

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Tuesday, 7 February 2012

2.00 pm

Kingston Centre, Fairway, Stafford ST16 3TW

John Tradewell
Director of Law and Democracy
30 January 2012

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declaration of Any other Business**
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14. **AOB**

Membership

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ann Hewetson | Sue Blackmore |
| Diana Cutler | Mary Gale |
| Tajinder Singh | Colin Hopkins |
| Paul Lewis | Rosemary Woodward |
| Jane Essex | Dave Lyons |
| Christine Chadwick | Peter Davies |
| G Devadason | Veronica Downes |
| Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal | Terry Finn |
| Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf (Chairman) | Ivan Jennings |
| Karen Knobbs | Liz Staples |
| Dr Laow | Tricia Budd |
| Liz O'Brien | Frankie Durairatnam |
| Muhammad Parekh | Liz Williams |
| Sam Phillips | Rev. J. Kime |

MINUTES

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Meeting - 14 November 2011

Present: **Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf**

Diana Cutler, Paul Lewis, Jane Essex, G Devadason, Liz O'Brien, Muhammad Parekh, Peter Davies, Veronica Downes, Liz Staples and Liz Williams

Apologies for absence: Ann Hewetson, Christine Chadwick, Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal, Karen Knobbs, Sam Phillips, Sue Blackmore, Mary Gale, Colin Hopkins, Rosemary Woodward, Dave Lyons, Terry Finn, Ivan Jennings, Tricia Budd, Frankie Durairatnam and Rev. J. Kime

Also in attendance - Emma Senior

PART ONE

12. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Mr P. Davies proposed and Ms Liz O'Brien seconded, that Rev Preb Michael Metcalf be nominated as Chairman for the ensuing year.

Due to a number of members being absent from the meeting it was proposed that the election of the Vice-Chairman be deferred until the next SACRE meeting.

There being no other nominations it was:

RESOLVED – That Rev Preb Michael Metcalf be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

13. Welcome to New Members

The Chairman welcomed Sonia Andjelkovic, Diana Cutler and Paul Lewis who were new members to the SACRE.

14. Minutes of the SACRE Meeting held on 17 June 2011

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

15. Update on Key Issues

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

- i. The Student Council for Religious Education;

- ii. Recruitment and retention of teachers of RE;
- iii. The Farmington Fellowship (members asked that both Bev Young and Jerome Peat be asked to present their work to the SACRE once it had been completed);
- iv. SHAP calendar and resources;
- v. The SACRE lecture (Members who had attended this years lecture reported that it had been very enjoyable and informative);
- vi. Subject focused RE inspections; and,
- vii. Schools causing concern.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

16. NASACRE Update

The Chairman gave an oral update on recent NASACRE developments, including:

- i. NASACRE remained concerned about the introduction of the EBacc and the impact this may have as RE was not included within it. NASACRE continued working to address this issue;
- ii. Concerns were expressed over the primary and secondary curriculum reviews and the fact that RE had been excluded from these so far. There appeared to be a much more limited view of education from Central Government based on core skills and knowledge;
- iii. NASACRE was currently involved in drawing up a revised SACRE evaluation tool kit which SACREs may wish to use, with one of the revisions referring to academies and whether they should be a part of the SACRE structure;
- iv. NASACRE continued to work on the issue of collective worship and in particular the withdrawal of circular 194, however Central Government seemed reluctant to discuss this at present; and,
- v. Discussions were currently taking place on whether regional SACRE and AREIAC conferences could be introduced.

RESOLVED – That the Oral report be noted.

17. The British Humanist Association

SACRE received a copy of correspondence received from Mr Richy Thompson, Campaigns Officer for the British Humanist Association (BHA). The Association requested that the Staffordshire SACRE grant full membership to a humanist representative onto Committee A of the SACRE. Staffordshire SACRE had had a co-opted humanist representative attending their meetings since March 2002.

Members had a detailed debate on this issue and were aware that legally SACREs could now include a Humanists representative on Committee A if they wished, but they were not obliged to do so. Membership of Committee A was agreed locally and should ensure that it was reflective of the principle religious traditions of the area. SACRE was not aware of any large humanist presence within Staffordshire and felt that unless such a presence existed it would not be appropriate to include a Humanist member onto Committee A.

Members asked that a report be brought to the next SACRE meeting detailing the extent of Humanist representation in Staffordshire.

RESOLVED – That a report on the extent of Humanist representation in Staffordshire be brought to the next meeting of SACRE.

18. SACRE Annual Report 2010-2011

Members received a copy of the SACRE Annual report for 2010-2011 for their consideration. Members discussed the range of professional development offered to teachers and in particular the reduction in the network meetings, specifically for teachers of Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils.

Members suggested that electronic copies of the report be sent out but that a summary be sent to headteachers with links to the full document, to make the report more user friendly.

SACRE was asked to consider the report and contact the Senior Advisor for RE by the end of next week if they had any comments.

RESOLVED – That members contact the Senior Advisor for RE with any comments on the annual report by Friday 25 November 2011, and that the report then be amended as appropriate and circulated to all stakeholders.

19. Application for Variation of Practice

Members were aware that SACRE had the authority to determine any application for variation of practice from the requirement for broadly Christian collective worship and/or make amendment to the way the Agreed Syllabus was followed within a school.

Members were informed that no applications had been received.

SACRE were informed that a group of secularist peers had tabled amendments to the Education Bill at the committee stage of the House of Lords seeking to end the statutory status of collective worship and religious education within schools without a religious designation. The amendments had been debated before being withdrawn by the sponsors. The RE Council and NASACRE had clarified their position on collective worship and members received details of the statements made.

RESOLVED – That the new developments in this area be noted.

20. SACRE www.sln2.net Login Codes

At their meeting of 17 June 2011 members received a briefing on the sln2 Staffordshire learning platform and made a request that the possibility of developing a SACRE member page be investigated. The facility was now available for SACRE members to access sln2 via an individual password login and details of how to use the site were explained.

RESOLVED – That the sln2 developments be noted.

21. Monitoring of Primary School Provision 2010-2011

Monitoring questionnaires had been the main source of information since 2005 on the provision of RE in Staffordshire schools. This information had been used by SACRE to help with their monitoring duties on the provision of RE.

In a change to the previous system the questionnaires had been included on sIn2 with schools completing the questionnaires on line and details of the responses received were shared with SACRE.

RESOLVED – That the 2011 findings from the primary monitoring questionnaires be noted.

22. Explore Islam and Interfaith Week November 20 - 26th

SACRE received details of the Explore Islam week scheduled for 14-18 November and the Interfaith week on 20-16 November.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

23. The SACRE Budget 2011-2012

SACRE members received details of the SACRE budget for 2011-2012 giving a breakdown of how the funding had been spent. Members discussed a number of possible uses for the remaining funding, including opportunities to target those teachers who were not able, or had not previously accessed professional development.

After clarification on outstanding expenditure for the Senior Adviser for RE it was proposed that the Adviser in consultation with the Chairman be given discretion to allocate the remaining funding appropriately.

RESOLVED – That the Senior Adviser for RE in consultation with the Chairman have the discretion to allocate the remaining budget appropriately.

24. Any Other Business

- a) Members were informed that Frankie Durairatnam was currently in Stafford Hospital and had been very unwell. Members asked that a card wishing him a speedy recovery be sent from the SACRE.
- b) Liz O'Brien informed members that the Birmingham Diocese had amalgamated the Department of Religious Education and the Catholic School Commission into one new department called the Diocesan Education Service.
- c) Members were updated on progress with the NASACRE award to produce teaching materials based around the National Memorial Arboretum.
- d) Due to increasing heating costs Paul Lewis informed members that a donation was sought from those schools visiting the Synagogue. To avoid the discomfort of requesting a donation during the visit, teachers would be made aware of this request on the sIn2 site.

25. Date of the next SACRE meeting

RESOLVED – That the next SACRE meeting be held on Tuesday 7 February 2012, 2.00 pm, 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

7th February 2012

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People

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 autumn 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:

Emma Senior
01785 277997

The SACRE Report

As requested a letter detailing key points about the 2010/2011 SACRE report has now been sent into all schools. A copy of the letter was sent to head teachers in the electronic school bag. Paper copies have been sent to key stakeholders. A copy of the report has been placed on the website.

Recruitment to RE CPD training

There has been sufficient take up for RE courses to allow several courses to be run successfully. The Senior Teacher consultant (RE) has delivered bespoke training in individual schools too. This term there is the annual RE conference on 29th Feb. Any members wishing to have a stand in the lunchtime session should speak to the Emma Senior.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

7th February 2012

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People

NASACRE Update

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 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 NASACRE is the national body of SACRE's. National meetings are held to which members of SACRE are invited and encouraged to attend. Issues are discussed which have local or national importance for RE.

4.2 Members will be briefed on any key developments.

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:

Emma Senior
01785 277997

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

7th February 2012

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People

British Humanist Association: Membership of Committee A

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present members of SACRE with a brief update on recent correspondence with The British Humanist Association.

2 Summary

2.1 Members of SACRE will receive a brief update on recent correspondence with the British Humanist Association. This is a matter on which it is appropriate to brief members of SACRE.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE hear the update and note the contents

4 Background

4.1 The British Humanist Association emailed SACRE to request that we grant full membership to a humanist representative to committee A of SACRE.

4.2 Following a discussion on this at the last meeting the Chair will update us on developments with this matter.

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:

Emma Senior
01785 277997

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

7th February 2012

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People

Brent's Code of Conduct for SACRE members

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present members of SACRE with a copy of Brent's Code of Conduct for SACRE members.

2 Summary

2.1 Members of SACRE will have an opportunity to discuss this document and whether Staffordshire's SACRE should adopt a similar protocol.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE hear the update and note the contents

4 Background

4.1 The Code of Conduct is Brent's way of ensuring that members of SACRE have the right intentions from the outset and will commit to work together for the good of SACRE and for the good of Religious Education.

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:

Emma Senior
01785 277997

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

7th February 2012

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People

Ofsted Subject Focused Inspections

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update SACRE with recent developments in subject focused RE inspections

2 Summary

2.1 Each year SACRE carries out 30 Religious Education (RE) focused inspections in secondary schools and 30 subject themed inspections in primary schools.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report

4 Background

4.1 An RE focused inspection was held at Maryhill High School. RE in the school was judged to be inadequate.

4.2 Members are requested to read the recent report.

4.3 Members will be updated on progress made since the report was published.

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
Telephone number:

Emma Senior
01785 27799



Dear Headteacher

Religious Education in Key Stages 3 and 4

As part of its duty to monitor RE Provision across the County, Staffordshire's SACRE wishes to update its knowledge with regard to the teaching of religious education in Staffordshire's secondary schools. To help I would be very grateful if you would complete the short form attached which will give SACRE an outline of how religious education is organised in your school for all pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4.

RE is a statutory subject and statutory means that at each key stage RE is properly planned and assessed. You may be interested to know that Ofsted recently carried out a full subject inspection of RE in a Staffordshire Secondary School. For your reference I have also enclosed some extracts from the subsidiary Guidance Issued to Inspectors pertaining to RE. Whatever the situation is in your school SACRE would like to be fully in the picture. SACRE is anxious to support the teaching of RE so if there are particular issues or questions please do not hesitate to contact Emma Senior, Senior Teacher Consultant (RE), who will advise on behalf of SACRE.

Please send your replies by Friday 27th January 2012 to Emma Senior at the address above. An addressed envelope has been included for your convenience.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Thank you in anticipation.



Rev. Prebendary Michael Metcalf
Chair Staffordshire SACRE

| | | |
|---|--|------------|
| Name of school | | |
| KS3 | Time allocated for RE per week: | hrs |
| KS4 Non-exam class | Time allocated for RE per week: | hrs |
| KS4 Short course GCSE RE exam class | Time allocated for RE per week: | hrs |
| KS4 Full course GCSE RE exam class | Time allocated for RE per week: | hrs |
| Use this space to tell SACRE if there are pupils in your school who don't receive any RE teaching at all | | |
| Use this space to tell SACRE if your arrangements for RE differ from the categories above | | |



Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

7th February 2012

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People

Monitoring of Secondary Schools

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To brief members of SACRE on the recent monitoring of provision in secondary schools in Staffordshire.

2 Summary

2.1 A letter was recently sent to all secondary schools in Staffordshire requesting that they outline provision for RE throughout the school. A copy of the letter is attached.

2.2 The results of that monitoring will be shared at the next meeting.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the summary and note its contents.

4 Background

4.1 Members will be briefed on all events which are taking place. 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 There are no immediate financial implications

Contact Officer
Telephone number:

Emma Senior
01785 277997

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

7th February 2012

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People

SACRE www.sln2.net login codes

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present members of SACRE with a brief update on developments with SLN2

2 Summary

2.1 Members of SACRE have received information on SLN2 and received sln2 login codes.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE hear the update and note the contents

4 Background

4.1 Members are asked if they still require their sln2 login codes and to log in using them if they wish to keep them. It is optional of course and members will still be shown the monitoring during meetings if they choose not to access sln2 themselves.

4.2 SLN2 is Staffordshire's learning Platform. 84% of primary schools are using SLN2 and just over half of all secondary schools have also subscribed to it.

4.3 SLN2 is password protected and allows information to be shared with subscribers only. It incorporates the option to share blogs, documents, hold discussions, carry out surveys etc.

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.

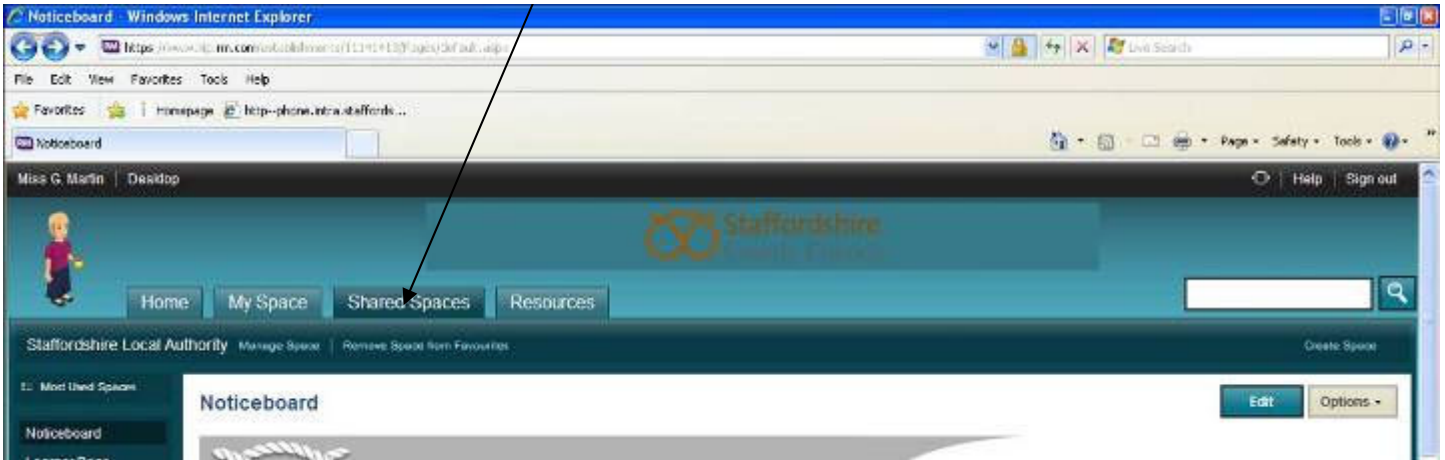
Contact Officer
Telephone number:

Emma Senior
01785 277997

To Access The SLN2 Staffordshire Local Authority RE Area...

- Login using your User Name and Password.

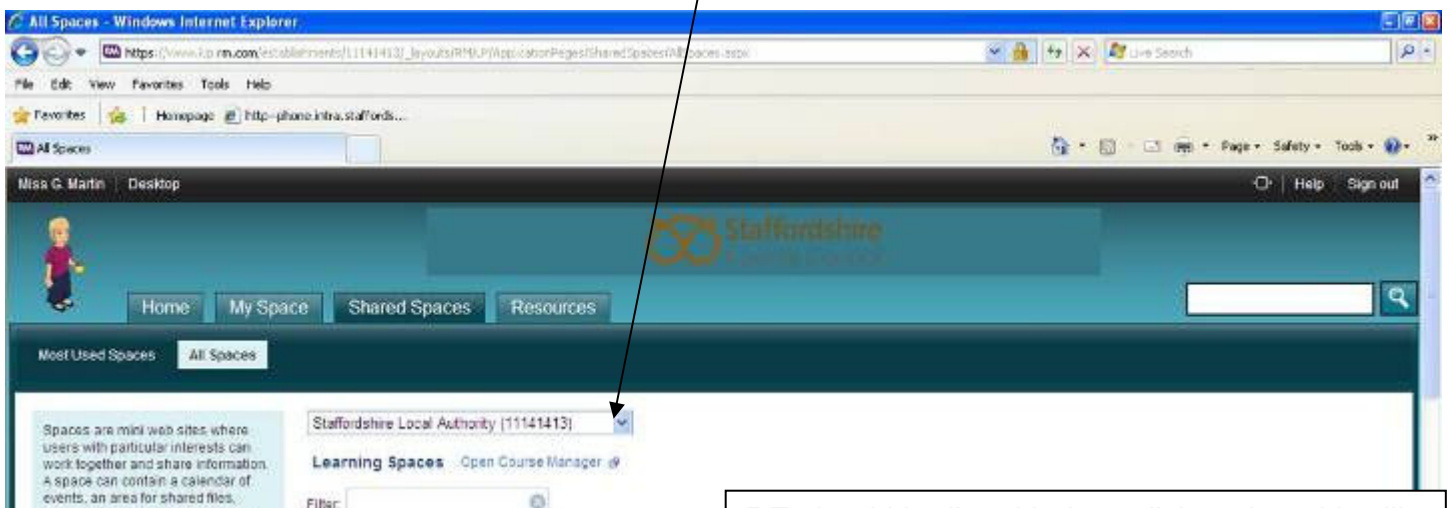
Click on 'Shared Spaces'



Click on 'All Spaces'



Select 'Staffordshire Local Authority' from the drop down box



RE should be listed below, click on it and it will take you to the RE area.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

7th February 2012

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People

Monitoring of Primary School Provision 2011-2012

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present members with an analysis of findings from the monitoring of primary schools 2011/12.
- 1.2 To invite members of SACRE to make comments and/or recommendations in the light of the findings.

2 Summary

- 2.1 In order to provide members with sufficient information to carry out their monitoring duties, schools have, for a number of years, been issued with questionnaires requesting detail about provision.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That members of SACRE receive the findings from the 2011/12 monitoring and consider any recommendations.

4 Background

- 4.1 Monitoring questionnaires have been circulated to schools for a number of years. From September 2005 these questionnaires have formed the main source of information about the provision for RE in Staffordshire schools.
- 4.2 In a change to the previous system of written questionnaires a new system of electronic questionnaires has been set up on SLN2. Schools have been invited to complete the online questionnaire through a letter and an e-update. With SACRE members now able to access SLN2 it is possible for members to view responses on a regular basis.
- 4.3 Information gathered through the monitoring exercise relating to RE in Staffordshire Schools can be shared via SLN2 at the meeting. Criteria for discussions is attached below.

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 will be considered in the light of Member's recommendations.

Contact Officer
Telephone number:

Emma Senior
01785 277997

Religious Education in Staffordshire

Monitoring Provision 2011-2012

Collated responses

Returns

How many schools have responded?
Is this a reasonable return?

Subject leader

All schools named a subject leader for RE. In a few instances this was identified to be the headteacher.

Time

SACRE recommends 36-45 hours per year (45-60 minutes each week)

Use of Teaching Assistants (TAs)

How are they employed in the delivery of RE

Planning

Should be based on the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus

Professional development

Have schools accessed CPD

Comments / Recommendations

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

7th February 2012

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People

Applications for Variation of Practice

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider any applications for variation of practice to religious education and or collective worship.

2 Summary

- 2.1 Upon receipt of a written application from a Headteacher of a county school SACRE should determine whether it is appropriate to disapply the requirement for broadly Christian collective worship and/or make amendments to the way the Agreed Syllabus is followed in the case of that school.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That members of SACRE are updated on any new developments in this area.

4 Background

- 4.1 No applications have been received at this time.

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:

Emma Senior
01785 277997

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

7th February 2012

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People

SACRE Budget 2011 - 2012

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 2011 - 2012 to date 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 2011 – 2012 as approved by the Corporate Director (Children and Lifelong Learning).

4.2 An account of the monies spent to date in relation to the budget for 2011-2012 will be presented at the meeting.

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
Telephone number:

Emma Senior
01785 27799

SACRE Budget 2011/2012

Cost Centre EM1100

Expenditure from 01/04/11 to 31/03/12

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Allocation | -12,030.00 |
| | -12,030.00 |

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| <u>Expenditure</u> | £ |
| E Senior Time | 6,500.00 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Other | |
| Student Council Meeting 28/04/11 | 96.25 |
| Printing | 3.43 |
| AREIAC Assessment Conference | 75.00 |
| Damaris Trust | 300.00 |
| Staffordshire University | 500.00 |
| RE Today Services | 296.40 |
| Postage | 4.10 |
| AREIAC Membership | 70.00 |
| Recall from King Edward VI, Lichfield | -290.00 |
| | 7,555.18 |

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Total | -4,474.82 |
|--------------|------------------|

Updated 02/11/2011