

Lancashire SACRE
Meeting to be held on 3 March 2014

Support for RE

Background

A meeting was held on 26 November 2013 with teacher members of SACRE to discuss the framework for offering support for the teaching and learning of RE in 2014/15. The discussion centred around the need for support and the various options for offering support to schools.

Models of support for schools on RE and Collective Worship

In the light of the experience of members of SACRE, and the recent OfSTED report on the state of RE it was agreed to offer support to Lancashire schools. The 4 following models of providing support were considered:

- Commissioning leading teachers in RE to support schools
- Providing marketed training through a marketed support programme
- Commissioning a specialist consultant to provide support (for example: from a national RE organisation)
- Signposting schools to national / regional providers of training and support

It was agreed that none of the models set out above was in itself sufficient to meet the needs of Lancashire schools but that a mixed approach was more likely to meet the differing needs of schools and be a feasible option in terms of delivery.

An outline programme of support for schools is set out below:

- Marketed Network Meetings - to be led by the commissioned teachers:
 - 3 primary network meetings per term - Jo Crabtree and Jacquie Clarke
 - 2 secondary network meetings per term - Jo Harris and Kate Murry
- A range of marketed courses - to be run as required by the four (commissioned) teacher members of SACRE as follows:
 - An introduction to the Agreed Syllabus (primary)
 - An introduction to the Agreed Syllabus (secondary)
 - Support for RE subject leaders (primary)
 - Support for RE subject leaders (secondary)
 - Developing approaches to teach RE (primary)

The courses could be tailored to fit schools' individual needs.
- A marketed primary RE conference – to which national RE figures could be invited and which could be used to advertise the network groups
- Support in developing the assessment of RE – considered to be of particular importance since the current system of 'levels' used to report children's

attainment and progress was expected to be removed with the introduction of the new curriculum in 2014. Joanne Harris would be commissioned to work on this area.

- Support from Specialist Leaders in RE through the Teaching Schools – it was hoped that there would soon be a greater number of specialist leaders in RE coming via the Teaching Schools.
- Marketed Support from "Hubs of good practice" to include visiting "Hub schools" to observe good practice and gain consultancy support (Hubs to include: Secondary – Broughton, The Hollins; Primary – Brunshaw, Clifton, Hapton)
- The promotion of the RE Quality Mark (REQM) – this could be done via 'hub' schools. The REQM is one of the very few awards to be gained for RE and is a useful model to follow and also carries a professional development element.
- The continued offer of "Youth Voice" – this was key in light of future revision of the syllabus
- Access to the Lancashire RE website – the website could become an income generator if schools bought into its resources and would therefore need to be continuously updated. Schools would need to be provided with individualised passwords which could be activated/de-activated as required. The design of the web site could be an area for the Youth Voice to work on.
- Access to national RE websites (Teaching RE, REC)