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## Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

### Guidance for Schools

#### Approaches to Hallowe'en

Schools and settings are sometimes unsure how to deal with requests from parents about celebrating Hallowe'en as a social event and the place of Hallowe'en in the curriculum.

For some people, Hallowe'en is seen as a cultural tradition and a modern social practice, and it is appropriate to explore this as part of the curriculum. Others see Hallowe'en as a pagan celebration that is anti-Christian and a celebration of evil.

#### **The advice from SACRE is as follows.**

It is up to individual schools, along with their governing bodies or management committees, and with regard to the views of parents and the age, needs and background of pupils, to decide how to deal with Hallowe'en as part of the curriculum or as a social event. When making a decision, schools should be aware that:

- Hallowe'en is not a specific part of the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, or any National Curriculum Programme of Study, or any Early Years/Foundation Stage guidance. However, reference to Hallowe'en may be made to exemplify social and ritual practices as part of the curriculum where appropriate.
- Any curriculum experience of Hallowe'en should be giving pupils opportunities to learn about or learn from the practices, and should not appear to celebrate a festival or belief.
- Hallowe'en should never be celebrated as part of an assembly or act of Collective Worship.