



AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE UPATE

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REASON FOR REPORT

1. To provide an update on responses received to the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) questionnaire sent to all schools in the Borough.
2. To provide an update on a sub-group meeting held on 19 January 2016. This meeting discussed the Faith and Values section of the current Agreed Syllabus.

OPTIONS OPEN TO HSACRE

1. To note the feedback provided and provide any comments.
2. To determine whether to recommend that the existing syllabus should continue, whether the existing syllabus (or sections of it) should be adapted or whether to write a new syllabus and recommend this for adoption by the local authority.

BACKGROUND

1. At the November 2015 meeting, HSACRE was provided the results of a survey that had been sent to schools in the Borough. The purpose of the survey was to assist SACRE in determining whether a review of the existing syllabus should be undertaken. 12 responses had been received at this time, with only one respondent suggesting that a full review of the Syllabus should be undertaken and no respondents proposing a partial review. Respondents generally felt that the existing syllabus met the needs of their school / pupils, although a couple of responses suggested that there should be better representation of agnostic, atheistic or Humanist beliefs.

HSACRE Members agreed that the survey should be circulated to school in order to improve the response rate. This has resulted in a further four responses being received, which while still disappointingly low, could suggest that schools generally feel that the existing syllabus meets their needs.

Of the four additional responses received, three were satisfied with the current syllabus. The one respondent who was not satisfied suggested that a full review should be undertaken and that this should expand coverage of non-religious ideas, such as Humanism and an expansion of philosophical and ethical ideas.

2. A sub-group meeting was held on 19 January 2016. This meeting discussed the Faith and Values section of the current Agreed Syllabus. The changes proposed by the sub-group are attached as Appendix A and some general comments on the syllabus are attached as Appendix B