

Report to:	SACRE
Relevant Officer:	Lennox Beattie, Clerk to the SACRE
Date of Meeting:	12 June 2019

REGIONAL AMBASSADORS FOR RELEIGIOUS EDUCATION

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To receive information on the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education’s appointment of Regional Ambassadors.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To the information about the appointment of the Regional Ambassadors for Religious Education contained within paragraph 5.1 of this report and the profile of the North West Regional Ambassador attached at Appendix 5a.
- 2.2 To consider linkages between the SACRE’s work and that of the Regional Ambassador and consider inviting the Regional Ambassador to a future meeting of the SACRE.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To assist in the further development of 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

- 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 At the end of October 2018, Naomi Anstice was appointed ambassador for Religious Education Networks. She is an Assistant Head Teacher in Cheshire where she teaches RE to the whole school as part of the PPA provision. Naomi is also the RE Primary adviser for Cheshire West and a member of the NATRE Executive.

She will be working on this project a day a week. Here Naomi explains the project she will be leading for the next two years and introduces the regional ambassadors who have now been appointed:

'The aim of this project is to build a long-term sustainable structure to provide local support for RE teachers.'

Connecting teachers to other teachers, local groups, hubs, advisers, SACREs and to a range of available opportunities and RE initiatives.

Connecting teachers to both classroom-based and academic research

Connecting teachers to regional and national CPD opportunities as well as resources which will inspire their classroom practice.

This will be done through the creation of ten regional areas, each of which will have its own ambassador. These ambassadors will be developing, creating, co-ordinating local RE structures. Areas which already have strong support structures will be embraced and promoted whilst others may need creation and development according to local need.

These ambassadors bring a wealth of experience with them from a range of educational settings and will be working to network across their own areas, looking to support the creation of local groups where there are currently gaps. Each region will have web provision, so you can see what is happening in your area and to keep in touch with others in your area.

The regional ambassadors are allocated a day a month to support their region, so we will need to be realistic about what can be achieved in this time.

The areas and their ambassadors are as follows:

London – Claire Clinton

North – Katherine France

North East – Suzanne Tomlinson

North West – Joanne Harris

East Midlands – Julie Childs

West Midlands – Chris Giles

South Central – Sarah Payne

South East – Justine Ball
South West – Laura Harris
East Anglia – Katie Gooch

Central to the success of the project is increasing teacher involvement with a range of RE organisations (including AREIAC, NATRE, The REC, NASACRE and local SACREs) through both membership and engagement.

5.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.3 List of Appendices:

Appendix 5a: Profile of Joanne Harris, North West Regional Ambassador

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.