

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
18th November 2020
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and
Communities
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 Summer 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.

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

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Key Issues Report November 18th 2020

Westhill Legacy project- Explore, Engage, Reflect in conjunction with Youth Net

This project has continued with the support of SACRE, see report on Agenda item 9.

Continuous Professional Development

Schools were offered the opportunity to attend a RE full days training in the Spring 2020 prior to lockdown. All training opportunities are advertised in the training calendar. 10 schools booked to attend. Mary Gale had been commissioned by Entrust to facilitate this CPD

Mary Gale has also been supporting RE leaders in schools through email and face to face meetings. This has involved supporting schools in understanding *greater depth* in RE assessment, whole class reading through RE texts, planning and preparation for Ofsted 'deep dives'.

Church of England schools have also asked for support with preparation for their next SIAMS inspection. Mary Gale has facilitated this.

Update on Sacred Spaces/ Christianity The Big Picture work in conjunction with Youth net

This is aimed at key stage 3 so years 7, 8 and 9

This conference has been designed to give an overview of Christianity and it will cover Worship, Prayer, the Bible, Church, Jesus and Big Questions. This experiential learning will be supported with an intro looking at 'Who is God' and then an opportunity for Q and A at the end.

It will work best as a double period in high school and will need a hall or large area to put up 6 gazebos. This has been advertised and there is a waiting list of schools to access this when restrictions are lifted.

This project was put on hold until Spring 2021 due to Covid-19

SACRE support from April 2020-2021

Mary Gale continues in her current role as support for SACRE until April 2021.

Support for teaching about Diversity and Race Relations

The governor information pack for the Summer and Autumn terms for schools emphasised the need for schools to reflect on their broad and balanced curriculum and whether their schools were teaching about the lives of black people. This was approached through by drawing attention to resources to support teaching and learning including, Holocaust memorial day and Black History Month.

Governors and leaders have been made aware of the increased emphasis on diversity and race relations over previous months. When it comes to race, schools may have been busy

with bureaucracy around racial incidents, but it seems recent events have made many school leaders realise how deeply entrenched structural or systemic racism is in our institutions, and the real impact this has on people of colour, their life chances, access to opportunity, wellbeing, physical and mental health.

Leaders and governors were advised of the following.

The start towards becoming an anti-racist school leader is the understanding that racism isn't just situated in name-calling or focused attacks on individuals, but is more likely to take place in subtle and insidious ways that are the result of our implicit, inherent, learned, or as it is most commonly known, 'unconscious' bias. The following article may help to support schools in starting to address these aspects taking 'small steps'.

<https://www.integritycoaching.co.uk/blog/race-equality>

In addition, here are some suggested resources to support the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum including diversity and race equality.

<https://www.diverseeducators.co.uk/?fbclid=IwAR1ImOp9hqSgcJXTHEb5x4jy2Rdgh7Cgs7WI6LIIJAuaG-ZKvHzlwwVZAqE>

Holocaust Educational Trust

The Teaching Resources section of the Trust's website provides free, downloadable lesson plans, classroom resources and guidance documents for teachers. *Exploring the Holocaust* is the flagship resource which offers a free, comprehensive and flexible cross-curricular scheme of work for the teaching of the Holocaust at Key Stage 3. It contains 15 downloadable lesson plans with accompanying resources for use in History, Religious Education or Philosophy, and Citizenship or PSHE, together with guidance documents for English, Drama and Art.

They also offer a wide range of resources for other age groups, with lesson plans adapted accordingly.

Please follow this link for more information <https://www.het.org.uk/teaching-resources>

Black History 365 1st October 2020 focus week

Continuing your school's journey in celebrating diversity. **Please follow this link for more information**

<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>

Interfaith week

This week aims to increase awareness of different faiths and increase understanding between people of different faiths. This will take place from Sunday 8th – Sunday 15th November. It starts on Remembrance Sunday and runs until the following Sunday, thus providing the opportunity for weekend events to take place if permitted. This week is for everyone with a wide variety of activities planned.

Please follow this link for more information. <https://www.interfaithweek.org/about>

Agreed Syllabus review

Forward notice that in the February 2021 meeting, SACRE will need to start reflecting on the current Agreed Syllabus and whether this syllabus is fit for purpose. It will be five years since the previous review.