

From: **Mr S C Manion, Chairman Kent SACRE**
Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education and Young People's Services

To: **Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee – 1st February 2017**

Subject: **SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) Annual Report 2015-2016**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper: **SACRE meeting 29 November 2016**

Future Pathway of Paper: **Circulate to Kent schools**

Electoral Division: **All**

Summary: The Education Reform Act 1988, (amended by subsequent Acts) requires each SACRE to publish an Annual Report on its work. This report reflects the focus of SACRE meetings during the academic year 2015 – 2016, and the key local and national issues that have engaged the R.E. (Religious Education) community during this time. A key aspect of SACRE's role is to support the effective provision of R.E. and Collective Worship in schools. The monitoring of provision and standards in RE is reported on. This report contains advice and recommendations to the Local Authority which should be shared with schools and governing bodies in order to ensure that schools comply with their statutory responsibilities and provide the highest quality teaching and learning of R.E. and provision for Collective Acts of Worship for pupils in Kent schools. Additionally, this report highlights the meetings organised by SACRE for pupils from Primary and Secondary schools in Kent.

Recommendation:

The Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and **endorse** the draft SACRE Annual Report 2015-16

1. Introduction

- 1.1 SACRE publishes an Annual Report to inform relevant parties, including schools, of the advice that SACRE has given to the Local Authority and of the actions taken to support RE and Collective Worship in schools using the Agreed Syllabus, that have resulted from this advice. The broad role of the

SACRE is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools through:

- Giving advice on methods of teaching using the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education;
- Advising the LA on the provision of training for teachers;
- Monitoring inspection reports on Religious Education, Collective Worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC);
- Considering complaints about the provision and delivery of Religious Education and Collective Worship referred to by the LA;

2. **Financial Implications**

- 2.1 This report has no financial implications on the Council's capital and revenue budgets and spending plans.

3. **The Report**

3.1 **Relevant history and detail**

It is a statutory requirement for Kent SACRE to publish an Annual report of its activities and advice to the LA. This Report has been prepared and was presented for consideration by members at the last full SACRE meeting on 29th November 2016. SACRE members agreed that this report should be presented to the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee.

- 3.2 There are no **legal implications** by presenting this report.

- 3.3 There are no **equalities implications** by presenting this report.

- 3.8 No further information should be required in order for the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee to consider and note this SACRE Annual Report.

4. **Conclusions**

This report reflects the focus of SACRE meetings during the academic year 2015-2016, and the key local and national issues that have engaged the R.E. (Religious Education) community during this time. A key aspect of SACRE's role is to support the effective provision of R.E. and Collective Worship in schools. The monitoring of provision and standards in RE is reported on. Scrutiny of examination results highlights a concern for SACRE that replicates a national trend. As GCSE Short Course results no longer count towards school performance data, the numbers of students being entered for GCSE Short Course Religious Studies is reducing year on year. In Kent the number of entries for CGSE Full Course Religious Studies has also fallen, resulting in about 60% of Kent Key Stage 4 students not being entered for an accredited course in Religious Education.

This report contains advice and recommendations to the Local Authority which should be shared with schools and governing bodies in order to ensure that schools comply with their statutory responsibilities and provide the highest quality teaching and learning of R.E. and provision for Collective Acts of Worship for pupils in Kent schools. During the school year 2015-16 Kent

SACRE has produced supplementary Interim Guidance to schools on the Assessment of RE, following the removal of assessment levels from the National Curriculum. (This is attached as Appendix 5 of the Annual Report)

Following publication of the revised Ofsted Inspection Framework 2014, SACRE has produced revised guidance to schools on the Ofsted criteria for ensuring there is good evidence of pupils' Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development, and how schools can also demonstrate they are actively promoting fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. (This is attached as Appendix 4 of the Annual Report).

SACRE anticipates that by asking the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee to consider and endorse this report, not only will the work of SACRE be better understood, but also the recommendations and advice within this report may have a greater impact in schools.

5. **Recommendation:**

The Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse the SACRE Annual Report 2015-16

6. **Appendix**

6.1 SACRE Annual Report 2015-2016

7. **Contact details**

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