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To: Learning and Development - Children, Families & Education Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 23 February 2010

Subject: Kent SACRE Annual Report 2008-09

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This paper presents the Annual Report (2008-2009) on the work of Kent's Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education. It also highlights particular developments and of the need to commence the review of the locally agreed syllabus for RE in September 2010.

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## **1. Introduction**

Each Local Authority (LA) is required to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) to advise the Local Authority on matters concerned with the provision of religious education (RE) and collective worship in schools. This body is required to submit, and publish, an annual report on its work to the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) at the end of each calendar year. The report is based on work taking place in the proceeding academic year.

## **2. The Annual Report for 2008-09 on the work of Kent SACRE**

The annual report on the work of Kent SACRE is appended to this report (at appendix A). The format of the report conforms with the report framework required by the QCDA. The report covers:

- Standards and quality of RE provision in schools
- Managing the SACRE and partnership with the LA & stakeholders
- Effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus for RE
- Collective worship
- Contribution to the community cohesion agenda.

### **3. The Kent SACRE Development Plan**

(1) For a number of years the Kent SACRE has used a Development Plan as a tool to guide the work of the SACRE. The Development Plan is an evolving document which is under constant review and updated regularly to reflect current areas of work to focus on. The Development Plan can be found at appendix five of the Annual Report.

(2) The Development Plan highlights two key pieces of guidance to schools which it has worked in partnership with the LA to produce. These are:

- Shaping the Spirit (February 2009)
- Gathering Together: Policy and Practice for Collective Worship (March 2008)

This guidance can be found at:

[http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/ask8/ask8\\_whole\\_school\\_issues.cfm](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/ask8/ask8_whole_school_issues.cfm)

(3) The LA has also worked in partnership with the Kent SACRE in order to gather information to inform the SACRE Development Plan and the work of the Advisory Service Kent. This includes:

- The on-line survey to pupils on RE (autumn 2008)
- An on-line survey to teachers on RE (autumn 2008)
- The focus group with headteachers on collective worship (June 2009).

### **4. Conclusions and Next Steps**

(1) The Kent SACRE is committed to working in partnership with the LA to improve the quality of RE in Kent schools and collective worship. The annual report is a useful vehicle for demonstrating the effective working of the SACRE.

(2) It is a requirement for LAs to prepare and bring into operation a locally agreed syllabus (LAS) for RE. The current LAS was approved by the LA in December 2006. The LA must also undertake a review of the LAS not more than five years from the completion of its last review. The Kent SACRE has indicated that a review of the LAS should commence in September 2010, with a view to having a revised syllabus ready to go out schools by January 2012. This suggested timeframe would reflect curriculum developments as a result of the revised Primary Curriculum (planned for implementation in September 2011) and also to take account of the forthcoming revised DCSF guidance on Religious Education.

## 5. Recommendations

### **Recommendations:**

Members of the Learning and Development Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to:

- (i) Note the Kent SACRE's annual report 2008-09.
- (ii) Endorse the work of the Kent SACRE.

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*Background Documents:* None

*Other Useful Information:* None