

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report for Information

Title:	Monitoring Sub Group
Presented to:	SACRE
Presented by:	Director of Children's Services
Date:	1 March 2011

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1) Purpose of Report:

- 1.1. To inform SACRE of the activities and findings of the Monitoring sub group

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) SACRE monitoring visits.

- 3.1. Funding has been provided by the Local Authority to support 10 monitoring visits to enable members of SACRE, who have received training about the agreed syllabus, to visit schools to observe RE. The group agreed that 5 primary phase schools and 5 secondary phase schools should be visited within this financial year (2010-11)
- 3.2. Monitoring visits have been carried out to primary phase schools (1 primary school and 3 Infant schools) when members of SACRE were accompanied by the primary RE Inspector/Advisor to observe teaching and learning, scrutinise planning and discuss RE with the RE Manager and head teacher. One planned visit has been rescheduled due to a school closure during the snow.
- 3.3. In all cases the RE teaching seen was good and some demonstrated outstanding features. The agreed syllabus, Living Difference, was implemented well and informed the planning and delivery of RE teaching. Planning documents were consistently well prepared and accessible to all staff. In all the schools visited the RE Managers provided good leadership for the subject. In one school the RE manager has arranged a link with a Southampton school to develop cross cultural links and enable pupils from different religious and cultural backgrounds to enquire into a concept together. In another school a new manager had just taken on the role and is working in partnership with the previous subject leader in order to aid transition.

- 3.4. Teachers implemented a good range of learning experiences to engage pupils. Samples of work indicated that pupils are achieving the expected outcomes and in some cases, above expected outcomes. This was particularly evident in the level of discussion taking place in one class about the concept of prophecy.
- 3.5. All schools implemented effective assessment strategies, and this is an improvement in findings compared to previous monitoring visits.
- 3.6. No secondary monitoring visits have yet been made.

4) GCSE data

- 4.1 The group discussed the GCSE results (Short and Full Courses) for all Hampshire schools. Findings were as follows:-

Full Course

- The full course is becoming an increasingly popular option and we were pleased that the County residual was ahead of the National residual.
- Increasing numbers are taking full course, now over 3000 candidates.
- Two catholic schools are doing well and two other schools consistently performing well .

Short Course

- Short course RE remains a popular GCSE in Hampshire.
- Many schools run this course for all students in KS4 as a way of meeting statutory responsibility to RE at KS4. Usually taught in limited curriculum time of 1 lesson per week. RE teachers in Hampshire are skilled at getting good results with this course.
- These positive results with large numbers of students really need congratulating .
- Over 4000 entries in 2010.
- County residual is above the national residual figure.
- These courses will contribute to schools' SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural) OFSTED rating.

- 4.2 There was a particular focus on residual analysis which indicates how well pupils in each school are performing in relation to their performance in all other subjects. The group will be identifying a number of schools that had very positive residuals for RE and large numbers of candidates. It was proposed that those schools are written to and congratulated on behalf of SACRE with caveats to fit with the particular circumstances of some of those schools.

5) Recommendations:

That SACRE notes the report and endorses the proposal to write to congratulate schools with particularly positive outcomes for GCSE RE.

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