

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
3rd February 2021
**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 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.

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

This project has been halted due to Covid-19

Continuous Professional Development

Schools were offered the opportunity to attend RE training through a virtual platform, no body took up the offer. The offer will be re-issued for the summer term.

Links to online Religious Education information were provided for schools through the Governor Information Pack in the spring term and this was brought to the attention of clerks in schools and governors and senior leaders over a series of 5 webinars led by Mary Gale.

Mary Gale has also been supporting RE leaders in schools through email.

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 has not been put on hold until summer 2021 due to Covid-19

SACRE support from April 2021-2022

Mary Gale will continue in her current role as support for SACRE until April 2022, if all are in agreement. Michael Metcalf has agreed this with SCC and Entrust.

Support for providing Collective Worship during Covid-19

The governor information pack for the spring term for schools emphasised the need for schools to reflect on their statutory duty to provide collective worship during Covid-19.

It is pleasing to hear that schools are providing for groups within school as would be expected and that recordings of assemblies/collective worship have been provided for those undertaking remote education.

By 25th January 2021, schools have to provide information for parents on their remote learning entitlement. A selection of school websites will be quality assured to see if they include references to RE and Collection worship.

Agreed Syllabus review- Please see agenda item 6.

Use of funds to support RE and CW in schools. 5x £200 grants will be allocated from this SACRE budget this term.

After the previous meeting, a selection of schools were asked to submit a project brief on how additional funds could be used to support RE and CW in schools.

Project briefs included:-

Sir John Offley CE VC Primary school, Madeley

As part of our school action plan for RE this coming year we are going to be focusing on developing Global Education for strand 3 of the new SIAMS schedule. We would like to have some funding to contribute to a school-based project/activity designed to enhance the Christian distinctiveness of our school. We feel it is a vital element to our children's education, to develop their knowledge of the diversification of worship and the impact Christianity has on the community in which it is practised. We want to compare our experiences of Christianity with a very different country to develop our children's understanding of injustice around the world and how they can play a part in challenging this.

We have the opportunity to work with a minister and make some links within the Christian community in the Philippines through Overseas Missionary Fellowship. We want to enable the children to make links with a school and church in the Philippines. Therefore we would use any funding for resources and materials to enable the children to research this and have the opportunity to talk to people who are living and working in these communities and organise a whole school Global education day where each child will take part in a workshop to discuss and challenge injustice they have researched.

Perton First School

RE and collective worship is an integral part of our school life at Perton First School. Over the last few years, we have begun to make connections with local religious places of worship. With additional funding, we would be able to do more of these for an extensive range of year groups. At Perton First School, a key aim is to create religiously literate children who have an open and diverse mind in the multi-cultural society we live in. The additional funding would also allow us to invite religious visitors into school to be part of assemblies and lessons in order to promote and celebrate different religions. The £200 could also go towards additional resources such as religious artefacts to expose children within lessons to the various symbols that different religions deem important. The money would greatly contribute to these 3 areas above.

St Michael's CE VC Primary Lichfield

- Hindu Child's Artefact Collection - £99.95 on tts-group.co.uk
- Muslim Child's Artefact Collection - £99.95 on tts-group.co.uk

Both of these resource sets would help us to further develop our teaching of other worldwide faiths, especially given that Hinduism and Islam are the two worldwide faiths that we look at

in greatest depth, alongside Christianity. The artefacts that we currently have to accompany learning in Hinduism and Islam are rather limited and as there are a wide range of key stages who explore these two faiths, it would be nice to find ourselves in a position where we do not need to worry about a limited supply of resources. The resources included in each set tie in well with what is covered in our teaching sequence.

Oulton First School, Stone

As part of our school action plan for this coming year we are focusing on developing collective worship resources which can be used to enhance class worship. We would also value purchasing resources to support learning about the Old Testament in line with the AS and to support the ongoing community work of the church who perform 'Open the Book' for us on a regular basis. The pupils are enthused by this and then want to dramatise these stories so would love to have the resources to help them.

All Saints Primary, Ranton

As part of our school action plan for this coming year we are going to be focusing on developing collective worship resources which can be used to enhance class worship. We want each class to have similar specific resources to act as continuity from year group to year group. In addition to work with projects delivered through Youth net on supporting the Christian distinctiveness of our school.