

BOROUGH OF POOLE

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

PROPOSALS FOR USE OF SACRE BUDGET (2014 -15)

17 June 2014

The Senior Adviser, Borough of Poole Children, Young People and Learning would like to seek agreement on the use of the SACRE budget and makes the following proposals.

Total Budget £4,000

Already allocated £95 Hampshire Hub

Retain £200 expenses

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for teachers

These recommendations are informed by the teachers who have attended the network meetings, the Dialogues and the Subject Leader Training.

1. Continue the termly RE network meetings

These are crucial to help us keep teachers informed, especially with the advent of the new Primary Curriculum; to encourage monitoring, to nurture and strengthen relationships between teachers and schools; to help raise the profile of RE in schools and to continually seek to improve children and young people's RE learning.

These are currently held every term; continuing these would help consolidate this year's progress.

Costs: £1,500

Fully funded by SACRE

2. Dialogues with religions.

To support teachers with improving their subject knowledge about specific religions, four half day sessions proposed under the banner of 'Dialogues with religions'.

These days were designed to give RE teachers and TA's an opportunity to meet with people from faith communities to hear about day to day life and how religious beliefs impact on them. This would also lead to question and answer sessions and the opportunity to discuss teaching and learning activities to use back in the classroom .

Cost £500 each

Subsidised by SACRE

3. New RE Subject Leaders support programme.

These sessions were really successful this year.

However, each year RE Subject Leaders change and often this is the first time a teacher has led a subject across a whole school. It is important to offer support early in the school year as these teachers often have little background training in RE and even less at managing a curriculum area,

monitoring learning and teaching offered by colleagues in different year groups.

Costs: £1000

Fully funded by SACRE

4. RE conference.

An annual RE conference is a highlight of professional development opportunities and a time for teachers, SACRE members and potentially young people, to further their RE development together.

Bournemouth ran an excellent conference this year and we are planning to meet with Lynda Ford-Horne and Rubina Nasser in June to discuss the next academic year's programme of training and support, with the view to working more collaboratively.

We respectfully ask if there might be room for the Bournemouth and Poole SACREs to collaborate on a programme of training and support as pooling resources could be very beneficial to all schools.

School funded

5. RE training on location: Places of Worship Trip

We believe it is over 10 years since Poole offered such a training opportunity to its RE teachers.

A day to visit places of worship (possibly to Southampton and Bournemouth) of different religions would boost subject knowledge and prepare teachers either to take children on similar expeditions, or at least to use the materials produced as a result (we would take photographs and produce powerpoint presentations and albums of images (electronically)) to enhance teaching and learning.

Costs: a trip like this would cost, donations to places of worship, coach hire plus x 3 days' consultant time...1 day to plan , 1 day to lead the trip and 1 day to produce the teaching resources afterwards.

School funded

If all of these proposals were accepted we would overspend our budget. However, there are considerable savings to be made if we deliver these with Bournemouth. Bournemouth shares our syllabus and our schools already meet their RE colleagues at other training and conference events. There are real benefits for our teachers to learn from a wider group of schools.

I would propose that we use Jan Lever Education Consultancy and Training to continue to provide proposals 1,2,3,4 and 5. This is based on very highly rated school feedback from previous years' work.

SACRE development work

Review of RE in Poole

RE is in a healthy position in Poole schools but without systematically evaluating this we cannot say for sure.

Mindful of the SACRE's obligation to monitor RE and how this has become increasingly difficult with the changing inspection framework, I propose that SACRE consider commissioning a review of the provision of RE in Poole.

Points for consideration:

- To bring to SACRE an up to date picture of how RE looks across the Borough.
- We are three years (out of five) into the current life of our syllabus. This review will enable us to start to plan for any adjustments to the syllabus.
- We need to ensure that the syllabus sits well within the new curriculum in primary schools and curriculum models within our secondary schools
- Good practice will be identified to share and support others.
- Future CDP will be identified.
- Collective worship can be reviewed.
- Views will be collected from headteachers, teachers, governors and pupils.
- All schools (primary, secondary and special), including academies would be asked to participate.

We would be able to use our contact with teachers at network meetings, and with additional Focus Group sessions,

Costs: Planning the project, preparing materials/questions, running focus groups, analysing the feedback, writing a report on findings

Fully funded by SACRE £1500

Sue Langdon

Senior Adviser, Borough of Poole Children, Young People and Learning