

PEOPLE (CHILDREN) SCRUTINY PANEL

31 July 2014

INFORMATION REPORT – STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Report of the Director for People

STRATEGIC AIM:	Creating a Brighter Future for All
----------------	---

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides background information on the Rutland County Council Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).
- 1.2 The report also includes details of the 2012-2013 report on the work of Rutland County Council Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That People (Children) Scrutiny Panel considers the contents of this report noting the background information on SACRE.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 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. It is a local responsibility.
- 3.2 The main function of the SACRE is to advise the Local Authority on matters relating to Religious Education. Additionally, through the SACRE, communities have the opportunity to influence directly what pupils learn in Religious Education.
- 3.3 It is a legal requirement that Religious Education must be taught in all schools and it is an important part of the role of the SACRE to advise the Local Authority on what needs to be done to improve Religious Education and Collective Worship for the schools in its area.

4. ROLE OF SACRE

- 4.1 The broad role of the SACRE is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools and to enrich the experience of Religious Education and Collective Worship for all pupils.

4.2 The SACRE has five main responsibilities:

To require the Local Authority to review its current agreed syllabus every five years;

To advise the LA on matters connected with religious education given in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus and collective worship in city schools;

To offer advice particularly on methods of teaching, the choice of resources and the provision of training for teachers;

To consider any applications from a school for a 'determination' to lift the requirement for the majority of acts of collective worship in that school to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character';

To publish an annual report giving details of its work, advice given by SACRE to the LA, and deal with matters about which the LA has sought advice from the SACRE.

4.3 The specific role of SACRE is to:

- a. advise the Local Authority on Religious Education in accordance with an agreed syllabus and on matters related to its functions as it may see fit;
- b. monitor the provision and quality of Religious Education taught according to its agreed syllabus together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus;
- c. provide advice and support on the effective teaching of Religious Education, the choice of teaching materials for religious education and the provision of teacher training;
- d. advise on general matters connected with religious worship in community schools;
- e. upon receipt of an application by a community the SACRE shall determine whether the requirement for Christian collective worship should apply to that school or any class or description of pupils at that school. Application shall be determined and decisions shall be reviewed in accordance with Section 148 of the Education Act 1993;
- f. publish an annual report on its work and actions taken by SACRE, specifying any matters on which it has advised the Local Authority and any determinations made on applications concerning collective worship;
- g. send a copy of the report to the Qualification and Curriculum Development Authority;
- h. meet once per term (three times per year) in public. If confidential information will be disclosed, then the public will be asked to leave the meeting;

- i. convene from time to time an Agreed Syllabus conference to produce (or review within 5 years) an Agreed Syllabus. The representative groups on the SACRE may at any time require a review of the Agreed Syllabus. Each of the three representative groups concerned shall have a single vote on the question of whether to require such a review,
5. Annual Report
- 5.1 In line with its duty as set out in 4.2 (f) above, a SACRE report is **attached** for the 2012-13 academic year.
 - 5.2 The report sets out in detail the work and actions undertaken by SACRE during that period.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

RISK	IMPACT	COMMENTS
Time	L	It is important that the Religious education provision in schools in Rutland is developed in the context of the new curriculum being introduced from December 2014.
Viability	L	Religious education remains a strong element of the curriculum in every school in Rutland and its place in the curriculum remains viable.
Finance	L	No direct implications.
Profile	L	Distinctiveness of schools in the context of the provision of Religious education remains at an appropriate level.
Equality and Diversity	L	The provision of Religious education in Rutland schools is well integrated within quality and diversity policies. However, attention should be given to any implications arising from the in-migration of service children into Rutland.

Report Author: Gladys Rhodes White, Interim Director (People),
 Tel No: (01572) 722577
 e-mail: enquiries@rutland.gov.uk

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.