

## Report for action/information: Summer term 2016

### Summary/Introduction

Governors have a responsibility to ensure that Religious Education (RE) is being well provided in the school, so it is important to include these areas of school life on the agenda for at least one meeting a year. This could be placed in the wider context of the school's provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development.

### Action for governors

- To review the provision of RE within their school (helpful questions are included below)
- Consider appointing an member of the governing body as the link governor for RE (the role could also encompass SMSC and/or British Values)
- To request the Headteacher Report has an update on the provision of RE at least annually

### Background information

While RE is not included as part of the revised National Curriculum implemented in schools from September 2014, it remains a statutory duty for Governing Bodies to ensure RE is taught effectively in all Local Authority maintained schools. RE contributes significantly to the school's provision of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education and in demonstrating how effectively the school promotes British Values.

It is important to distinguish between RE and collective worship and to ensure that RE is given specific curriculum time in order to meet the requirements of the appropriate agreed syllabus. In September 2015, maintained schools in Nottinghamshire were issued with free copies of the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in both digital and hard copy.

The Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus, "RE for All", makes suggestions for RE which enable pupils to gain more insights and knowledge to equip them as responsible members in our society. The Syllabus encourages pupils to discover more about religion and world views on a range of topics. They are encouraged to express ideas and insights into key questions which face all human beings as we travel through life. The three fold aims of RE in Nottinghamshire will ensure that pupils:

- Know and understand a range of religions and world views which will allow them to recognise diversity which exists in our society.
- Can express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and the impact of religions and world views as they develop their own personal views on a range of issues.
- Enable them to develop and use skills which will assist them to engage seriously with religions and world views.
- Have the opportunity to reflect on their own ideas as well as develop their thoughts about questions of meaning.

By following the Agreed Syllabus RE will contribute to a whole range of school priorities. Their study will promote spiritual, cultural, social and moral development, as well as enabling them to consider British Values such as tolerance and respect for other who hold different world views.

Each school should have a member of teaching staff responsible for developing and promoting the teaching of RE within the school and good practice would also see a link member identified from the governing body. It would be entirely appropriate for governors to ask Headteachers to include a section in at least one of the termly Headteacher reports

## **Legal basis**

The 1988 Education Reform Act established the statutory requirement for all local authorities (LAs) to establish a permanent body called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). The Nottinghamshire SACRE is an independent body which advises the LA on matters concerned with the provision of Religious Education

***Religious education and collective worship*** (Circular 1/94) Issued 31 January 1994, this circular contains extensive guidance on the duty of local education authorities, standing advisory council on religious education (SACREs) and agreed syllabus conferences (ASCs), regarding religious education and collective worship.

## **Further advice and training**

Here are some suggestions for areas the link governor might wish to explore with the RE lead and/or Headteacher, or for Governors to use during a full governors' meeting where RE is discussed:

- What curriculum time is allowed for RE and does that match the expectation of the agreed syllabus?
- How do we know how well pupils are achieving in RE?
- Are aspects of knowledge and understanding in RE stronger / weaker in some areas of the school's provision, e.g. KS1 or KS2?
- Are the teachers of RE well trained? What professional development has been undertaken in recent years?
- How does RE contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils in the school?
- Is parents' right to withdraw their children from RE included in the school prospectus?
- Why do parents have such a right and what is the school's response to parental requests to withdraw children from RE?
- How are pupils and parents involved in the RE programme of study?
- How can we improve RE further?

Further advice can be found from:

Rev Ken Johnson  
Secretary of SACRE  
Children and Young People's Services  
40 Lawn View House  
Sutton-in-Ashfield  
Notts  
NG17 5GA  
Tel: 01158040129

Further training can be found on the Education Improvement Service training website:

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/CPD](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/CPD)

## **Equal opportunities implications**

### **Contact name/telephone number/email address**

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### **Schools' Portal link**

The following documents are available on the Schools' Portal at:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/schoolsportal>