

Subject:	Annual Report of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education 2011/12		
Date of Meeting:	14 January 2013		
Report of:	Interim Director of Children's Services/Lead Commissioner, Learning and Partnership		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Michael Nix	Tel: 29-0732
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 This report describes the work of the Brighton & Hove Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) during the 2011/12 academic year. It includes information on examination results in Religious Education (RE) in the city's secondary schools. SACRE is required to inform the local authority of its actions and any recommendations, and to be guided in its work on any particular aspects of its remit that the Council would wish it to address.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That the Committee notes the Annual Report and considers whether there are specific areas of work within SACRE's remit which it would wish SACRE to address during 2013.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 Since 1988 local authorities have had a duty to establish a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). Religious education is a statutory part of the basic curriculum for all pupils, but it is not a National Curriculum subject. Instead it is a local responsibility of the local authority through its SACRE. Religious education is a statutory part of the basic curriculum for all pupils, but it is not a National Curriculum subject. Instead it is a local responsibility of the local authority through its SACRE.

- 3.2 The SACRE advises the local authority on matters relating to collective worship in community schools and on religious education given in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus. The SACRE monitors the effectiveness and appropriateness of the agreed syllabus, which is formally reviewed every five years.
- 3.3 The attached report (Appendix 1) describes the work of the Brighton & Hove Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) during the 2011/12 academic year.
- 3.4 A key event for SACRE in 2011/12 was the approval by the City Council of the new Agreed Syllabus for RE. The Agreed Syllabus was formally launched on 13 March 2012, at a highly successful workshop attended by around 50 primary, secondary and special school teachers, City Councillors and members of SACRE. The workshop was led by Lat Blaylock, who is Editor and Teacher Adviser for RE Today and a leading national figure in RE and teacher training. Lat followed up the launch day with a workshop for primary teachers in October 2012.
- 3.5 During the year SACRE discussed current issues for RE in primary and secondary schools with teachers from each of these sectors. They also received presentations from individual SACRE members about aspects of their own faith.
- 3.6 SACRE was not required to consider any complaints about RE or collective worship in the course of the year. It received no requests from head teachers seeking a determination to lift or modify the requirements for collective worship in their school. The Collective Worship guidelines have been updated and have been placed on the Wave.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 There has been no community consultation in relation to this report.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There is a budget of £7.9k within the budget to fund the work undertaken by SACRE during the financial year.

Finance Officer Consulted: Name: Paul Brinkhurst Date: 11/12/12

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are no specific legal implications that arise from this report.

Lawyer Consulted: Name: Serena Kynaston Date: 21/12/12

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 There has been no Equalities Impact Assessment carried out in relation to this report.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 This report does not have sustainability implications.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 None

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 None

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 None

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 Religious education forms an important part of the way in which the school curriculum supports children and young people in growing up as rounded individuals who have understanding of and respect for the beliefs of others and are equipped to be citizens of a multi-cultural society.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 None

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The City Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure that religious education in community schools conforms with education law, and this is fulfilled through the adoption of the Agreed Syllabus and the work of SACRE.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Annual Report of SACRE 2011/12
2. Summary of Examination Results for RE, Summer 2012

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None

