

Cabinet – 8 September 2021

Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2021-2026

Portfolio: Councillor Towe – Education and Skills

Related portfolios: All

Service: Education: Access and Inclusion

Wards: All

Key decision: Yes

Forward plan: Yes

1. Aim

To approve the agreed “Walsall RE Syllabus June 2021 – 2026” for all maintained Walsall schools for the period of 2021 – 2026.

2. Summary

In the UK, all maintained schools are required by law to teach RE. All pupils in each year group aged 4-16 are entitled to Religious Education. This entitlement applies to Academies and Free Schools as well as to community schools and to schools with a religious character. RE is a statutory subject in the curriculum and all our schools are legally obliged to teach it. In line with the law, Walsall’s Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education expects that schools will enable pupils to explore Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism, as well as Christianity. It also enables the consideration of non-religious worldviews and secular life stances.

3. Recommendations

To approve the Walsall Agreed Syllabus “Walsall RE Syllabus June 2021 – 2026” attached as an appendix to this report.

4. Report detail - know

Context

- 4.1 Walsall Council engaged with RE Today a specialist RE consultancy service and Walsall SACRE (Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education) to produce a revised RE Syllabus for our schools in the borough. RE Today have been involved in writing the Locally Agreed Syllabus for over 30 SACREs across England, and bring a wide range of experience at both Primary and Secondary phases to support local authorities.

SACRE has met in July and agreed a syllabus to be followed in the local authority's schools. Syllabuses must be reviewed every five years to ensure they are fit for purpose. A syllabus must 'reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.'

Financial implications

- 4.2 There are no ongoing financial implications arising from the adoption of the new RE Syllabus. The costs of the production of the new RE syllabus by 'RE Today' has been met from the school improvement budget with the Inclusion Team.

Legal implications

- 4.3 There are no legal implications arising out of this report.

Procurement Implications/Social Value

- 4.4 There are no procurement implications arising out of this report.

Property implications

- 4.5 There are no property implications arising out of this report.

Health and wellbeing implications

- 4.6 There are no wellbeing implications arising out of this report.

Staffing implications

- 4.7 There are no staffing implications arising out of this report.

Reducing Inequalities

- 4.8 There are no inequalities implications arising out of this report.

Climate Change

- 4.9 There are no climate change implications arising out of this report.

Consultation

- 4.10 There is no need for consultation as Walsall SACRE has met and approved the syllabus.

5. Decide

Cabinet is requested to consider the content of this report and to agree the recommendations as outlined in section 3.

6. Respond

Subject to cabinets approval the council will publish the new RE Syllabus to schools in Walsall to adopt into the curriculum.

7. Review

The Syllabus will be review every 5 years in accordance with the guidelines

Background papers

None

Author



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Executive Director
8 September 2021



Councillor Towe
Portfolio holder Education and Skills
8 September 2021