

Religious Education Agreed Syllabus conference July 2021

Members of the Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE) are responsible for the review and rewrite if needed of the RE syllabus for schools in their Local Authority.

Outcomes (background information)

The provision of a clear, well-structured, up-to-date and professional agreed syllabus is probably the single most important function of SACRE. Combined with on-going implementation training and resources, a new syllabus offers the possibility of raising achievement in RE in all local schools.

An agreed syllabus must *'reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain'*.

Education Act (1996 Section 375 (3)) / School Standards and Framework Act (1998, Schedule 19, para.5)

In 2021 and going forward... it is essential to consider how this relates to

- the revised inspection requirements
- to developments in assessment and in teaching and learning
- revised GCSEs
- the National Report from the Commission on RE
- the 'British Values' agenda
- all related educational change.
- Ofsted emphasis on curriculum planning-their intent, implementation and the impact.

An effective AS needs to be able to support schools in all of the following aspects..

- It needs to have a good rationale for its structure;
- it needs to be operable in diverse school settings;
- it needs to show schools how they can see what impact the syllabus is having on pupil achievement.

In addition it is essential that the AS

- be clear about expected knowledge and understanding about religion(s) and belief(s)
- support and empower teachers to plan effectively
- offer coherent progression across the ages and key stages
- support clear and focused assessment

Religious education is not a national curriculum subject but it must be taught in all state funded schools as enshrined in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The curriculum for religious education is to be determined locally by Agreed Syllabus Conferences (ASCs) (Bastide, 2007), formed under Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (SACREs).

The main focus is that: 'Every agreed syllabus shall reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.' (Great Britain. Education Act, 1996, section 375)

Suggested Milestones

Convening of SACRE conferences to review and consider the recommendations for the new AS on the following dates

July 1st 2021, November 17th 2021, February 2nd 2022 and June 29th 2022

Set up SACRE mini working group to formulate exact wording

Discussions with stakeholders Summer 2021 through to early Spring 2022.

First presentation of the reviewed AS after discussions Feb 2022.

Entrust support for illustration between Feb 2022 and June 2022

Final presentation June 2022 ready for confirmation by Cabinet Member, Councillor Jonathan Price

Launch event if deemed appropriate- twilight event

Roll out to schools ready for September 2022