

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
10th July 2013

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of 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 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.

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Religious Education Council's (REC) charity walk

The REC is organising a series of sponsored walks which will be held in cities, towns and villages across England and Wales this year to raise money. Each walk will take in a number of places of religious significance and nurture contacts which would be of value from an RE perspective. On Saturday 1st June Sharon Artley held a Religious Education Council's (REC) charity walk event at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA). The walk has raised £420 so far. Michael Metcalf, Chair of SACRE, was there to offer support. To see how Sharon got on view this link:

<http://sponsoredwalk.recouncil.org.uk/local-walks/west-midlands/national-memorial-arboretum>

The Religious Education Council (REC) review of Religious Education

As The National Curriculum has undergone review over the past year, so to has the Religious Education curriculum. The National Syllabus for RE, which SACRE's are to take account of when developing their local syllabus, is currently under a review being led by the REC. Consultation opened on the work done to date for the REC review of Religious Education in May. A link was posted on the RE website and also in the most recent RE e-Newsletter to encourage local teachers to take part.

Successful Teacher and Pupil Conferences

On March 6th the annual RE conference was held in Staffordshire at the Kingston Centre. It was extremely well attended with delegates attending from as far away as Derby and Warwickshire. This widening of participation reflects the scaling back of RE support services in other areas. HMI for RE Alan Brine was one of the Key Note speakers. Feedback was excellent with extremely complimentary delegate comments. The Next RE conference will be held in March 2014.

On May 9th the annual Student RE conference was held in Staffordshire here at the Kingston Centre. With approximately 70 pupils aged between 8 and 12 in attendance it was a fantastic opportunity to engage with pupils on matters of faith and belief. The theme for the conference was 'Body and Soul' and pupils explored thankfulness, values and relationships. The conference was an overwhelming success!



A Journey into Islam

Entrust employs a number of Linguistic and Cultural Mediators (LCMs) who work closely with schools in supporting newly arrived pupils to the UK. The LCMs are themselves a diverse group and speak many languages, have different faiths and customs. We have worked together on the idea of creating a programme of in school workshops to support the RE curriculum. This has come from the regular concern that pupils in schools are not having an opportunity for interfaith dialogue. 'A journey into Islam' is the first such workshop. A second workshop on the theme of weddings is currently being created. Mohammed Fahim and Waheeda Qureshi have offered to give SACRE a brief overview.

The Spiritualist Church

The Spiritualist Church have a new document that they are looking to send into schools nationwide. Julia Almond will be bringing copies along for SACRE members to see.