

Report to:	SACRE
Relevant Officer:	Glenn Mascord, School Improvement Adviser
Date of Meeting:	19 October 2016

LOCAL AUTHORITY SUPPORT TO SACRE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider and discuss how the Council can support the SACRE and further possibilities for working together with other SACREs.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To discuss how best the Council can support the SACRE
- 2.2 To consider how best to discharge the SACRE duties with respect to the Religious Education curriculum and collective worship in the light of this changed school situation outlined in the report.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To shape the future development of the SACRE.
- 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
- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:
None, the item is for discussion.

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 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. It advises local authorities on what needs to be done to improve religious education and collective worship.
- 5.2 The relevant statements from annex A of the July 2014 DfE *Clarification of local authority statutory duties relating to services relevant to the Education Services Grant* A local authority must:
- set up a standing advisory council on religious education (section 390, Education Act 1996); and
 - prepare an agreed syllabus of religious education in accordance with Schedule 31, Education Act (1996).
- 5.3 There is not a designated budget from the Council to support SACRE but representation from a Council Officer in an advisory capacity, alongside an assigned minute taker is provided.
- 5.4 In response to a suggestion that Blackpool SACRE merge with Lancashire, the National Association of SACREs issued advice that it considers that best practice is reflected by continuing local SACREs. In line with this it was recommended that the Blackpool SACRE continues to meet three times each year but maximises opportunities to work collectively with other SACREs.
- 5.5 The role of the Local Authority has diminished in recent years and continues to do so. The current situation is that all of Blackpool's secondary schools are academies and no longer under Local Authority control. Multi-academy trusts are responsible:
Fylde Coast Academy Trust: Unity, Aspire, Montgomery.
Taheedul: Highfield
Bright Futures: South Shore
Blessed Edward Bamber Trust: St. Mary's
Cidari: St George's.

A number of primary schools are also now Academies
Bright Futures: Marton
Zest MAT: Waterloo.

Free standing: Hawes Side, Norbreck, Roseacre, Thames.

5.6 School Improvement will be led by the Blackpool School Improvement Board which, while having Council representation, will promote and support a school-led approach.

5.7 SACRE needs to consider how it will discharge its duties with respect to the RE curriculum and collective worship in the light of this changed landscape.

5.8 The Council will continue to support three meetings of SACRE per year and will be represented at meetings.

5.9 An RE network currently exists within Blackpool but Dave Brennand, who used to liaise with the group and with SACRE is no longer working for the Council. Networks are self-sustaining groups and will not be Council led. Rebecca Binns is the teacher currently leading the group.

5.10 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.11 **List of Appendices:**

None

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None

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