

Agreed Syllabus Working Group

held on Wednesday, 26 November, 2008 at 4.30 p.m.

at Pleck Methodist Church, Bescot Road, Walsall

Present

Mrs. M. Gibbons
Mrs. V. Morris
Mr. Ismail Dangor
Reverend Elizabeth Snowden
Mrs. S. Blackmore
Councillor Ault
Mr. Mahmood Sacha

In attendance

Mr. D. Taylor – Consultant to Education Walsall
Ms. G. White – Education Walsall Representative

Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mrs. P. Davies and Father J. Nankivell.

Appointment of Chairman

Resolved

That Reverend E. Snowden be appointed Chairman of the Working Group for the current Municipal Year.

Late items to be introduced by the Chairman

There were no late items for introduction by the Chairman but papers had been circulated relating to the following:-

- AREIAC Conference, 18th November, 2008 – What makes a good agreed syllabus?
- Information pack from David Taylor consisting of QCA guidance “using the framework to develop an agreed syllabus for RE”;
- Aims and purposes of RE;
- QCA non statutory national framework on religious education;
- Walsall agreed syllabus 2004;

- Extract from the national curriculum 2007 relating to “programme of study (non statutory) for key stage 3 and attainment targets” and “programme of study (non statutory) for key stage 4 and years 12 and 13” together with the timeline for the agreed syllabus conference – 2008/09.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

There were no items for consideration in private session.

Review of Agreed Syllabus

A copy of the Agreed Syllabus was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mr. Taylor confirmed that a number of schools had provided dates for visits some of which would take place before the Christmas holidays.

With regard to the Agreed Syllabus Conference 2008/09 timeline, it would be necessary for confirmation of the stakeholders to be consulted to be provided.

Mr. Taylor undertook to provide the first draft of the revised agreed syllabus by the end of January 2009.

Dilwyn Hunt of Dudley MBC had agreed to look at our agreed syllabus and read the final draft. RE today, NATRE and CSF had been requested to provide information on specialists that could assist with Walsall's review and CSF had put us in touch with Ms. Rosemary Rivett who has agreed to go through our agreed syllabus. She would be contacted on the 7th January 2009.

Mr. Taylor reported that the primary RE syllabus was under review and the document should be available in the fairly near future. The content of the agreed syllabus should relate to general terms with clear examples, this should accommodate any future changes made as a result of the revision of the primary RE syllabus. Any changes could be included as an addendum.

Mr. Taylor went through the QCA guidance document and referred to the non statutory national guidance; the guidance outlined in the QCA document on page 7 would be followed closely. In response to points raised, Mr. Taylor confirmed that community cohesion was an inspection requirement by Ofsted and would need to be included in the revised agreed syllabus. Mrs. Morris referred to a number of elements that could be taught in schools outside the humanities curriculum.

Mr. Taylor highlighted the statutory elements of the agreed syllabus contained within the QCA guidance and stated that there were six concepts in primary as well as secondary phases and these would follow the children through from primary school to secondary school; transition units from years 6 to 7 could be investigated. Mrs. Morris also referred to the need to include exemplars as appendices to the agreed syllabus.

A discussion took place on attainment targets and the levels that were relevant to each key stage. With regard to the statutory delivery of the syllabus only two attainment targets were required, schools would determine the depth and range of RE. Mr. Taylor undertook to provide an example of each of the concepts. He indicated that it would be good practice for SACRE to monitor the use of the agreed syllabus in schools on an annual basis.

The structure of the agreed syllabus, would need to be changed to include two separate areas for foundation, primary and secondary education and it would be necessary to consider resources for every key stage.

Resolved

That the next meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Working Group be held at 4.30 p.m. until 6.00 p.m. on 27th January, 2009 at Pleck Methodist Church.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 5.40 p.m.