

# **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

**9<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

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

### **The Revised Staffordshire Agreed syllabus for Religious Education 2016**

#### **1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To share with members the revised 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 has now been reviewed and the re-write is complete.

2.3 The revised Agreed Syllabus has now been published and is available to schools.

#### **3 Recommendation**

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report and note the contents

3.2 That members discuss the possibility of a launch event subject to funding.

3.3 That members consider a possible link with a syllabus launch and a SACRE lecture

#### **4 Background**

4.1 The revised Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus was issued to schools in September 2016 at the start of the new school year. The syllabus is freely available to all schools on the Entrust RE web page.

4.2 Schools have been made aware of the new agreed syllabus via internal school publicity e.g. the e-school bag and direct emails. The advisor to SACRE has received much interest and enquiries regarding the syllabus. There have also been several local articles in the press about the new syllabus and the Chair of SACRE was invited to speak on radio Stoke.

4.3 A series of introductory training sessions have been made available to schools. The uptake is high with most courses being full and one with a waiting list. Clusters of schools have also invited Emma Jardine-Phillips to host sessions within their schools.

4.4 Further sessions are planned for the Spring and Summer terms.

#### **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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## Attached items:

### Staffordshire Agreed syllabus

### Training courses/new syllabus briefings

#### 6.a update of meeting held 27.10.14

Present: Trudy Pyatt, Michael Prisk, Michael Metcalf, Emma Jardine, Helen Phillips.

Focus: Meeting held to discuss funding arrangements for the Agreed Syllabus Review.

Outcome: at this time funding can only be provided via the SDA. This means that SCC will pay for an amount of days to enable Emma Jardine only to review the syllabus. There is currently no budget to facilitate any external support for the review process. SACRE members are however invited to submit a paper detailing their preferred approach to Agreed Syllabus Review for further consideration.

#### 6.b Agreed Syllabus Review Options

	What is involved	opportunities	risks
bronze	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A set amount of days funded for Emma Jardine to review the syllabus</li><li>• An update on key information which is no longer in date</li><li>• New inclusions subject to SACRE approval e.g. reference to the census, a statement on British values</li><li>• <i>NO new approach to assessment</i></li><li>• <i>NO focus groups</i></li><li>• <i>NO Planning and resources for use within the classroom</i></li></ul>		
silver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding for both Emma Jardine and an external consultant e.g. RE Today</li><li>• A comprehensive rewrite of the syllabus</li><li>• Focus groups held with headteachers, teachers, students in order to account for their views</li><li>• A new approach to assessment including a guide to assessment without levels</li><li>• <i>NO Planning and resources for use within the classroom</i></li></ul>		

gold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding for both Emma Jardine and an external consultant e.g. RE Today</li> <li>• A comprehensive rewrite of the syllabus</li> <li>• Focus groups held with headteachers, teachers, students in order to account for their views</li> <li>• Full programmes of study for each year group/key stage including long and medium term plans</li> <li>• Resources available for teachers to use to support the highest quality RE</li> <li>• A new approach to assessment including a guide to assessment without levels</li> </ul>		
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### **6.c Review of other Locally Agreed Syllabuses**

SACRE members are invited to review a range of Agreed Syllabuses to see what aspects they would like to see included in their new Agreed syllabus.