

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**  
**5<sup>th</sup> February 2020**  
**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and**  
**Communities**  
**An Update on Relationship & Sex and Health Education**

**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 the rolling out of the statutory Relationship & Sex and Health Education curriculum and the implications for SACREs and the advice from NASACRE

**3 Recommendation**

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

**4 Background**

4.1 There will be a statutory requirement to provide Relationship & Sex and Health Education- RHE in primary schools and RSHE in secondary schools from September 2020.

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.

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## **SACREs & Relationships, Sex and Health Education Advice from NASACRE**

The requirement to provide RHE in primary schools and RSHE in secondary schools becomes statutory in 2020. NASACRE welcomes this and sees it as a hugely positive development. There are, however, some points of contention for various faith and non-faith groups about the content and approach schools may take toward RSHE. NASACRE have been asked about the role of SACREs in supporting schools in this area.

Some SACREs enjoy the support of an advisor whose remit is for PSHE as well as for RE and Collective Worship, with specific expertise in this area. In such cases that individual may feel able to provide support and advice to schools.

*(This is not the case here in Staffordshire, although Mary Gale does collate the information regarding Relationships, Sex and Health Education Advice from SCC and Entrust and provides this advice in the Governor Information Pack for governors and headteachers).*

However, this is not the case for all SACREs, and so it is important that SACREs are clear about their *statutory* role in this respect and recognise the limits of their powers in this area. **It should be recognised that SACREs have no statutory duty or powers to provide RSHE advice or support to schools.** Therefore, no SACRE should feel duty-bound or be placed under pressure to provide such advice to their schools or local authority (LA).

It is the responsibility of the local authority, or Academy trust, to consult within the local community, including amongst faith groups. Faith representatives on SACRE have been appointed for their expertise in RE and collective worship and have not been given a remit to discuss issues of relationships or sex education. However, it may be that some SACREs are well-placed to be a space where faiths, schools and the authority can discuss concerns and offer feedback. Other SACREs may be able to signpost LAs/ MATs to faith representatives within the area, due to the relationships they have with faith communities. Some SACREs may have little capacity or expertise in this area and so, if schools specifically ask their SACRE for advice, they should be directed to their LA or MAT.

If SACREs feel they are coming under pressure to provide advice or support they are unable to give, they should seek the support of NASACRE in dealing with this. Additionally, we would like to hear from SACREs who are engaging with work in this area.

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**This is the most recent advice on Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education – Update from the Department of Education that was included in the GIP for Spring 2020**

As you are aware from last term's Governor briefings, as of September 2020 all primary schools will need to start teaching Relationships and Health Education, and secondary schools will start teaching Relationships, Sex and Health Education.

### **Advice on Engaging with Parents**

Engagement with parents is an important part of implementing these new subjects. To support primary schools with this, the DfE have developed new advice on parental engagement on Relationships Education, in partnership with the NAHT, NGA and ASCL.

This resource provides information on what is expected of schools and why, alongside tips and case studies on effective parental consultation. It also includes information on where to go for help, and the important role Governors and trustees can play in this process.

Primary schools can use this resource this academic year to start adapting their curriculum and consulting their parents, ready for teaching to begin in September 2020.

[Download the DfE, NAHT & NGA advice on engaging parents >](#)