



## The Review of the Agreed Syllabus

10 March 2015

### 1. Purpose of this Report

At the Hillingdon SACRE meeting held on 5 November 2014, members requested that a paper be brought to the next meeting, regarding a review of the agreed syllabus. This report will explain the statutory requirements for the review of the Hillingdon agreed syllabus, and the ways in which this can be achieved.

### 2. Requirement for a Review

The local education authority is required, by Section 375 of the Education Act 1996 (Schedule 31) to convene an agreed syllabus conference not later than five years after the current agreed syllabus was adopted. For Hillingdon this means that such a conference must convene by 9 July 2015, as the current syllabus was adopted on 9 July 2010.

3. An Agreed Syllabus Conference consists of members drawn from the same four committees as SACRE, and as a result most local education authorities simply appoint the membership of SACRE to membership of the committees at the conference. Councillor David Simmonds, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member responsible for Education and Children's Services, has indicated LB Hillingdon's intention to follow this example, if members of SACRE are willing to accept the appointments.

4. It is for the local education authority to convene such a review, and is not a responsibility of SACRE. Agreement by the three non-local authority committees forming SACRE can require the Local Authority to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference sooner than required by legislation; however, as the five year review period will expire in four months it is not recommended that members give this serious consideration.

### 5. The Process for a Review

Once convened, the Agreed Syllabus Conference may either:

- a) Recommend that the existing syllabus should continue to be the agreed syllabus.
- b) Adapt the existing syllabus, or write a new syllabus, and recommend this for adoption by the local authority.

In making either of these recommendations, the four committees of the conference must be in unanimous agreement (although those committees may have disagreements amongst themselves). Should this be impossible to achieve, the Secretary of State will be asked to appoint a body to prepare a syllabus, it should be noted however, that this provision is rarely used.

6. The costs of carrying out the review, for example room hire, are likely to be small. Should a new or altered syllabus be agreed, this will need to be printed and distributed to schools and faith groups, which will cost more. SACRE has been allocated a budget of £3,100 for printing in the next financial year, which is expected to any such costs.