

To the Chair and Members of the Standing Advisory Council On Religious Education

Standing Advisory Council On Religious Education – Work Programme 2017/18

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides an opportunity for SACRE to consider its work programme for 2017/18.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This is not an exempt report

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The SACRE is asked to agree its work programme for 2017/18.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. The essential role of the SACRE is to support its Local Authority (LA) and the local authority's schools in meeting the entitlement of pupils across the local authority to engage in high quality Religious Education and Collective Worship.

BACKGROUND

5. In order to assist members in agreeing a work programme for the forthcoming year the SACRE is reminded of its key duties and functions. These are contained in The Religious Education (Meetings of Local Conferences and Councils) Regulations 1994; and RE in English Schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010.
6. In brief, **local authorities** are legally required to:
 - establish a SACRE and appoint representatives to each of the four committees
 - establish an occasional body called an agreed syllabus conference (ASC)
 - institute a review of its locally agreed syllabus every five years
 - appoint members of the committees represented on the ASC
 - ensure that membership of group/committee A on the SACRE and ASC is broadly representative of the local area
 - take all reasonable steps to ensure that SACRE and ASC membership is representative
7. In brief, **SACREs** are legally required to:

- advise the local authority on RE and collective worship
 - publish an annual report on their work
 - send the annual report to QCDA (or its successor body)
 - meet in public, unless confidential information is to be disclosed
 - make their minutes available to the local authority and make provision for public access to their agenda and reports
8. The Guidance also indicates that **SACREs should, as a matter of good practice:**
- Monitor the provision for both RE and Collective Worship
 - Provide advice and support on RE and Collective Worship to schools
 - In partnership with the local authority, keep the locally agreed syllabus and provision in schools under review
 - Offer advice to the local authority
9. In addition, **SACREs may:**
- Require their local authority to review the locally agreed syllabus
 - Decide to advise their local authority
 - Appoint Co-opted members who are not members of any of the four groups.
10. To Ensure the SACRE meets its legal requirements it is recommended that the work programme for 2017/18 includes the following:
- Agree future meeting dates for SACRE. As a minimum it should meet once per term.
 - Review membership and seek to fill outstanding vacancies to ensure it is up to date and representative of the local area.
 - Establish an agreed syllabus Body to Review the locally agreed syllabus (this is a 5 year review)
 - Agree and publish an annual report
 - Consider how it wishes to monitor the provision of RE and collective worship in schools (e.g. by reviewing exam results, Ofsted feedback etc.)
 - Identify any other relevant issues for inclusion on the work programme.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

11. By establishing a programme of work at the outset the SACRE is demonstrating good governance in terms of working towards identified priorities and being open and transparent. In terms of outcomes the work programme should ensure it is:
- promoting improvement in the standards, the quality of teaching, and provision in RE
 - evaluating the effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus
 - promoting improvement in the provision and quality of collective worship
 - managing the SACRE and building the partnership between the SACRE, the LA and other key stakeholders

- contributing to cohesion across the community and the promotion of social and racial harmony.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

12.

	Outcomes	Implications
	Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.	The SACRE is a partnership body established to improve Religious Education across the school's in the Borough.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

13. By establishing a work programme the SACRE will ensure it has an agreed purpose.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

14. The legal implications are included within the body of the report

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no specific financial implications associated with this report. The resources to support the work of the SACRE are contained within Legal and Democratic Services and Learning Opportunities and Young People's budgets.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

16. There are no specific Human Resource implications associated with this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

17. There are no specific technology implications associated with this report.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

18. In monitoring the effectiveness of RE provision in school's and the development of an agreed syllabus, SACRE will wish to seek assurances that this is undertaken in accordance with equalities legislation.

CONSULTATION

19. SACRE members supported the idea of agreeing an annual work programme at its previous meeting.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

20. There are no specific background papers associated with this report

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

Name, Andrew Sercombe, Governance & Member Services Manager,
01302 734354 andrew.sercombe@doncaster.gov.uk

Jonathon Sharp, Senior Standards and Effectiveness Officer, 01302 737617
jonathon.sharp@doncaster.gov.uk

Damian Allen
Director Learning & Opportunities