

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report for Information

Title:	SACRE membership
Presented to:	SACRE
Presented by:	Director of Children's Services
Date:	7 June 2011

Contact name: Judith Lowndes

Tel: 02392 441518

Email: Judith.lowndes@hants.gov.uk

1) Purpose of Report:

- 1.1. To inform SACRE about the progress of the sub group convened to discuss criteria for membership of SACRE.

2) Contextual Issues:

- 2.1. This paper supports the Corporate Strategy (maximising well being) by ensuring children's provision in religious education is secure.

3) Representation on Hampshire SACRE.

- 3.1. At the last SACRE meeting (1 March 2011) it was proposed that a sub group should be convened in order to establish some criteria to support decisions made about who should be invited to join group A of SACRE. The volunteer members of SACRE met on 4 May 2011.
- 3.2. It was agreed that the three most relevant documents that would need to be taken into consideration were the Hampshire SACRE constitution, the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 'Religious Education in English Schools: Non Statutory Guidance 2010'
- 3.3 The group debated the issues thoroughly but came to no consensus about clear criteria to apply to any organisation wishing to become members of Group A on Hampshire SACRE.
- 3.4 A suggestion was made that the sub group should investigate whether another, fifth, group could be constituted that would comprise those whose belief systems were not already represented on SACRE; the current four groups were constituted by statute and were retained in the latest document; although a fifth group (concerned with grant maintained schools) did exist in

earlier legislation. This would allow SACRE to be more inclusive to those groups who would not feel comfortable being part of a religious group (Group A). There would still be the issue that the group would not have voting rights; it was commented that the group could always be asked how they would vote and that, as happens at present for co-opted members, they would be fully included in all discussions.

- 3.5 The SACRE support officers are enquiring with the Hampshire legal department whether the SACRE constitution can be revised to include the proposal, depending on the agreement of SACRE.

4) Recommendation:

That SACRE notes the report and awaits feedback from Hampshire legal department.

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