

GOVERNING BODY AGENDA ITEM - SUMMER TERM 2016**TITLE OF ITEM:****GOVERNORS' LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)****MAIN BODY OF THE ITEM**

RE is a statutory entitlement for all pupils and is part of the requirement for all state-funded schools to teach a broad and balanced curriculum, which includes RE. All schools must publish their provision for RE by academic year online.

The RE curriculum is locally determined by each Standing Advisory Council on RE (SACRE), which is responsible for producing its local Agreed Syllabus for RE. Maintained schools and many voluntary controlled schools who do not have academy status are required to follow their locally Agreed Syllabus and many academies and free schools choose to do so.

Governing bodies in all maintained schools have a statutory duty to ensure that provision is made for RE for all registered pupils, unless they are withdrawn by their parents. This includes all pupils in reception classes and sixth form.

Academies and free schools are contractually required through the terms of their funding agreement to make provision for the teaching of RE. Different requirements apply to schools with a religious character. Governors in these schools have a duty to ensure that the terms of their funding agreement are met.

An analysis of the 2015 student entries for GCSE Religious Studies in Doncaster has revealed that three secondary academies entered no students for examination in Religious Studies at KS4 and five other secondary academies entered less than 40 students (see paper enclosure).

The Academies Commission Report 2013 highlights the responsibilities that Local Authorities have for children and young people – which places Local Authorities as advocates for a broad and balanced curriculum, including RE. This duty of advocacy means that it is important that the Local Authority knows which RE syllabus is being followed by schools/academies not using the local Agreed Syllabus for RE, and/or not entering students for examination in Religious Studies at Key Stage 4.

(Extracts taken/adapted from the NATRE website)

RECOMMENDATION

The Governing Body is asked to:

- a. Receive and note the paper entitled “ Religious Education: What Governors Need to Know “
- b. Nominate a Governor with responsibility for RE to ensure that the statutory /contractual arrangements for RE are in place

c. Provide the Local Authority with details of the RE syllabus or syllabuses being followed across the Key Stages

**Are there any enclosures which will need to be circulated with this item?
If so please identify.**

“ Religious Education: What Governors Need to Know “

Indicate which schools: all categories below

Maintained Infant -
Maintained Junior
Maintained Primary
Maintained Special

Academy Infant
Academy Junior
Academy Primary
Academy Secondary

Pupils Referral Units

Free School

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