

Report to:	SACRE
Relevant Officer:	Dave Brennand, Brokerage and Professional Development Adviser
Date of Meeting:	25 July 2016

FUTURE OF THE BLACKPOOL SACRE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the future of the Blackpool SACRE.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree that the Blackpool SACRE will continue to meet.

2.2 To continue to investigate further ways to work together with other SACRE's including Lancashire.

2.3 To request the clerk to seek nominations to fill current vacancies on the SACRE.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The Council is required by legislation to have a Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Blackpool Council in line with all Councils with responsibility for education is required by statute to have a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education with a membership of Councillors, staff representatives and faith representatives. This body agrees the syllabus for religious education within community schools for Blackpool and offers guidance for those schools on ensuring participation and attainment in religious education within community schools.

5.2 At the last meeting of the SACRE it was agreed that the SACRE would investigate the possibility of a merger or joint working with the Lancashire SACRE. Since that meeting the National Association of SACRE's has issued advice that it considers that best practice is reflected by continuing local SACRE's and that it is not in favour of joint . It is therefore recommended that the Blackpool SACRE continues to meet but maximises opportunities to work collectively with other SACRE's.

5.3 The SACRE has continued to have a number of vacancies and it is suggested that the clerk be authorised to seek nominations from the relevant groups to fill the vacancies. Further to this it is proposed separately on this agenda for the SACRE to agree future meeting dates.

5.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.5 List of Appendices:

None

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 Blackpool Council in common with all Councils that are children's services authorities are required to have a SACRE.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None