

*STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION*

MONDAY, 23 JULY 2018

**Update on RE Network, Excellence in RE and
Walsall Schools Linking Programme**

1.0 RE Network:

1.1 This group meets once a term, and consists of primary RE lead teachers. The sessions are led by Fiona Moss, an experienced teaching consultant in RE. During each session Fiona will provide delegates with updated information and resources on teaching RE, across the main faiths. The participants look forward to the sessions, and they are usually well attended, with approximately 16 delegates at each session. Walsall SACRE funds this activity from its annual budget.

2.0 Excellence in RE:

2.1 This training is again delivered by Fiona, but it is more specialised and rigorous than the above sessions. Whilst the network sessions are ongoing, this CPD is a 'one off' course of 4 days over the year. At the end of the training participants will have a well founded understanding of reaching RE in primary schools. There are 7 participants on this training, and again Walsall SACRE funds this activity from its annual budget.

3.0 Walsall Schools Linking Programme:

3.1 It is hoped that this programme will start in September. It is planned and ready to go, but awaits the outcome of a bid from the community cohesion unit to the council. Some funds have already been set aside (£15,000) but this will not be enough to pay for the costs, as follows;

- Transport between schools
- Teaching venues, e.g. the Leather Museum.

- Cover costs for teachers to train, (2.5. days per teacher over the year per school)
- Salary costs for the coordinator

3.2 The remit of the programme is to foster tolerance and respect among young children. Schools were asked to express an interest, and 12 have signed up. They will be 'twinned' with schools of dissimilar make up. Whilst this programme does not have the teaching of RE as its main aim, the programme should improve understanding of faith across the participating schools.

3.3 The programme is being run very successfully in other boroughs, for example Bradford, and we have talked to the participants there, learning from them how to set up the programme. An update on this will be provided next term.

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 That SACRE notes the update report

Elaine Maher