

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** SACRE **DATE:** 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016  
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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I**

### **FOR INFORMATION**

#### **HUMANISM IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

To advise SACRE members of the High Court ruling made in November 2015 regarding the teaching of humanism within Religious Education.

##### **2. Recommendation**

That the report be noted.

##### **3. Supporting Information**

In November 2015, the High Court ruled against the Department for Education in an important legal case which clarified the law on RE. It made clear that humanism should be studied in the subject. Following this, Slough Borough Council was contacted by the British Humanist Association, who advised that resources to aid schools in the teaching of humanism can be found at [understandinghumanism.org.uk](http://understandinghumanism.org.uk).

In addition, at the request of a number of teachers and SACREs, the BHA will also be preparing resources on humanism that will be specifically designed to accompany each of the GCSE specifications to be taught from September 2016.

An in-depth paper on the High Court Ruling, and its impact on teaching, is attached as Appendix A.

A response to the ruling from THEOS (a Christian think tank) is attached as Appendix B.

##### **4. Conclusion**

Members are requested to note the High Court Ruling as set out in the attached papers.

**5. Appendices Attached**

Appendix A: High Court Ruling on Religions Education: Legal Guidance

Appendix B: Non Religion in Religious Education: Why it's a good thing