

Agenda Item 12

NAME OF COMMITTEE:	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
DATE OF MEETING:	22nd November 2016
SUBJECT:	Summary of national reports and initiatives in RE
REPORT BY:	Religious Education Adviser
NAME OF CONTACT OFFICER:	Wendy Harrison
CONTACT OFFICER TEL NO:	07540 604842
CONTACT OFFICER EMAIL ADDRESS:	wendyanneh@aol.com
IS THE REPORT EXEMPT?	No
IS THE REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?	No

SUMMARY: This update provides SACRE members with information about recent reports and initiatives in RE.

DISCUSSION: N/A, report is for information.

RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted and any comments made as necessary.

APPENDICES – Appendix A

BACKGROUND PAPERS: The following background papers, as defined in the Local Government Act 1972, were relied upon in writing this report.

PAPER TYPE	TITLE	DATE	ACCESSIBILITY
OFSTED Inspection Reports		Various	School Improvement Service County Offices

National updates

1. 2015 GCSE results

- Generally, appears to be a move away from non-Ebacc subjects
- Religious Studies GCSE Full Course bucking this trend with another year on year increase in entries.
- Short Course entries declining.
- Lincolnshire results not yet available.

2. Commission on RE

- Independent commission to make wide-ranging recommendations for RE.
- Will review the legal, education and policy frameworks for RE in all schools and FE colleges in England.
- Includes looking at the changing role of SACRE, e.g. in relation to academies, free schools, etc.
- Ultimate aim: to improve the quality and rigour of RE and its capacity to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain.'
- More details on Religious Education Council's website

3. Woodhead/Clarke: Acts Of Worship research results

- 3476 online surveys distributed, 354 completed. These include Lincolnshire schools.
- Analysis of results: Respondents think assemblies are important – they would prefer to keep the law as it is.
- Reasons are mainly ethical and social, not religious.
- About two thirds hold regular Acts of Worship.
- The schools would continue to hold assemblies whether or not there was a statute.
- Opinion divided as to whether assemblies should be inspected.
- Next step: Wendy Harrison (WH) to follow up with Lincolnshire schools which took part and agreed to an interview (8 schools) – WH also to work with Charles Clarke on assemblies and academies.

Wendy Harrison
November 2016