

Hillingdon RE Syllabus –Comments on main text V1

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General Points

1. On the Contents page, and on the front and back covers, it would be much appreciated if the humanist 'Happy Human' symbol could be included amongst the existing symbols for religious belief systems.
2. In the Introduction on page 1, the second paragraph says; *"Faith and Values is a compulsory new and innovative strand that contains material shared by everyone with a faith background but also by others who would claim not to have a faith."*
 - a. It would be appreciated if the 'new strand' referred to above could be entitled "Beliefs and Values" (throughout the document). This would become inclusive in tone as it would recognise the existence of non-religious belief systems such as Humanism.
 - b. We also believe that it would make things clearer if, in this sentence and indeed through the document, the word 'faith' is always preceded by the word 'religious'.
 - c. The end of the sentence (*"but also by those who would claim not to have a faith."*) can feel a little dismissive to those of us who do have positive World Views such as Humanism.
 - i. This expression is repeated on page 6, in the section entitled 'Faith and values Strand' – second paragraph.
 - d. Would it therefore be possible to re-word the sentence in the Introduction as follows: *"Beliefs and Values is a compulsory new and innovative strand that contains material shared by everyone with a religious faith background and also those with other worldviews."*
 - e. An even broader re-wording might read as follows; *"Beliefs and Values is a compulsory new and innovative strand that contains material shared by everyone including those who define themselves as religious and those who do not."*
3. We all recognised the value of the extensive work that has already gone into preparing this Syllabus document and to finding the right words and expressions.
4. We found it helpful, when trying to improve on specific sections, to try to ask ourselves at each point;
 - a. Precisely what are we trying to say,
 - b. Have we expressed this idea succinctly and clearly,
 - c. Will our target audiences (teachers and children) be able to understand the expression and / or the underlying concept?