
AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Responsible Cabinet Members –
Councillor Cyndi Hughes, Children and Young People Portfolio**

Responsible Director – Jenni Cooke, Service Director, Children’s Services

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Cabinet approval for the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Darlington.

Summary

2. The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) reviews the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (RE) every five years.
3. The revision of the Agreed Syllabus provides a framework for Darlington schools to take RE forward in the next five years.
4. The Agreed Syllabus is attached at **Appendix A**.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that Members approve the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

Reasons

6. To enable schools to implement the new syllabus within the statutory framework.

Jenni Cooke
Service Director, Children’s Services

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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S17 Crime and Disorder	The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is considered that the contents of this report have such an effect.
Health and Well Being	It is considered that the Agreed Syllabus, when delivered to children and young people as part of a coherent, personal and social education programme, will have a positive effect on their general wellbeing.
Carbon Impact	There is no specific carbon impact.
Diversity	The Agreed Syllabus covers many religions and faiths. All Members of SACRE have been involved in its development.
Wards Affected	All Wards.
Groups Affected	Children, Young People, Teachers, Parents/Carers.
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	No.
Urgent Decision	No.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The Agreed Syllabus provides an overarching framework which links all themes from the Sustainable Community Strategy. Inclusion is at the heart of the Agreed Syllabus.
Efficiency	There is no specific impact on efficiency.

MAIN REPORT

Purpose and Reason for this Report

7. For the purpose of preparing an Agreed Syllabus for religious education the local authority must convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference. An Agreed Syllabus Conference is a separate legal entity from the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).
8. The role of the Agreed Syllabus Conference is to produce and recommend an Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education which meets fully the present legislative requirements and is educationally sound.
9. Only an Agreed Syllabus Conference may recommend an Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and its recommendations must be unanimously agreed by the representative committees constituting the Agreed Syllabus Conference.
10. The representative committees are Group A: Other Religious Faiths; Group B: the Church of England; Group C: Teachers' Associations; and Group D: Representative of the Local Authority.
11. The Syllabus outlines the statutory requirements for the teaching of RE lessons in Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 and provides guidance on the planning of lessons.

12. Head Teachers must ensure the provision of Religious Education and ensure that sufficient time and resources are given to RE to meet statutory requirements for RE delivery.
13. For local authority maintained schools, the governing body and the local authority must also exercise their functions in securing provision.
14. Governing bodies of voluntary aided schools may find the new Agreed Syllabus of interest, although it is not mandatory for them to use it.

Outcome of Consultation

15. As part of the consultation process Primary and Secondary Schools in Darlington were sent a questionnaire during November 2013 and consultation meetings were arranged at the Town Hall on 19th November, 2013 for Primary and Special Schools and on 25th November 2013 for Secondary Schools.
16. For the purpose of preparing an Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, meetings of the Agreed Syllabus Conference were held on 17 March 2014 to consult on the revised Syllabus; and further meetings were held on 22 April 2014 and 26 February, 2015 when the Syllabus was unanimously agreed by the four groups represented at the Agreed Syllabus Conference.