

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

10 February 2016

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities

Agreed Syllabus Review Update

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To continue the process to review the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

2 Summary

2.1 The Education Act 1993 requires the Local Authority to institute a review of its locally agreed syllabus every five years after the completion of its last review.

2.2 The Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus was last reviewed and issued to school in 2009. A review therefore falls due in 2014. This is now overdue

2.3 It is for the Local Authority to convene an agreed syllabus conference for the purpose of reviewing a syllabus. However the SACRE can, in writing, request that the LA reconsider its agreed syllabus.

3 Recommendation

3.1 This is the sixth meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference. At previous meetings members decided to formally begin the Agreed Syllabus review process with the support of Cllr. Adams.

3.2 Members also began the process of sourcing funding for a radical review of the Agreed Syllabus.

This included letters and meetings. Entrust is sourcing funds for the Agreed Syllabus review. The Chair of SACRE will update on responses from Staffordshire County Council.

4 Background

4.1 The last revision of the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus was issued to schools in 2009.

4.2 Since the revision a number of major changes have taken place in education which have a direct impact on religious education:

- September 2014 a new curriculum was introduced to all schools, except for Year 2 and Year 6 and KS3 and 4 (Key Stages 1-4), with a clear focus on slimming down the curriculum to allow for more cross curriculum dimensions and inter-disciplinary studies and the removal of levels of attainment. Religious education needs to take account of these changes in order to play a full and active role in the new curriculum.

- September 2015 the new curriculum applies to all pupils at KS 1 and KS 2.
- In 2012 the REC completed a review of the current National Non-Statutory Framework for Religious Education. This is the document that SACRE's must take account of and is referred to in all national documentation relating to RE, including examination syllabuses and the SACRE self-evaluation materials produced by Ofsted.

4.3 It was originally proposed that should any revisions required to the revised Staffordshire agreed syllabus should be in place for September 2014 in order to make best use of the momentum generated by the implementation of the changes in the curriculum. In reality, however, the review process is a 12 month process from start to finish.

4.4 SACRE considered a number of options.

These decisions were supported through communication from Entrust and SCC regarding costings.

5 Equal Opportunities

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

6 Financial implications

6.1 Expenses incurred will be met from the SACRE budget.

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