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Labour

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Councillor for Dales

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Dear Head teacher,

As we approach the beginning of a new academic year I am writing to you as Chair of Nottingham City SACRE concerning some recent developments. A recent letter from the DfE to the Chair of the National Association of SACREs points out the statutory requirement of school academies and free schools to deliver Religious Education.

'SACRE members will be familiar with the requirements on maintained schools, including the duty on those without a religious designation and voluntary controlled schools to follow the local Agreed Syllabus. Under the terms of their Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State, all academies (including free schools) must provide RE for all their registered pupils from age 5 to 18, except for those whose parents exercise the right of withdrawal. We would expect that all schools provide pupils with a curriculum that is high quality and promotes progression through the key stages, including in RE. The non- statutory guidance for RE (2010) also states that head teachers should ensure that 'the subject is well led and effectively managed, and that standards and achievement in RE, and the quality of the provision, are subject to regular and effective self-evaluation.'

<http://www.nasacre.org.uk/file/nasacre/1-97-item-2.pdf>

As you are also aware, there have been changes to the inspection framework which are now operational. The new framework provides additional accountability for the provision of RE through the following inspection guidelines.

- **All pupils in maintained schools are required to study the basic curriculum which includes the National Curriculum Religious Education and age-appropriate relationship and Sex Education.**
- **Academies must include English, Mathematics, Science and Religious Education in their curriculum. This curriculum must be of similar breadth and ambition to that provided in a maintained school.**

- **Spiritual development for pupils must include their ability to be reflective about their own beliefs (religious or otherwise) and perspective on life as well as knowledge of and respect for different people's faiths feelings and values.**
- **Provision is needed for the cultural development of pupils including their ability to recognise and value the things we have in common across cultural, religious, ethnic, and socio-economic communities.**
- **Inspectors will consider how the curriculum is taught to the extent to which teachers have expert knowledge of the subjects that they teach and are supported to address gaps in their knowledge**
- **Further requirements relating to pupils' spiritual, moral, social, cultural and personal development.**

Schools must publish this on their website.

- **The content of your school curriculum in each academic year for every subject including Religious Education even if it is taught as part of another subject or subjects or is called something else.**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-maintained-schools-must-publish-online>

SACRE has established a regular Primary RE Subject Leaders' network and information about these meetings is shared via Scene. If there are ways in which Nottingham SACRE may be able to assist you we would glad to hear from you. At present there is no secondary RE network, SACRE would be keen to support such a network if there is a perceived need, please get in touch with Heidi Shewell-Cooper. (Heidi.Shewell-Cooper@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

We hold meetings in places of worship or educational settings. If you would be interested in hosting a future meeting we would be pleased to hear from you as this would enable you to showcase your work in Religious Education and Collective worship.

If you would like to contact us we would be pleased to hear from you.

Yours faithfully,



Councillor Neghat Khan
Chair of Nottingham City SACRE