



The Review of the Agreed Syllabus

16 June 2015

1. Purpose of this Report

To set out possible approaches to undertaking the agreed syllabus review.

2. Membership

At its last meeting SACRE noted the importance of both teachers and faiths being represented on the Agreed Syllabus Conference. To this end the Local Authority has made attempts to fill the vacancies on the membership of SACRE, which is also the membership of the Agreed Syllabus Conference. This has resulted in NASUWT and NUT appointing representatives, and ATL searching for a new representative from their membership. Although all faith groups with vacancies were contacted only a Quaker representative has been appointed and there are still a number of faiths without representatives at SACRE, including the Baptist, Jewish and United Reform Faiths, as well as two Church of England vacancies.

3. The Process for a Review

3a. Gathering Evidence

Previous Agreed Syllabus Conferences have undertaken a short questionnaire to involve the borough's schools in the review. A draft questionnaire is attached which subject to any amendments by, and the approval of, the ASC will be circulated to schools early in the new academic year. Collated responses would then be available to the Committee at its meeting on 4 November 2015.

There are also a number of documents, published since the last review, which members may wish to take into account.

- a. A Curriculum Framework for Religious Education in England (The Religious Education Council of England and Wales, October 2013) <http://resubjectreview.recouncil.org.uk/re-review-report>
- b. Religious Education: Realising the Potential (OFSTED, October 2013) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/413157/Religious_education_-_realising_the_potential.pdf

The conference may identify individuals, such as teachers, faith leaders, or R.E. experts, who would wish to make comment on the current syllabus and what amendments they feel ought to be made.

3b. Setting the Parameters for the Review and Reviewing the Syllabus

Hopefully the conference will through the evidence gathering process identify whether a full review of the syllabus is needed, or if, as members have suggested, a few minor changes will allow the current syllabus to continue to be used. Once the type of review to be undertaken is understood members will need to consider possible approaches to reviewing the syllabus. The Conference could choose to go through the whole document line by line, although this is likely to be time consuming. Members may instead wish to ask faiths to review the information relevant to them, and report their findings back to the conference. Alternatively conference could also choose to break up the syllabus into key stages and review the content for each key stage separately, possibly involving teachers of that key stage more closely. Members may wish to take up one of these options, or may wish to suggest alternative approaches.