

## **Cabinet – 16 December 2009**

### **Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education**

**Portfolio:** Councillor Walker, Children's services

**Service:** Children's Services

**Wards:** All

**Key decision:** No

**Forward plan:** No

#### **1. Summary of report**

The purpose of the report is to update members of the review of the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, at **Appendix 1**.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Cabinet be requested to recommend to Council that the agreed syllabus for religious education be approved for implementation in Walsall from 1 September 2010.
- 2.2 That Cabinet approves the launch and promotion to schools of the agreed syllabus.

#### **3. Background information**

- 3.1 Every five years the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) is required by law to review / revise its Agreed Syllabus to ensure that the teaching of RE in schools is relevant and appropriate.
- 3.2 In order to review the Agreed Syllabus members of SACRE undertook a series of consultations with schools, community leaders, Diocesan representatives and professional associations supported by an external consultant.
- 3.3 The requirement to revise national guidance for the Religious Education curriculum is to ensure that current national statutory requirements are met. The draft agreed syllabus was reviewed by an external consultant to ensure compliance with current legislation prior to the acceptance of the draft by SACRE.
- 3.4 The revised document was submitted to the Agreed Syllabus working group at its meeting in September 2009 prior to submission to SACRE for final approval. SACRE approved this document at their meeting on the 12 October 2009.

- 3.5 SACRE intend to review aspects of the Agreed Syllabus every year to ensure that the content remains relevant and fit for purpose and will ensure schools are advised accordingly. The next full review of the syllabus will take place in 2014.
- 3.6 SACRE is required to ensure all schools receive training on the guidance. SACRE resolved on 13 July, 2009 that a conference would take place on 6 March, 2010 to promote the document. We are delighted that the expertise of external consultants will play a major role in the delivery of the training and guidance on that day.
- 3.7 We acknowledge the support of all members of the SACRE and teachers who have worked hard to support the review of the documentation for schools.

#### Current membership of SACRE

Councillor Ault Councillor Cook Councillor Khan Councillor Munir Councillor K. Phillips Councillor Rochelle Councillor Turner	Local Education Authority
Mrs. S. Blackmore Ms. Elaine Davies Mr. C. Hopkins Mr. Anthony Orlik Reverend Elizabeth Snowden	Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education
Father Michael Leadbeater  Mrs. P. Mullins	Roman Catholic (Archdiocese of Birmingham)
Mrs P. M. Davies Mrs M. Gibbons	Methodist
Mrs. Valerie Morris	Baptist Churches
Captain T. Stubbings	Salvation Army
Mr. David Lomax	United Reformed Church
Mrs. D. Letford	New Testament Church of God
Mr. Dhiren Thakker	Walsall Evangelical Churches
Mrs Barbara Groombridge	Religious Society of Friends (or Quakers)
Mr. Mahmood Sacha	Muslim Welfare Society

Mr. K. B. Patel	Shree Ram Mandir (Walsall)
Mr. Sijaad Hussain	Pakistan Muslim Welfare Association
Mr. Ismail Dangor	Anjuman-E-Isha'at-E-Islam
Mr. Shah Nawaz	Mosque and Islamic Centre
Mrs. A. Sharma	Hindu Faith
Molana Monzour Al-Haque	Bangladesh Islamic Association
Mohan Singh	Guru Nanak Gurdwara
Mr. K. Mavi	Guru Nanak Sikh Temple
Ms. Jeet Sohal	Walsall Sikh Forum
Father John Nankivell	Black Country Orthodox Trust
Mr. R. Simmons	National Union of Teachers
Vacancy	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
Mrs. Ellen Taylor	National Association of Head Teachers
Mr. K. Yeates	Association of School and College Leaders
Mrs Lynn Edwards	VOICE
Vacancy	National Association of School Masters/ Union of Women Teachers

#### **4. Resource considerations**

##### **4.1 Financial:**

Walsall Children's Services provides financial support for agreed projects and publications. There are no financial implications.

##### **4.2 Legal:**

There are no direct legal issues.

##### **4.3 Staffing:**

There are no direct staffing issues.

## **5. Citizen impact**

The Agreed Syllabus is reviewed to ensure children's and young people's development of personal insight and purpose, and their understanding of society's shared and agreed values. The syllabus also provides guidance to schools to ensure effective delivery of religious education and the development of the skills and personal qualities of our children & young people to live and work together, and their understanding of their own culture and those of others locally, regionally and nationally.

"We believe that all children and young people in Walsall have the right to be healthy, happy and safe, to be loved, valued and respected and to have high aspirations for a successful future"  
(*Children and Young People's Plan 2009*)

## **6. Community safety**

There are no direct community safety issues.

## **7. Environmental impact**

There are no direct environmental issues.

## **8. Performance and risk management issues**

### **8.1 Risk:**

There are no direct risk issues.

### **8.2 Performance Management:**

Standards in RE at A\*-C at GCSE and A-C grades at A level will be monitored on an annual basis.

Ofsted inspection outcomes will be monitored on a regular basis and good practice disseminated across the Local authority.

A 10% sample of all schools will take place to assess the impact and outcomes of the agreed syllabus.

## **9. Equality implications**

The agreed syllabus provides all schools with the resource to support schools in developing the children & young people's learning, personal development and their well being. The syllabus can also support schools in developing and understanding of the religious ethnic and socio-economic characteristics of its community in a local, national and global context.

## 10. Consultation

The following people were consulted during the writing of this report

SACRE

Local Authority representation

Church of England representation

Christians and other religious denominations

External Consultant

Professional Associations

Schools

### Background papers

SACRE document.

### Author

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Signed:



Executive Director: Pauline Pilkington

Date: 27 November 2009

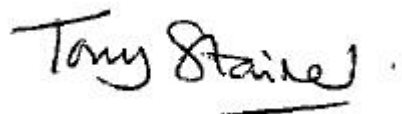


Signed:

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Rachel Walker

Date: 7 December 2009

Signed:



Managing Director: Tony Stainer

Date: 26 November 2009