to deal with its concerns.</p>	<p>Detailed knowledge of patterns of recruitment, retention and specialist provision. The SACRE is active in promoting strategies to improve recruitment and provide training to address the needs of non-specialist teachers of RE.</p>	<p>A comprehensive analysis of questionnaire returns gives members a clear picture of RE staffing including the use of non-specialists and Teaching Assistants</p> <p>In partnership with the LA, the SACRE supports professional development opportunities for non-specialists and Teaching Assistants through the central programme</p>	<p>Members to be informed of recruitment patterns from autumn 2009 In place as part of termly update 2010</p>
<p>1g Resources</p>	<p>Some information about issues related to resources for RE in schools but limited opportunity to address areas of concern.</p>	<p>Detailed knowledge of issues related to resources for RE in schools. The SACRE is active in promoting the development of resources and setting benchmarks about appropriate levels of funding for the subject in schools.</p>	<p>The SACRE supports, through the LA, a subject website</p> <p>The SACRE endorses, through the LA, the regular offer of high quality resources at reduced rates.</p> <p>The SACRE works in partnership with the LA to alert teachers to high quality resources through regular electronic newsletters</p>	<p>Members may wish to consider further ways to support teachers with appropriate resources.</p> <p><i>Support materials to accompany the 2009 Agreed Syllabus are now on the LA RE website</i></p>

2 Management of the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders

How far does the SACRE's partnership with the LA enable it to carry out its responsibilities effectively?

Key area	Established	Advanced	Current practice	Action to be taken
2a SACRE meetings	Attendance is good and all four committees are well represented. Agendas and papers are distributed well in advance ensuring all members have time to consider them carefully. Meetings are well managed with strong contributions from a wide range of members. Meetings move beyond routine matters to consider wider issues about the quality of RE and collective worship.	SACRE members contribute to development of the agenda. Meetings are lively and purposeful with wide variety of contributions. Teachers and representatives of faith communities regularly attend and participate fully in meetings, sharing their experience and insights. Meetings are held in a variety of venues, including local places of worship and schools.	Feedback from NASACRE is a standing agenda item. SACRE members have been involved in a series of presentations outlining their beliefs and commitments Teachers, including the local AST, have attended the meetings. Teachers have also made presentations highlighting good practice, <i>including in Early Years</i> Members of the Student Council have also attended the meeting in the past.	Members to consider increasing the number of presentations from teachers 2009-2010 Members to commission work from the Student Council 2009-2010
2b Membership and training	The membership strongly reflects the diversity of the wider religious and professional community. There are some opportunities for SACRE members to participate in training activities.	Very good use is made of co-option to ensure membership of the SACRE is well informed and is highly representative of the diversity of the local community. There is a strong and co-ordinated programme of induction, and training opportunities for SACRE members.	The membership is, overall, representative of the local community and was reviewed autumn 2008 Regular efforts are made to extend the representation of a range of faith communities on SACRE Teachers are represented in all appropriate groups SACREs terms of membership have been reviewed, including those relating to membership <i>Members are invited to all LA RE CPD activities and are offered training focusing on their role as appropriate</i>	Members are invited to make suggestions about a programme of induction and training opportunities for new members Summer term 2009
2c Improvement/development planning	The SACRE has a basic action plan which is reviewed regularly and updated on an annual basis. This provides an effective focus for the SACRE's work. There is some attempt to link the plan to the wider LA priorities.	The SACRE has a well-defined action plan with clear objectives and success criteria. Resource implications are clearly defined. There is a clear link between the plan and the wider objectives of the LA. The SACRE is regularly represented at national events relevant to its work; for example, NASACRE.	The SACRE has a development plan which is linked to the self-evaluation document and identifies actions against meetings. This is presented to members on a regular basis and updated before each meeting From September 2007 the self-evaluation document links directly with the LA objectives of raising standards, improving the quality of leadership and management, providing the appropriate level of support and challenge and promoting community cohesion The chair of SACRE is the treasurer of NASACRE and also represents the SACRE at national level	

<p>2d Professional and financial support</p>	<p>The SACRE has some access to subject specialist advice. The LA is represented at meetings and can provide a means of communication with the wider LA. The SACRE has a modest budget which enables it to fund some initiatives.</p>	<p>The SACRE is well supported by a subject specialist who provides effective advice and is well informed about the provision and quality of RE in the LA and about national developments. The SACRE is also attended by a lead officer from the LA who can provide a strong link between the work of the SACRE and the wider LA. The SACRE has access to funds to enable it to make decisions about its priorities and ensure these can be properly resourced.</p>	<p>A Senior Adviser with responsibility for RE supports the SACRE</p> <p>A Deputy Director (C&LL) has oversight of the SACRE at senior management level. There is an open invitation to attend meetings.</p> <p>The SACRE is provided with an annual budget to pay for the support of the Senior Adviser. This also funds the development of support materials and a range of initiatives to promote RE in schools, including the SACRE Awards, the Student Council and the Sixth form Conference. <i>Additional funding to support the Student Council is made available from the Study Support budget.</i></p>	
<p>2e Information and advice</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>The SACRE is regularly provided with clear information relevant to the quality and provision for RE and collective worship in local schools. The SACRE receives the information in a way that enables it to challenge and question the LA's work.</p>	<p>The SACRE receives detailed and well-analysed information about the quality and provision for RE and collective worship. As a result SACRE uses this information effectively to give advice to the LA which leads to strategic action to improve standards and quality in schools. The SACRE has a strong partnership with the LA and plays an active role in promoting ideas and initiatives.</p>	<p>Responses to annual questionnaires are collated and presented to members to give a picture of the quality and provision for RE</p> <p>The SACRE makes recommendations and requests further information as appropriate</p> <p>There is a strong partnership with the LA. The LA supports the SACRE with funding and provides the services of an officer whose brief is to support RE and collective worship across the authority.</p> <p><i>A protocol for contacting schools causing concern has been agreed and is in place.</i></p>	
<p>2f Partnerships with other key stakeholders</p>	<p>The SACRE is well informed about other key stakeholders supporting RE and has some contact with the groups involved.</p> <p>(for example pupils, parent, ASTs, specialist schools, ITT providers, local religious organisations and groups, Commission for Racial Equality)</p>	<p>The SACRE has opportunities to hear the views and experience of pupils and parents about RE. Representatives of key support networks such as ASTs and higher education providers are regularly involved with the SACRE. The SACRE's activities build effectively on local networks.</p>	<p><i>The Student Council feeds back comments to members and is available for commissioned research.</i></p> <p>The Advanced Skills Teacher attends meetings when these coincide with her schedule of work</p> <p>The vice-chair of SACRE is also a representative of Staffordshire University.</p> <p><i>A significant number of members of SACRE also attend the local Friends of Faith Forum.</i></p>	<p>Members to consider commissioning projects from the Student Council to collect the views of students and parents. 2009-2010</p>

3 The effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus

How effectively does the SACRE, in partnership with the LA, monitor the impact of the agreed syllabus in raising standards, use national guidance (e.g. the non-statutory national framework) and evaluate the effectiveness of the previous agreed syllabus?

Key area	Established	Advanced	Current practice	Action to be taken
3a Review of the agreed syllabus	The SACRE has a good idea of the strengths/weaknesses of the previous agreed syllabus. Teachers' views and some external evaluation are carefully taken into consideration and there is a clear action plan and sufficient budget for the agreed syllabus review.	The SACRE has a clear and systematic process for reviewing the agreed syllabus including full consultation with schools and other key stakeholders, particularly faith communities. The budget is clearly allocated including consultation meetings, external evaluation and printing/distribution costs. There is strong sense of ownership of the agreed syllabus review, with clear targets for what needs to be achieved.	The agreed syllabus, introduced in 1991/92 was reviewed in 1997/8 and 2003/4 and again in 2009. A significantly revised syllabus was agreed in the summer of 2009	Members are invited to support the launch and implementation of the 2009 syllabus 2009-2010
3b Using the National Framework for Religious Education	The SACRE is aware of the National Framework and uses it in their agreed syllabus review but does not extend the Framework to reflect local circumstances.	The SACRE fully uses the National Framework in the construction of the revised agreed syllabus, understanding fully the importance of retaining the coherence and integrity of the Framework. It uses and extends the Framework in a coherent way to reflect local circumstances.	The SACRE is aware of the Non-statutory framework and its status The SACRE has taken full account of the Non-statutory Framework for RE. the QCA non-statutory secondary curriculum and the proposed primary curriculum in its review of the Staffordshire syllabus.	
3c Developing the revised agreed syllabus.	The SACRE has clear objectives for the revision and involves a wide range of local expertise in its construction. The SACRE ensures that strong direction is provided to design an agreed syllabus which is coherent, clear and accessible. The SACRE, in partnership with the LA, holds consultation meetings which are reasonably supported.	The SACRE ensures that high quality advice is sought to review and advise on the revisions as they develop. The SACRE, in partnership with the LA, holds very well attended consultation meetings and briefings to ensure teachers are fully involved in, and have a sense of ownership of, the revision process.	The most recent review was supported by the Senior Adviser with responsibility for RE and the AST for RE	
3d Consultation / launch / implementation of the agreed syllabus	A launch event is organised and other forms of communication (for example the LA website) are used to promote the launch. There are clear arrangements for training teachers on implementing the syllabus; this training is well supported and managed.	A successful launch, involving the wider community and strong media coverage, gives the agreed syllabus a high profile as an important development in the work of the LA and SACRE. Effective training on implementing the agreed syllabus, which is supported by all schools, leads to teachers being clear about standards and expectations in the agreed syllabus and the implications for teaching and learning.	An effective launch of the 2009 syllabus took place in September 2009. Training opportunities have been made available to all through the LA central programme Currently all training offered through the central programme focuses on the effective implementation of the syllabus	Members may wish to make recommendations about an appropriate launch of the syllabus on completion of the revision Meetings 2009

<p>3e Additional guidance / monitoring and evaluating the agreed syllabus</p>	<p>The SACRE, through its costed development plan, has arrangements in place to develop additional guidance. The SACRE is able to monitor the impact of the agreed syllabus, particularly in raising standards.</p>	<p>The SACRE has fully costed precise plans for further guidance and support and has consulted extensively with schools on what these should be. Teachers are actively involved in the development of support materials ensuring the process provides a strong professional development opportunity. There are clear arrangements in place to monitor the impact of the new agreed syllabus and to measure its effectiveness in raising standards.</p>	<p>Support materials to accompany the 2009 syllabus <i>have been</i> produced during the academic year 2009-2010. <i>Further support materials will become available during the academic year 2010-2011.</i></p> <p>Monitoring the impact of the 2009 syllabus will be incorporated in the annual monitoring visit and the annual questionnaire to schools.</p>	<p>On completion of the 2009 review, members to consider ways to support and monitor its implementation Meetings 2009</p>
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4 Collective worship

How effectively does the SACRE fulfil its responsibilities for the provision and practice of collective worship?

Key area	Established	Advanced	Current practice	Action to be taken
4a Practice and provision for collective worship	The SACRE has not provided guidance to schools on collective worship which focuses on good practice. Meetings of the SACRE regularly focus on provision and practice in collective worship, and schools consider they are well supported by their SACRE on matters related to collective worship. The SACRE is aware of national developments in collective worship. Training is provided for schools and is reasonably supported.	The SACRE provides high quality advice and support on collective worship , sharing best practice, which leads to improvements in the quality of children's learning experiences. The SACRE regularly focuses on collective worship in its meetings and updates schools on new resources. The SACRE is actively involved in national developments in collective worship. High quality, well-supported training enhances provision.	A guidance document on collective worship is available to all schools, including advice on writing a policy A questionnaire to identify current practice was sent to schools in the spring term 2008. Professional development for collective worship was part of the central programme 2008-2009. <i>No requests for CPD on collective worship have been received in recent years.</i>	
4b Monitoring the provision of collective worship and tackling issues of non-compliance	The SACRE monitors provision of collective worship and is aware of non-compliance issues and the demands collective worship places on schools. As a result of monitoring, further advice is provided to schools but members of the SACRE have limited 'hands-on' experience of collective worship in schools.	The SACRE closely monitors provision for collective worship, and provides guidance and support for schools, particularly on non-compliance. Members of the SACRE have direct experience of collective worship in schools through first-hand observation. They discuss key issues with staff and pupils and provide further advice in the light of their findings.	A questionnaire to identify current practice was sent to schools in the spring term 2008.	

5 Contribution of the SACRE to the social and racial harmony agenda

How effectively does the SACRE, in partnership with the LA, contribute to the wider social and racial harmony agenda?

Key area	Established	Advanced	Current practice	Action to be taken
5a Representative nature of the SACRE	The SACRE and the LA ensure representation broadly reflects the religious diversity of the local community.	The SACRE has strong representation from all major local religious communities, including different groups within the same religious tradition (for example, different Muslim communities).	The current membership of the SACRE offers a fair representation of the communities present in the authority The SACRE through the clerk and the LA Adviser actively seeks to recruit members for groups which may be under-represented	
5b Knowledge and understanding of the local religious, cultural and ethnic community	The SACRE is well aware of different groups representing the diversity within the local area.	The SACRE is very aware of the nature of the religious, ethnic and cultural diversity in the local area and takes active steps to inform itself about the distinctive needs and opportunities created by this diversity.	The SACRE has been provided with a detailed analysis of the religious and cultural diversity within the LA. The membership of the SACRE was reviewed in autumn 2008 in accordance with the terms of reference	
5c Understanding the intrinsic contribution which RE can make to social and racial harmony	The SACRE has a clear commitment to the part RE can play in promoting the social and racial harmony agenda and seeks to promote this throughout its work.	The SACRE plays a key role in promoting activities to extend the contribution of RE to the development of social and racial harmony. It ensures that this is embedded explicitly in the agreed syllabus and related guidance.	<i>SACRE members and the LA Adviser are also actively involved in a local inter-faith group.</i> <i>The SACRE actively supports the 'Explore Islam' exhibition which runs twice a year.</i> <i>The central CPD programme is currently promoting a series of 'Meet the faith communities' informal sessions.</i> The LA syllabus focuses clearly on developing religiously educated young people with a knowledge and understanding of religion and religions. It emphasises in particular the importance of employing skills gained through problem solving and challenges to promote mutual understanding and code for living in a diverse, rich and harmonious society.	

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
17th May 2010
Report of the Corporate Director (Children, Young People and Families)
The SACRE Budget 2009 - 2010

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To advise members of SACRE of the current budget position

2 Summary

2.1 A breakdown of the SACRE budget for the financial year 2009 - 2010 will be presented at the meeting.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report

4 Background

4.1 A budget has been made available to support the work of SACRE during the financial year 2009 – 2010 as approved by the Corporate Director (Children, Young People and Families).

4.2 An account of the monies spent to date in relation to the budget for 2009-2010 will be presented at the meeting.

4.3 Continuing priorities for the year 2009-2010 include:

Professional development for SACRE members

Support for the Student Council for RE

Development of guidance materials to accompany the 2009 Agreed Syllabus

The SACRE Awards 2010

The SACRE Lecture

5 Equal Opportunities

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

6 Financial implications

6.1 Financial implications are indicated in the budget account.

Contact Officer
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SACRE Budget 2009/2010

Expenditure from 01/04/09 to 31/03/10

Allocation	-11650.00	
	-11650.00	
<u>Expenditure</u>	£	
<u>Adviser Time</u>		
Summer Term Meeting Prep	515.00	
Summer Term Student Council	515.00	
Autumn Term Meeting Prep	795.00	
Autumn Term Student Council	530.00	
Spring Term Meeting Prep	530.00	
Spring Term Student Council	530.00	
Attendance at meetings	795.00	
SACRE expenses		
SACRE Supply - Karen Knobbs	75.00	10040
SACRE Supply	300.00	10040
SACRE Supply - Celia Maddock	75.00	10040
REN42301	1000.00	41014
REN43601	2020.00	41014
Agreed syllabus printing	1284.2	
Student Council		
Student Council Taxis - Belgrave	150.00	38005
SACRE Meeting Taxis - KEVI Lichfield	100.00	38005
Student Council Taxi - Weston Rd High	56.00	38005
Student Council Taxis - Belgrave	150.00	38005
Student Council Taxis - Thomas Alleynes	60.00	38005
SACRE Meeting Taxis - KEVI Lichfield 20/11	140.00	38005
SACRE Meeting Taxis - KEVI Lichfield 18/06	110.00	38050
SACRE Meeting Taxis - Belgrave 20/11	228.40	38050
Polo Shirts	110.50	40030
Polo Shirts	8.50	40552
Student Council Meeting 23/04/09 catering	115.50	41014
Student Council Meeting 18/06/09 catering	62.50	41014
Student Council Meeting 20/11/09	432.25	41014
SACRE Awards		
Sacre Awards 02/07/09 catering	637.50	41014
Printing	84.00	43002
J Edwards - SACRE Awards	200.00	44316
S Joseph - SACRE Trophies	55.19	44316
NASACRE expenses		
NASACRE Annual Subscription	85.00	47202
NASACRE AGM	70.00	44206
	11819.54	
Total	169.54	