

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)
Date:	3 March 2020
Title:	Hampshire SACRE advice document for schools on religion and faith
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to update SACRE on the meeting held to review Hampshire SACRE advice document for schools as issued in September 2017.

Recommendation(s)

1. That SACRE approves the adjustments to the advice document and requests schools are made aware of the updated document

Executive Summary

2. A small working group from SACRE met on 9 December 2019 to discuss the document and agreed that the sections in it were still relevant and the format of the document and the advice within it was also still useful. Those attending included Elizabeth Jenkerson, Rachel Jackson, Eli Stewart, Lisa Marie Taylor and Howard Wright.
3. Small suggestions were made for amending. The document was considered to be useful for schools and the advice it contained was agreed by the group, with small changes. These include:
 - a. To include links to relevant websites for information on each religion, faith or other non-religious worldview rather than a brief overview of each of these.
 - b. To include a brief paragraph about the procedure for determinations and a link to provide further information on this for schools.

- c. Small changes to the text to strengthen the recommendations for communication with parents and governors and with children and young people themselves.
 - d. Consideration to further advice on handling artefacts and religious resources and information about respectful storage and disposal of these was added.
 - e. A section will be added giving further information on safeguarding
 - f. It was agreed that the appendix containing a brief summary will be replaced with links to appropriate websites, so that further information can be obtained easily by the school which is relevant to the issue they are considering.
 - g. It was agreed that a link to the procedure for determinations for Collective Worship should be included in the section on Collective Worship.
4. Schools are able to access this document free of charge from the RE curriculum website. A school communication to inform schools about the revised document as well as a link to the document itself will be sent out after the full SACRE meeting.
5. The document is provided free of charge to schools and there are no additional cost implications for SACRE.
6. The document will be reviewed every two years to see if further changes are needed and can be reviewed more frequently if the need arises. The next date for review is September 2021.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

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

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:

- (a) SACRE's core business is to ensure high quality religious education in Hampshire which, it is intended, will make a positive difference to the way young people 'think speak and act in the world' (See purpose statement of Living Difference III 2016, the agreed syllabus for religious education in Hampshire).