

Changes being made to the Revision of the Walsall Agreed Syllabus for RE 2021

The Local Authority have agreed through SACRE and RE Today consultants are working on this:

- Our stakeholder questionnaire has been devised and disseminated – very few responses so far, we need to push for more
- All agreed syllabuses must be reviewed every 5 years. This means the current syllabus must be reviewed and shared with schools so they can begin teaching from it in September 2021
- The recent high court judgement about RE means that the agreed syllabus has a duty 'to take care that information or knowledge included in the curriculum is conveyed in a pluralistic manner' and 'must accord equal respect to different religious convictions, and to non-religious belief'. Note that the term 'religion' encompasses both religious and non-religious beliefs. The DFE were taken to judicial review and this review was not published in a time frame that meant it could be taken account of in the last syllabus. See [R\(Fox\) v Secretary of State for Education](#)
- Complaints about a lack of RE in school now mean that syllabuses need to stipulate clearly guidance that students 'must' complete a qualification in RE rather than saying 'should'. Once again DFE lawyers were clear in their guidance in this area.

There has been much change since this syllabus was first written 10 years ago and adapted 5 years ago. Teachers need support in the areas listed below. It is SACREs role to provide this support. The list below reports the progress/actions/decisions against support needed.

- We will include planning pages that sequence the syllabus more tightly and clearly show the substantive knowledge each unit and each year will deliver
- We will give teachers more support for long term planning, exemplary overviews that support pupil progress and the development of rich knowledge and deep understanding
- RE in the new EYFS framework (to be adopted by September 2021)
- We are writing in our responses in RE to the OFSTED / DFE EIF.
- We are providing more support for deep dives in RE.
- We have written a new section on the SEND engagement model
- We will provide support for best practice around substantive and disciplinary knowledge
- We will reflect the language of religion and worldviews- see [Commission on RE 2018](#)
- We are have written new guidance on the government priority of cultural capital as it applies to RE
- We are referencing new guidance on withdrawal from RE
- We will provide a range of digital support materials as well, e.g. mini guides to 6 religions and NRWVs, to sit on the Walsall SACRE website.

Within the 'light touch review budget' we have £4750 to cover the consultancy costs. We will meet the 'deliverables' above within this budget.

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