

CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE & SKILLS COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 75

Subject:	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report		
Date of Meeting:	Children, Young People and Skills Committee 07 March 2016		
Report of:	Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director Children's Services		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 Since 1988 local authorities (LA) have had a duty to establish a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).
- 1.2 Duties of SACRE
The SACRE advises the LA on matters relating to collective worship in community schools and on religious education given in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus. The locally agreed syllabus has to be reviewed every five years and the Brighton & Hove syllabus was last reviewed in 2013. Religious education is a statutory part of the basic curriculum for all pupils, but it is not a National Curriculum subject. SACRE also advises on Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development.
- 1.3 The Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) from each Local Authority will 'publish a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by the representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year'.
- 1.4 This report outlines the work of SACRE during the academic year 2014 - 2015
- 1.5 SACRE also deal with complaints about RE.
No formal complaints have been received this year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the SACRE report and records its support for the work of SACRE.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Following the review of the Agreed Syllabus in 2013, SACRE has continued to support development opportunities for staff and promote good practice.
- 3.2 In November 2014, teachers attended a joint Brighton & Hove East Sussex RE conference based on the findings of the 2014 HMI report on 'RE Realising the Potential'. The key feature of this report was the continued lack of rigour and challenge and the general poor quality of teaching about Christianity. Brighton & Hove SACRE agreed that Christianity should therefore be the focus for training in 2014-15.

The following training sessions took place:

- Being an RE Subject Leader – all day training open to all primary subject leaders
- Teaching Christian Concepts in the Primary School – ½ day training open to all primary subject leaders
- Assessment without levels – focus Christianity – twilight session in primary school
- Pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development and British Values – ½ day training open to all leaders primary/ secondary schools –

Feedback from all of the courses was overwhelmingly positive. As a result, many teachers new to subject leadership and in need of support with developing their schemes of work and programmes of study were able to plan and develop the RE curriculum

- 3.3 Following the DfE guidance 'Promoting fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools' November 2014 and the national and local focus in this area, the RE consultant and School Partnership Adviser led staff training for senior leaders in all schools to raise awareness of the importance of this subject.
- 3.4 SACRE continue to support the citywide priorities of promoting Black Minority Ethnic (BME) achievement and tackling radicalisation and, with the PSHE Team, prepared the 'Faith Guidance in Educational Settings' which has been distributed to all schools in the City.

4. How SACRE works

- 4.1 SACRE meets four times a year. New members receive a booklet on being a SACRE member and the group has received training using the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) materials.
- 4.2 SACRE consists of members from different faith groups. The range of faith groups represented at meetings in the last year include: Baha'i Faith, Religious Society of Friends, Methodist Church, Baptist Union, Methodist Church, Salvation Army, Catholic Church and Jewish. The members' details also list the following: Buddhist, Roman Catholic Church and Muslim Faith, however representatives have not attended the recent meetings. A new representative for the Buddhist faith has been appointed and representation for the Roman Catholic Church, Coptic Christian Church and Muslim Faith are being asked to renew their representation.

New Churches Humanist Association were also contacted to see if they could supply representation to SACRE.

- 4.3 Teacher representation had been relatively low on SACRE as the only teaching union represented was NUT. The other teaching unions have been approached to see if they can find new representatives to sit on SACRE. In the meantime one primary RE specialist and a special school teacher have been co-opted onto the council to ensure that teacher representation is present. The Secondary School Partnership has been approached through the Teaching and Learning Consultant to see if they can find a secondary school RE specialist member.
- 4.4 The agendas for meetings were designed to reflect SACRE's desire to understand more about the general changes to education and specific local changes which may affect schools in their delivery of a rounded education including religious education.
- 4.5 SACRE has a budget of £8300. This funds a member of staff who clerks SACRE, time from an RE consultant, the meeting venues, training and the work with schools and other interested groups

5. Future Plans

Looking Ahead SACRE is planning to

- Review the Agreed Syllabus in accordance with its legal requirements and evaluate its use and effectiveness in Brighton & Hove Schools
- Continue to support schools developing assessment without levels in RE
- Continue to support schools with their development of SMSC and British Values
- Review the impact of the Faith Guidance for Brighton and Hove schools and colleges.
- Continue to support wherever possible council priorities of 'One Voice' and the prevent agenda
- Implement 'The Winning in the Game of Life' programme on SMSC and British Values in Brighton and Hove schools

6. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 SACRE is a statutory function

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 7.1 SACRE has members from different faith groups in Brighton & Hove. SACRE is consulting with schools on their work

- 7.2 SACRE Membership
Chair of SACRE Rev Derek Bastide (Church of England)
Committees

Representatives of other faiths and Christian denominations other than the Church of England

Michael Hickman- Methodist Congregation
Rabbi Vivian Silverman - Jewish Community
Peter Ward – Roman Catholic
Michael Bray – Baptist Union
Rachel Shepherd - Salvation Army
Carolyn Drake – Buddhist Community
Harvey Gillman – Society of Friends
Mona Hajatdoost – Baha’I Faith
Vacancies: Sikh, Hindu, Jain, Russian Orthodox, Muslim and United Reform Church

Church of England

Reverend Derek Bastide
Linda Dupret
Ian Parks
Ruth Cumming (joined June 2015)

Councillors

Leslie Hamilton
*Ania Kitcat
*Stephanie Powell
*Andrew Wealls

Due to the election these councillors served for some of last year and were replaced in June 2015 by:

Amanda Knight
Nick Taylor
Michael Inkpin- Leissner

Teaching Unions

Laura Wells – NUT

Co-opted Members

RE consultant – Lilian Weatherly
LA Officer – Lisa Evans
University Representative – Tom Newlands (University of Brighton)
Special School Representative – John Coleman
Alison Haining – Primary School Teacher specialist

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 SACRE is a statutory body. It is fulfilling its function to promote, monitor and evaluate achievement in RE, collective worship and opportunities for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development in community schools across the city.
- 8.2 SACRE requests that Committee notes the report and expresses support for the work of SACRE.

9. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 9.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations of this report

Finance Officer Consulted: Dave Ellis

Date: 08/02/15

Legal Implications:

- 10.1 As indicated in the report the Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) from each Local Authority will 'publish a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by the representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year'

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson

Date: 25.02.16

Equalities Implications:

- 11.1 SACRE seeks to ensure quality RE teaching to encourage knowledge of and respect for all religions

Sustainability Implications:

- 12.1 There are no sustainability implications

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 13.1 There are no other significant implications