

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	SACRE
Date:	8 March 2016
Title:	National RE Matters
Reference:	7375
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to inform SACRE Matters of national matters in relation to Religious Education and how they impact on the work of RE in Hampshire.

2. Contextual information

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

2.2. This paper refers to three national reports pertaining to religious education and other matters which are relevant to the work of Hampshire SACRE.

2.3. Three national reports have each had something to say about religious education. Discussions are taking place nationally about religious education, to which we have been invited to contribute. The purpose of this report is to inform SACRE of the national discussions and the part Hampshire is able to play at this level.

3. A New Settlement: Religious and Belief in Schools: published June 2015

3.1. This report was authored by The Right Honourable Charles Clarke and Professor Linda Woodhead MBE DD and can be read in full here: <http://faithdebates.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/A-New-Settlement-for-Religion-and-Belief-in-schools.pdf>.

3.2. The Westminster Faith Debates, out of which this report has grown, bring together leading academic and public figures to debate the latest research on religion and values.

3.3. The conclusions and recommendations of the report are attached here as appendix 1

4. RE for Real: published November 2015

4.1. The RE for Real report was published in November 2015 and is the findings of a research project undertaken from the Faiths and Civil Society Unit at Goldsmiths, University of London lead by Professor Adam Dinham. Adam Dinham was key speaker at the Hampshire Secondary RE Conference in October 2015. The report, executive summary and recommendations can be found here <http://www.gold.ac.uk/faithsunit/reforreal/>

4.2. Recommendations and executive summary are attached here as appendices 2 and 3.

5. Commission on Religion and Belief (CORAB) in British Public Life: Living with Difference: Community, Diversity and the Common Good'.

5.1. The final report of the Commission on Religion and Belief (CORAB) in British Public Life, convened by the Woolf Institute and chaired by Baroness Butler-Sloss was published in December 2015 and is entitled "Living with Difference: Community, Diversity and the Common Good".

5.2. This report had a wider brief than the previous two and discussed the place of religion in other fields of public life, not only education. The place of religion in the Law and Media for example are also discussed.

5.3. The final report can be downloaded here <https://corablivingwithdifference.files.wordpress.com/2015/12/living-with-difference-online.pdf> and the recommendations are attached as Appendix 4

6. All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for RE.

6.1. The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for RE was launched in June 2012.

6.2. The APPG for RE held its first meeting in the new parliament in January 2016 and the administrative secretariat role for the APPG for RE is being carried out by staff in the office of the new Chair of the group Fiona Bruce MP.

6.3. It is hoped that it will be possible to bring the work of Hampshire RE to the attention of the members of the APPG.

7. Recommendation

7.1. That SACRE notes the report.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

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

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. This report impacts on equality in that it is promoting good religious education in Hampshire.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. No direct impact on crime and disorder has been identified in this report, however where there is good education taking place, as promoted by the work of SACRE, there is likely to be reflective practice advancing more reflective and considerate children and young people.

3. Climate Change:

- a) Minimum impact on carbon footprint / energy consumption is anticipated
- b) Minimum impact on our ability to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts is anticipated.