

Minutes of the SACRE - Agreed Syllabus Conference Meeting held on 6 July 2016

Present: Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf (Chairman)

Sonia Andjelkovic	Mrs J Grundy
Sue Blackmore	Ian Lawson
Margaret Crossland	Sam Phillips
Diana Cutler	Tajinder Singh
Peter Davies	David Williams
Mick Dwyer	Rosemary Woodward
Terry Finn	Caroline Wood

Also in attendance: Emma Jardine, Mary Gale and Helen Phillips

Apologies: Susan Devereux, Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal, Colin Hopkins, Sam Kirwan and Muhammad Parekh

PART ONE

9. Minutes of the SACRE ASC held on 10 February 2016

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 10 February 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

10. Adoption of the new Agreed Syllabus

SACRE received a copy of the proposed new Agreed Syllabus for RE in Staffordshire and Members discussed the syllabus in detail. The curriculum was developed around three key aims, exploring, engaging and reflecting, allowing a sharper focus for lesson planning. The assessment framework looked at age related expectations rather than levels, with assessment around the three aims, using government agreed terminology. The legal framework had also been updated to enable every type and phase of school to understand their legal responsibilities.

Programmes of study remained similar, with the content remaining a matter for the individual school to determine, although Christianity and Islam were the two main religions to be studied. A body of wider teaching materials were available to support the Syllabus, including KS1 and 2 documents for lead teachers, lesson plan templates and explanations on how to assess.

This work had not been done in isolation but had included teachers from the NATRE Group and support from Advisors, including Early Years and Literacy.

Mrs Julia Almond asked that Spiritualism be included in the list on page 7 of other faith perspectives schools may choose to study. Members also asked for early years goals to be included in the Syllabus.

Members congratulated all those who had been involved in producing this document.

Consideration would need to be given to how this should be made available to schools and whether there was an opportunity to launch the Agreed Syllabus.

The four committees met to consider their position with regard to approving the Agreed Syllabus. The four Committees were unanimous in approving the new Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus, subject to minor editorial amendments delegated to the Chairman and Officers.

RESOLVED – That the new Agreed Syllabus be adopted.

11. Adoption of the new Agreed Syllabus by the County, and arrangements for publicity and implementation

The Syllabus now needed to be agreed by Ben Adams, Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills. Consideration would then need to be given to how the Syllabus should be launched and in what form as well as whether there would be a difference in how academy and maintained schools would be able to access the syllabus.

The Syllabus was due to be considered as part of a SACRE report to the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee on 26 July, at which the Cabinet Member would be present, and it was hoped that these issues would be clarified at that meeting.

RESOLVED – That the adoption arrangements for the Agreed Syllabus be clarified at the 26 July Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee.

Chairman
