

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
12 NOVEMBER 2019**

HUMANIST REPRESENTATIVE

Matter for Consideration

1. To consider a request received from Luke Donnellan, Director of Understanding Humanism, Humanists UK to appoint a humanist representative on this authority's Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

Background

2. Over the past few years Humanists UK have seen a significant rise in the number of humanist SACRE representatives as Religious Education has become more inclusive of non-religious worldviews, most recently prompted by the Commission on RE's final report. <https://www.commissiononre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Final-Report-of-the-Commission-on-RE.pdf>
3. They are asking if we currently have a humanist on our SACRE and, if so, provide them with the following information:
 - Name
 - Status (co-opted or full membership)
 - Email address (if they would like to receive updates from us on matters relating to humanism and education)
 - How long they have been on the SACRE
4. As Members will be aware we do not have a humanist representative on SACRE.
5. They are also keen to assist Members in finding a humanist representative in the local area who can sit on this authority's SACRE and they have plans to recruit potential SACRE members over the Summer.

Free resources

6. There are a number of free resources that Humanists UK can offer including free education resources to teachers through the 'Understanding Humanism' website (www.understandinghumanism.org.uk) free trained school speakers who can visit schools to answer students' questions about humanism, and teacher training to help raise teachers' confidence to teach about humanism in the classroom.
7. They also have two free online courses on humanism which can support teachers' subject knowledge about humanism: 'Introducing Humanism' which

explores humanist responses to life's big questions, and 'Humanist Lives' which features stories from humanists from around the world.

Recommendation

8. Members are requested to approve the appointment of a humanist representative as a full member representative in Group A (representatives of Other Religious Faiths) of this SACRE or as a Co-opted Member.

Suzanne Joyner
Director of Children and Adults Services

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the compilation of this report.
Allison Hill : Extension 5997