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| Title: | **Understanding Christianity** | | | |
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| This report relates to a programme that has been developed for schools, not simply Church of England schools, to help them in the task of teaching Christianity. | | | | |
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| Wards Affected: | **All** | | | |
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| To: | **SACRE** | | On: | **Date 15th November, 2016** |
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**1. Key points and Summary**

* 1. The purpose of this report is appraise SACRE members of a major development in the support for the teaching of Christianity in schools by the Church of England.

**2. Introduction**

2.1 SACRE has previously been made aware of Understanding Christianity as a resource that has been developed by the Church of England, which focuses on key concepts in Christianity. The project now has a fully functioning website: <http://www.understandingchristianity.org.uk>, which is password protected as the use of the resource has to be accompanied by training.

2.2 It is significant, though, for all schools given the lack of distinct content in the Torbay Agreed Syllabus and many schools may find it a useful resource, although how it will fit in with current planning recommendations will need sometime to work out. What teachers often want is a scheme for the teaching of RE and Understanding Christianity will do this but it will not necessarily help with the delivery of other religions. It also requires some understanding of Christian theology and many teachers might feel insecure in this aspect of the resource. Attached in Appendix 1 is the briefing sent to all Church of England SACRE representatives.

2.3 SACRE should also be aware that Understanding Christian is not without challenge, as can be seen in Appendices 2 and 3 to this report. Alex Howard’s challenge is in relation to the RE Council of England and Wales Code of Practice for RE Teachers (see Appendix 4). A reply has been produced by Derek Holloway, National Society of the Church of England, as a commentary on Mr Howard’s initial paper. SACRE may wish to take into account Mr Howard’s paper and the reply of Mr Holloway in its adoption of the Recommendation, below.

**3.0 Recommendation**

* 1. That SACRE note the report and the contents of the Appendix.

**Andrew Strachan**

**Chair of SACRE**

**Appendices**

Understanding Christianity for Church of England representatives on a SACRE

**Documents available in members’ rooms**

Background Papers: