

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
4th March 2010
Report of the Corporate Director (Children Young People and Families)
Religious Education in English Schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an opportunity for members to consider the document 'Religious education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010'.
- 1.2 This document replaces the guidance given on religious education in Circular 1/94. It does not replace the guidance on collective worship also contained in the Circular.

2 Summary

- 2.1 The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) recently drafted updated guidance on religious education in English schools to replace the relevant sections in Circular 1/94.
- 2.2 Comments were invited during a period of consultation and the document has been rewritten to take account of feed back. A lengthy critique was returned on behalf of SACRE members.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That members take the opportunity to consider the document 'Religious education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010'.
- 3.2 That members consider any response they wish to make to the document.

4 Background

- 4.1 The last government guidance on religious education and collective worship was issued through Circular 1/94 early in 1994. A revision of the guidance with reference to religious education **only** was undertaken in 2009.
- 4.2 A draft document for consultation was issued by the DCSF in the summer of 2009. The Senior Adviser and Chair of SACRE produced a lengthy response on behalf of Staffordshire members and this was sent to the DCSF and to relevant officers at QCDA (Qualifications and curriculum Development Agency).
- 4.3 The final guidance has been issued to schools and can be found at <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/subjects/re/guidance/> . Members will be issued with a hard copy at the meeting. An extract giving a checklist for SACRE's has been appended to this paper.
- 4.4 Members will be invited to discuss the document and to make any relevant response.

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 There are no financial implications.

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Extract:

Religious education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010-02-06

Checklist for an effective partnership between an LA and its SACRE/ASC

- Do the LA and its SACRE/ASC carry out their statutory duties?
- Is SACRE/ASC properly resourced and well supported by subject specialist advice and training?
- Do members of the SACRE/ASC have a shared vision and understanding of their aims and purpose, seeking to sustain their positive work in the light of changing needs and priorities?
- Are SACRE/ASC meetings purposeful and focused on the major priorities of improving the quality of RE in schools?
- Is the SACRE/ASC well informed about the quality of RE in schools and about wider LA and national priorities and developments affecting the subject?
- Has the LA adopted a high quality agreed syllabus that provides a good grounding for planning, teaching and learning in RE and enables the schools to deliver RE as part of a coherent curriculum?
- Is there an effective process of reviewing, revising, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the locally agreed syllabus?
- How far does the SACRE's partnership with the LA enable it to help teachers and schools raise standards in RE and the quality of RE teaching.
- How far does the SACRE contribute effectively to the community cohesion agenda by supporting inclusion in schools and improving engagement within the community?