

Individual Executive Decision Notice

Report title	Westhill NASACRE Grant Award Approval	
Decision designation	GREEN	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Work	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett, Executive Director of Families	
Originating service	Education Excellence	
Accountable employee	Laura Jude Tel Email	School Improvement Advisor for Equalities 01902 555 285 Laura.jude@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Education Leadership Team	26 August 2021

Summary

This report seeks approval to build in supplementary budgets totalling £3,600 and fully funded by a grant from Westhill Endowment/National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE). It is intended that this budget will fund a project with schools in the city to develop Religious Education resources. This aligns with Wolverhampton City Council's priority of providing opportunities for young people.

Recommendations for decision:

That the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Work and the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Executive Director of Families, the Director of Finance and the Monitoring Officer:

1. Approves the creation of supplementary revenue budgets totalling £3,600 fully funded by a grant from Westhill Endowment/NASACRE to fund a project with schools in the city to develop Religious Education resources.
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Dr M Hardacre
Cabinet member for Education, Skills and Work

Emma Bennett
Executive Director of Families

Date: 11/10/21

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 A Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is responsible for advising the Local Authority on how to improve Religious Education (RE). A key priority for Wolverhampton SACRE is the support of secondary schools. In particular, to provide high quality, inclusive Religious Education post 14 (Key Stage 4). To support work toward this priority additional funding in the form of a grant from Westhill Endowment/NASACRE has been sought.

2.0 Progress

- 2.1 An application for a Westhill Endowment/NASACRE award was submitted by Wolverhampton SACRE. Wolverhampton's application and project proposal was successful.
- 2.2 The project the above grant will fund aims to support schools to create and share resources for high quality, inclusive through pupil-teacher conferences and workshops. This project intends to compliment and extend the provision for secondary RE outlined in the new Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE, launched in June 2021.
- 2.3 The title of the project is 'Multi-faith Approaches to Diversity and Racial Equality'. This is a pupil led project which aims to develop pupil and teacher understanding of the approaches to diversity and racial equality across different religions and world views.

This project will give the opportunity for pupils and teachers from 10 secondary schools in Wolverhampton (of all types, which may include; schools with and without religious character, academies, community schools, LA grammar schools) to develop, share and disseminate improving practice in prejudice reduction through RE, including materials for use by other schools. It will have four focal points:

- a. **Improving RE in secondary schools, particularly within the Post 14 curriculum.** We have already begun to work with schools on improving RE provision in secondary schools and note that many secondary schools see diversity and racial equality (particularly anti-racism) as a priority within this. We intend through this project to improve practice in the teaching and learning of diversity within religions and faiths and, within non-religious belief systems

- b. **Working with schools – pupils and staff to develop quality RE resources** - We will run 2, 1 day conferences where 10 students from participating schools work on multi-faith anti-racist RE, creating high quality resources for dissemination and simultaneously demonstrate excellent RE to staff in need of this CPD. Following this we will use follow up pupil workshops to disseminate and extend this work further to reach more pupils. We aim, by working with pupils, that this work can have a more ownership from young people and communities in line with our Restorative, working 'with' people approach.
- c. **Taking multi-religious approaches to issues of racism and racial equality** - Recognising the faith and non-faith demographics of Wolverhampton, we will devise, use and disseminate materials that show anti-racist ideas and practice from the six major world religions and Humanism and will invite input from these communities through our SACRE representatives.
- d. **Focus on personal worldviews** – Learning opportunities, materials and training and development opportunities offered through this project will enable students to think through their personal worldviews in relation to questions about diversity racial equity and justice.

3.0 Evaluation of Alternative Options

- 3.1 Wolverhampton SACRE considered not applying for the Westhill Endowment/NASACRE award for 2021-2022 (instead deferring application until 2022-2023) due to the continued effects and pressures of the Covid-19 pandemic on schools.

4.0 Reason(s) for decisions

- 4.1 Feedback from schools indicated that running the project in 2021-2022 would be of greater benefit to them and their pupils as it would align with their implementation of the new Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE and the work many schools are currently undertaking to make their curricula more inclusive. It was therefore decided to apply for 2021-2022.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 The Council has been awarded a grant of £3,600 from Westhill/NASACRE to deliver activity as outlined in the body of this report.
- 5.2 This report seeks approval to establish a supplementary revenue budget of £3,600 fully funded by the grant. There grant will need to be spent in line with the grant conditions.

[JB/23082021/B]

6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 The Grant will need to be spent in accordance with the application and proposal submitted by Wolverhampton SACRE, failing to comply with the terms of the Grant may result in clawback of the grant amount.

[SZ/29092021/P]

7.0 Equalities implications

7.1 A full equalities analysis has been completed. The project is relevant to the following equalities duties

- advancing equality of opportunity
- fostering good community relations

The project will address religious and faith approaches to some of the equalities strands including race and religion/belief.

There has been input from teaching staff in Wolverhampton schools was gathered as part of the process for the review of the Wolverhampton Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE. Most recently, schools were asked to submit expressions of interest in the project. This process also provided the opportunity to provide feedback. Further feedback from stakeholders will be gathered at various point when the project begins.

The main potential equalities barriers that have been identified are

- facilitators do not come from a diverse range of backgrounds
- Ensuring that a diverse range of participants are encouraged to take part

To mitigate for these barriers the project will actively support participation from a diverse cohort of teachers and pupils. Mechanisms will be put in place to support schools with the recruitment of participants. In addition, a key feature of the project is that resources will be co-created by facilitators, teachers and pupils. This will mitigate for the lack of diversity within the facilitator cohort.

8.0 All other implications

8.1 Implications as described above, relating to the Covid-19 pandemic have been considered when applying for this award.

9.0 Schedule of papers

9.1 None

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Appendix 1 – Wolverhampton SACRE Westhill Application
Appendix 2 – Westhill NASACRE Equalities Analysis