

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**  
**13<sup>th</sup> May 2009**  
**Report of the Corporate Director (Children and Lifelong Learning)**

**The Agreed Syllabus Review 2009**

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To consider progress to date on the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus review.
- 1.2 To invite approval of the Staffordshire syllabus prior to becoming an Agreed Syllabus Conference.
- 1.3 To consider arrangements for the launch of the new syllabus with a view to introducing the document into schools from September 2009.

**2 Summary**

- 2.1 At the summer term meeting 2008 the SACRE became an Agreed Syllabus Conference and requested that the LA take steps to review the current Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.
- 2.2 At the summer term meeting 2009 members will receive an update regarding progress to date and will be invited to approve the syllabus.
- 2.3 Members will be invited to consider arrangements for a launch in the autumn term 2009.

**3 Recommendation**

- 3.1 That members receive a report on the progress of the review.
- 3.2 That members approve the syllabus for implementation from September 2009.
- 3.3 That members agree outline arrangements for the launch of the new syllabus.

**4 Background**

- 4.1 At the spring term meeting of the SACRE in 2008, the SACRE approved, in principle, the draft Agreed Syllabus as presented, with the following comments/recommendations:
  - 4.1.1. dividing reception/foundation and Key Stage 1 within the syllabus;
  - 4.1.2 giving equal parity to pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN), including references to their attainment targets and levels;
  - 4.1.3 members supported the proposal for an examination syllabus to be followed at KS4;
  - 4.1.4 members supported the move to a single aim for RE;
  - 4.1.5 members supported the proposal that, where schools proposed to offer RE through citizenship or humanities at Key Stage 4, they should submit their proposals to SACRE for consideration in advance of implementation;
  - 4.1.6 members supported a reduction in the previous seven elements of the Syllabus to six, in line with the Non Statutory Framework; and,
  - 4.1.7 the inclusion of conceptual and experiential faiths and how these could be measured.
- 4.2 The following action has been taken:
  - 4.2.1 The Early Years Adviser has been consulted and it has been decided to leave the sections on Early Years Foundation Stage and Reception/Key Stage 1 as they are in the statutory section of the syllabus to reflect the legal position of RE in these phases. Full account will be taken of SACRE's comments in the guidance material where careful attention will be paid to addressing the specific needs of each area.

- 4.2.2. It is not a requirement for special schools to follow the locally agreed syllabus and therefore is not appropriate to include guidance in the statutory section of the syllabus for this sector. For teachers of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in other schools an information box has been added to the section **How can pupils and teachers recognise progress in religious education?** referring them to the guidance material which will include planning information and the 'P' (performance) scale for RE, a set of descriptions for recording the achievement of pupils with SEN. This is in keeping with the way in which requirements are presented for other subject areas by QCA.
- 4.2.7 The text has been amended as appropriate to include full reference to conceptual and experiential faiths
- 4.3 The draft has been circulated to all subject leaders in secondary and middle schools, to all primary subject leaders on the current mailing list and to SACRE members. All responses have been taken into account.
- 4.4 Members are invited to discuss the amendments and to approve the syllabus for publication, subject to any changes, prior to becoming an Agreed Syllabus Conference.
- 4.5 It is proposed that the new syllabus be launched on the evening of the SACRE lecture, Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009. A light buffet will be provided and those attending will be offered the opportunity to stay to the lecture by Bishop Gordon, Bishop of Stafford. Members may wish to suggest individuals or groups who should be invited to the launch.
- 4.6 Copies of the syllabus will be available at the launch. Hard copies will be sent to all schools and it is proposed to make the document available on the RE website.
- 4.7 A second document 'Policy Guidance for Religious Education in Staffordshire' is now available in draft form.
- 4.8 Work has begun on a further document of guidance for teachers which will be made available as soon as possible.

## **5 Equal Opportunities**

- 5.2 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

## **6 Financial implications**

- 6.2 Production costs and costs incurred by the launch will be met from the SACRE budget.

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