

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

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| Committee/Panel: | Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) |
| Date: | 25 June 2019 |
| Title: | Monitoring Group Report |
| Report From: | Patricia Hannam |

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform SACRE members of the discussions and findings of the Monitoring Group at its meeting on 20 May 2019.

Recommendation(s)

2. That SACRE notes the report.

Executive Summary

3. The group was updated on the current situation regarding the monitoring of the effectiveness Hampshire Agreed Syllabus of Living Difference III (LDIII). Evidence for this included an analysis of secondary and primary SACRE Ofsted reports referring to RE, British Values or SMSC that had taken place since our last meeting in addition to information gathered from other HIAS visits. An update on research projects Hampshire teachers are engaged with as well as initial teacher education and current RE staffing was received and considered. An outline for the review, due to being during 2020, of Living Difference III was discussed.

Contextual information

4. The monitoring sub-group met on 20th May 2019 at The County RE Centre.

Those who attend were:-

Chris Hughes (Chair)

Rob Sanders

Cllr Roz Chadd
Elizabeth Jenkerson
Patricia Hannam
(Supporting Officer)

Rhiannon Love
Alasdair Richardson
Justine Ball
(Supporting Officer)

5. No apologies were received.

Key Issues

6. The on-going programme for analysing the effectiveness of the Hampshire agreed syllabus, Living Difference III (LDIII) was discussed. SACRE Officers continue to run regional network meetings for primary and secondary teachers and other school leaders where possible.
7. In addition to the Primary RE Steering group, five primary network groups run across the county. A group for teachers of children in special schools also runs. Meetings continue to focus on LDIII and advising schools how to meet its requirements and assist teachers develop their subject knowledge.
8. The Secondary RE steering group, comprised of eight heads of department from some of the highest performing schools, meets once each term and helps to plan and deliver the annual secondary conference. Two secondary network groups meet once each term in Winchester and Basingstoke.
9. New ways of not only monitoring, but also implementing positive change across the county, were discussed. It has been agreed to run a series of invitational 'courses' for schools that have been harder to reach rather than simply making visits to schools that it is not possible always to follow-up. SACRE members will be invited to attend these events/courses. The effectiveness of this new way of monitoring will be reviewed by the monitoring group regularly.
10. The SACRE Professional Adviser gave a 45-minute input on LA responsibilities for RE and the Locally Agreed Syllabus Living Difference III, to a recent HIAS inspector team training morning. This had been well received.
11. A letter from the DfE to the Chair of NASACRE was discussed and is attached to this report. It seems likely to be indicating support for LA and SACRE to take up the matter of non-compliance with schools and to actively resolve any illegality locally. The letter also makes clear that where GCSE is sat in year 10, the law still requires young people to have access to their statutory entitlement to RE in year 11.

12. An update on the RS GCSE was received including discussing concerns about the newly growing gender gap that was apparent in the 2018 examination series. An enquiry has been made to the two largest GCSE exam boards regarding any national concern and plans to address any questions arising from findings.
13. The latest withdrawal survey was discussed. There had been an increase in the numbers of children being withdrawn from RE or Collective worship compared to the previous survey. Although proportionately still a very small number of children and schools this is something SACRE will want to continue to keep an eye on.
14. The relationship between Living Difference III and the resource 'Understanding Christianity' was discussed. A Schools' Communication is being sent to head teachers to remind them that where Understanding Christianity is being used with Living Difference III, it is a resource that can support at the 'Enquire' step, where it is a B or C Concept, and the 'Contextualise' and 'Evaluate' steps but should never replace the cycle of enquiry. A new course has been made available to ensure LDIII is being used well in all cases.
15. An update on research projects involving Hampshire RE teachers was received. Particular note was taken of the research (funded by Culham St Gabriel's Trust and part of 7 nationally significant key areas of research) in relation to Religious Literacy in partnership with Brunel University London. The report of this research will be published shortly, and the findings shared widely. It is likely that the findings of this research will influence thinking in a future review of Living Difference III.
16. Recruitment on Winchester University's RE Post Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) course is going extremely well. A strong cohort is being recruited.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

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| Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity: | yes |
| People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives: | yes |
| People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment: | yes |
| People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities: | yes |

Other Significant Links

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

This project intends to have a positive impact on groups with protected characteristics through enabling children and young people in Hampshire to think, speak and act in more thoughtful ways with regard to others in the community.