

Report to:	SACRE
Relevant Officer:	Amanda Whitehead, Head of Schools, Standards and Effectiveness
Date of Meeting:	8 November 2017

INTERFAITH WEEK UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To receive an update on Interfaith week.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note that this year's Inter Faith Week will take place from Sunday 12 - Sunday 19 November 2017.

2.2 To note any actions already planned by other organisations.

2.3 To consider the report attached at Appendix xA on last year's Interfaith Week.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To encourage participation and understanding of the Interfaith week.

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 What is Interfaith Week?

Inter Faith Week:

Highlights the good work done by local faith, inter faith and faith-based groups and organisations

Draws new people into inter faith learning and cooperation

Enables greater interaction between people of different backgrounds

Helps develop integrated and neighbourly communities

Celebrates diversity and commonality

Opens new possibilities for partnership

Building good relationships and working partnerships between people of different faith beliefs is part of the year-round work of many people and organisations across the UK. Having a special Week provides a focal point, helping to open inter faith activity up to a wider audience so that more and more people are made aware of the importance of this vital work and are able to participate in it.

The aims of the week will be

- Strengthening good inter faith relations at all levels
- Increasing awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
- Increasing understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs

This year's Interfaith Week takes place between the 12 and 19 November 2017. Attached for members' information at Appendix 8a is information published by Interfaith week organisers on success stories from last year's week.

Members of the SACRE are invited to update the SACRE on any activities already planned for the week by their organisations.

5.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

5.3 List of Appendices:

Appendix 8a: Interfaith Week stories from 2016 and Inspiration for 2017

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 <https://www.interfaithweek.org/about>