

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
20th June 2018
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities
Compliance at KS4

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To consider any issues pertaining to compliance in RE at KS4.

2 Summary

2.1 The Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus requires all pupils in KS4 to follow an accredited examination syllabus in RE.

2.2 The 2017 examination results suggest a varied picture of compliance with this requirement at KS4 in maintained schools. As a monitoring exercise all maintained secondary schools have been visited to review their RE provision.

2.3 The DfE published its response to the consultation over the EBacc in July. In paragraph 72, there was a re-affirmation of the statutory nature of RE in all maintained schools. The SACRE, in fulfilling its monitoring role, can act when a school is not fulfilling its statutory duties with regard to RE.

3 Recommendation

3.1 Congratulate schools with full provision, investigate aspects of good practice further.

3.2 Gain further clarity on the legalities of provision at KS3 and KS4, particularly in relation to the outcome of the two test cases currently in court and the further guidance given by the DfE regarding investigating complaints in relation to RE provision.

3.3 Contact schools where issues need further investigation to clarify the school position.

3.4 Consider re-wording certain aspects of the Agreed Syllabus changing 'should' to 'must'.

4 Background

4.1 DfE response to the Ebacc consultation. Paragraph 72.

72. We have considered suggestions to include additional subjects or pillars within the EBacc but have decided that this could reduce pupil choice at GCSE to the point where no other subjects can be studied. Religious education must be taught to all pupils until the end of key stage 5, a qualification (such as GCSE religious studies) should be offered at the end of key stage 4 to accredit pupils' knowledge and understanding. The proportion of pupils in state funded mainstream schools entering a GCSE in religious studies remains high at 47% in 2015/16.

4.2 The Minister of State for Education, Nick Gibb MP, in a response to a Parliamentary Question asked by Stephen Timms MP stated in March 2018:

"RE is compulsory for all state funded schools, including academies and free schools, at all key stages. The Department investigates complaints made about schools not fulfilling their statutory duties in respect of RE...If an individual is concerned that a school is not meeting its duty to provide religious education they should follow that school's complaint procedure in

the first instance. If the complaint is not resolved, then the issue can be escalated to the Department's School Complaints Unit for maintained schools, or the Education and Skills Funding agency for academies, free schools, university technical colleges or studio schools... My Rt Hon Friend, the Secretary of State for Education, has a range of powers to ensure schools comply with their statutory obligations, The powers used will depend on the nature of the statutory duty in question and the potential impact of any failure to comply. These powers include a direction under section 497 of the Education Act 1996, a performance and standards warning notice under the Education and inspections Act 2006 and a referral to Ofsted for an inspection. Where academies are subject to the same statutory duties as maintained schools, the Secretary of State has powers to enforce compliance via the terms of the funding agreement."

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 Jardine-Phillips
07805 692573

Report to Staffordshire SACRE: Compliance at KS4 in Staffordshire's maintained Schools.

Aim: To consider any issues pertaining to compliance in RE at KS4

Background:

- The Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus requires all pupils in KS4 to follow an accredited examination syllabus in RE.
- The 2017 examination results suggest a varied picture of compliance in Staffordshire with this requirement at KS4 in maintained schools.
- The DfE published its response to the consultation over the EBacc in July. in paragraph 72, there was a re-affirmation of the statutory nature of RE in all maintained schools. The SACRE, in fulfilling its monitoring role, can act when a school is not fulfilling its statutory duties with regard to RE:

72. We have considered suggestions to include additional subjects or pillars within the EBacc but have decided that this could reduce pupil choice at GCSE to the point where no other subjects can be studied. Religious education must be taught to all pupils until the end of key stage 5, a qualification (such as GCSE religious studies) should be offered at the end of key stage 4 to accredit pupils' knowledge and understanding. The proportion of pupils in state funded mainstream schools entering a GCSE in religious studies remains high at 47% in 2015/16.

Remit: The following Staffordshire schools were identified (correct 16.01.18) as maintained:

1. Abbot Beyne School
2. Blythe Bridge High School
3. Cheslyn Hay Sport and Community High School
4. Codsall Community High School
5. Endon High School
6. Great Wyrley High School
7. King Edward VI High School Stafford
8. King Edward VI School
9. Moorside High School
10. Nether Stowe School
11. Norton Canes High School
12. Paulet High School
13. Stafford Manor High School
14. The Friary School
15. The King's CofE (VA) School

All schools in the list were contacted formally by both email and letter to arrange a visit to review their RE provision (A copy of the letter is attached). A template was used to record the findings from each visit. The findings were also shared with the school to support their internal review processes.

The following schools failed to engage with the process:

King Edward VI High School Stafford

The King's CofE (VA) School (diocesan school)

Findings: See chart below

Schools causing concern:

- Codsall High School provision at KS3 and KS4
- Great Wyrley High School provision at KS4
- Nether Stowe School provision at KS4

Recommendations:

- Congratulate schools with full provision, investigate aspects of good practice further
- Gain further clarity on the legalities of provision at KS3 and KS4, particularly in relation to the outcome of the two test cases currently in court
- Contact schools where issues need further investigation to clarify the school position
- Consider re-wording certain aspects of the Agreed Syllabus changing 'should' to 'must'

DFE Complaints procedures: <https://www.gov.uk/complain-about-school>

Name of School	Compliance at KS3	Compliance at KS4	Full Compliance	KS5 provision	RE making a significant whole school impact	Good practice examples	Issue for further investigation
1. Abbot Beyne School	✓ across the KS	✓	✓	X		A local RE network has been established in the Burton area. This is providing invaluable support.	No distinct RE in Y7 however extra time allocated in Years 8 and 9 to ensure coverage.
2. Blythe Bridge High School	✓	✓	✓	✓		The school approach to core and examination RE ensures that all pupils receive a rounded experience.	
3. Cheslyn Hay Sport and Community High School	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Differentiation embedded, SPaG starters helping to embed literacy. Regular whole school themed days.	
4. Codsall Community High School	X	X	X	X			Core RE is delivered in Y9 and Y11 only. Pupils receive 6 hours RE in total in Y9 and in Y11. How far does the content of the 6 hours meet the required programme of study in the syllabus?
5. Endon High School	✓	✓	✓	N/A			
6. Great Wyrley High School	✓	Option group only, no core provision.	X	✓		The learning environment in the classroom supports pupils learning well.	One GCSE examination group at KS4. Outstanding results achieved. No Core RE for the rest of the year group.
7. King Edward VI High School Stafford							
8. King Edward VI School							
9. Moorside High School	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	Subsidised visit to 3 faith buildings for the entire Y8 cohort.	
10. Nether Stowe School	✓	Option group only, no core provision.	X	X		Access to useful revision materials.	From September 2018 RE will be an option subject only at KS4. No Core RE for the rest of the year group.
11. Norton Canes High School	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	The Norton Standard Lesson Planning Sheet supports effective progression. The Head of Faculty works closely with non-specialists to ensure a balance of Learning about and From Religion.	
12. Paulet High School							
13. Stafford Manor High School	✓	✓	✓	✓		Good Practice: Excellent links with the education team at Stafford Baptist Church. The team contribute to a debating club and breakfast club.	
14. The Friary School							
15. The King's CofE (VA) School							



Staffordshire SACRE
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Tuesday 14th February, 2018

Please ask for: Emma Jardine-Phillips

Dear Headteacher

Monitoring the provision for RE in Staffordshire Schools

As a part of their statutory duty to advise the local education authority upon matters connected with religious education, (Staffordshire Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education) SACRE have requested that all maintained secondary schools in Staffordshire are visited in relation to their provision for RE at KS3, 4 and 5.

The visits will be carried out by Emma Jardine-Phillips, who has been commissioned to complete this piece of work, and can be arranged for a mutually agreeable time. The visit will take no more than 3 hours and will broadly cover the following aspects:

- Leadership of RE within school
- Teaching and Learning in RE
- Outcomes for students in RE
- The wider contribution that RE makes to the school

The visit will take the form of a meeting with the Head of Religious Studies to gather a broad understanding of RE provision in the school. It would also be helpful to look at a small sample of pupils' work and see some teaching. An opportunity to meet with the headteacher during the visit would also be useful to fully ascertain the wider contribution that RE makes to the school.

These visits are being undertaken as part of a broader piece of work to gather an accurate picture of RE provision across the county in all phases of school, as well as providing an opportunity to celebrate, support and encourage excellence in religious education.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Metcalf".

Rev. Prebendary Michael Metcalf,
Chair, Staffordshire SACRE.

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Emma".

Emma Jardine-Phillips,
Advisor to Staffordshire SACRE.