

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

14th November 2011

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for 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 spring 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.

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The Student Council for Religious Education

This term I negotiated for Dance4life to tour Staffordshire High schools. Dance4life were one of the organisations that I made contact with during my visit to the Global Student Forum with the Staffordshire assembly of students. dance4life is an innovative, international initiative designed to inspire, mobilise and unite young people (13–19 years old) to push back the spread of HIV/AIDS. dance4life aims to have created one million active participating youth by 2014 as a last urgent call to the world leaders to keep their promises around the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's). The tour was well received, with participating schools commenting on its contribution to the KS4 and 5 RE curriculum on matters of relationships, SRE, and values. Gavin Williams, MP for South Staffordshire, attending the workshop when it visited Cheslyn Hay High school and wrote a column on its impact for his local news paper.

Recruitment and retention

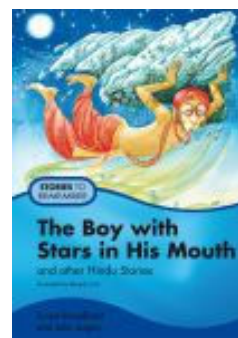
The following jobs have been advertised since the last meeting:
Main Professional Scale: Teacher for RE, John Taylor High School

Farmington Fellows

The Staffordshire tradition of promoting Farmington fellowships continues with Jerome Peat from Abbot Beyne School. Jerome's mentor will be Lat Blaylock. Bev Young from Thomas Alleyne's High School is nearing the completion of her Farmington Fellowship.

Offers: SHAP Calendar and resources

This year the SHAP calendar has not been offered to teachers as they have changed the format of the calendar and have moved to an electronic version only. With the changing ways of working and the changing role of ET it is no longer possible to bulk buy resources at a reduced rate. Teachers will continue to be offered the quality resources that we currently have in stock at reduced rates. This includes a pack of five storybooks that includes stories from the Christian, Hindu and Sikh traditions as well as two books which explore difference within faiths through the eyes of children brought up in the tradition. RE Today have also worked with Staffordshire to offer a reduced price for resources. These resources and offers have been communicated to teachers throughout Staffordshire.



SACRE Lecture

The SACRE lecture was delivered by Lat Blaylock on 20th September. It was well attended and a most informative evening. A personal letter of thanks was received from the Head teacher at Madeley High school who attended the event.

Subject focused RE inspections

Maryhill High School is to receive a subject focused RE inspection on 2nd and 3rd November. The inspection will be led by Jacqueline Wordsworth HMI.

Schools causing concern

This term a letter was sent to Norton Canes after concerns were expressed over possible changes to RE in light of the Ebacc. The issue was also raised by the school SEP.

