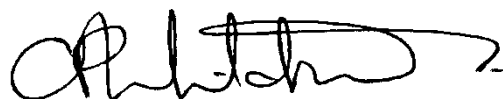


Agreed Syllabus Conference Agenda

**4.00 pm Monday, 26 April 2021
Via Microsoft Teams**

**In accordance with Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, this meeting will be held on a virtual basis. Members of the Public can view a live stream of the meeting at:
<https://www.darlington.gov.uk/livemeetings> Members of the public wanting to raise issues/make representations at the meeting can do so by emailing Allison.hill@darlington.gov.uk 24 hours before the meeting begins.**

1. Attendance at Meeting
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Appointment of Chair
4. Review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus - Consultation with Schools –
Report of the Director of Children and Adult Services
(Pages 3 - 18)
5. Consultation Process –
Discussion by all Members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference
6. Supplementary Items(s) (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this
Committee are of an urgent nature and can be discussed at this meeting
7. Questions



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Friday, 16 April 2021

**Town Hall,
Darlington.**

Membership

J Uzzell, Group A Paganism
Martin Stand, Group B Church of England
Kelsang Dragden, Group A Buddhism
Dr MA Quader, Group A The Islamic Society of Darlington
Helen Ellis, Group A The Roman Catholic Church
M Calderon, Group A The Religious Society of Friends
Morvyn Sanderson, Group A The Methodist Church
Rev Thompson, Group A Darlington Baptist Church
B Singh, Group A Sikhism
Bess Robertson, Group A Darlington Hebrew Congregation (Judaism)
Meg Thomson, Group A Darlington United Reformed Church
Dr Kumari, Group A Hinduism
Rev Paul Baker, Group B Church of England
Beth Miller, Group B Church of England
Councillor C L B Hughes
Councillor Clarke
Councillor Curry
Councillor Heslop
Fiona Rankin, Group C The National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
Stuart Rawle, Group C National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)

Co-opted Members:

M Fryer, Co-opted Member of SACRE
Jan Mole, Co-opted Member of SACRE

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Allison Hill, Democratic Officer, Resources Group, during normal office hours 8.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. Fridays email: Allison.hill@darlington.gov.uk or Tel 01325 405997

AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

26 APRIL 2021

REVIEW OF THE LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2015 – CONSULTATION WITH SCHOOLS

Matter for Consideration

1. To give consideration to the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Darlington.

Background

2. The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education has a duty to review their Locally Agreed Syllabus every 5 years, and this is now a year overdue as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. At the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education held on 8 February 2021 Members recommended that the locally authority commence the review process and convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to progress.
4. This is the beginning of a long process of review and it is unlikely that any update to our Darlington syllabus (should one be agreed) will be ready for release to schools until January 2022 at the earliest.

Consultation with Schools

5. As part of the review process it is advisable to include Primary and Secondary Schools, including special Schools in Darlington in a consultation exercise.
6. Anne Davison, SEND and Inclusion Advisor sought clarification from the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) on the requirement for a Secondary Syllabus in a fully acadmised system and it was confirmed that there was still an expectation to produce an agreed syllabus covering all stages.
7. A Survey was circulated to all schools on 18 May, 2021 to be completed on Survey Monkey (Appendix 1) and the purpose of the survey was to gather school views, especially those of Head Teachers, subject governors and RE Teachers. The closing date for this questionnaire was the 16 April 2021.
8. Data analysis of the returned questionnaires is to be considered by the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

Recommendation

9. Members are requested to note their comments and analysis of the outcome of the questionnaire and use this to inform the next agenda of the ASC

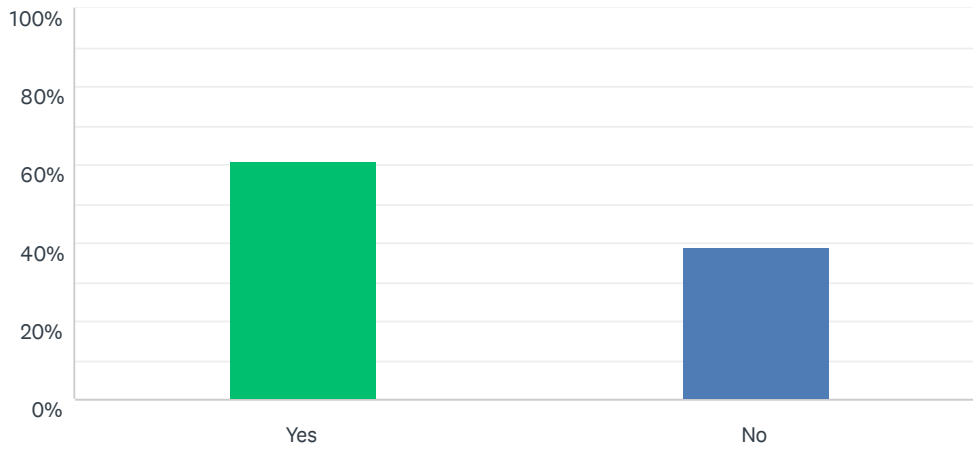
James Stroyan
Director of Children and Adult Services

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the compilation of this report.
Allison Hill: Extension 5997

Q1 Do you currently use the Darlington Locally Agreed Syllabus?

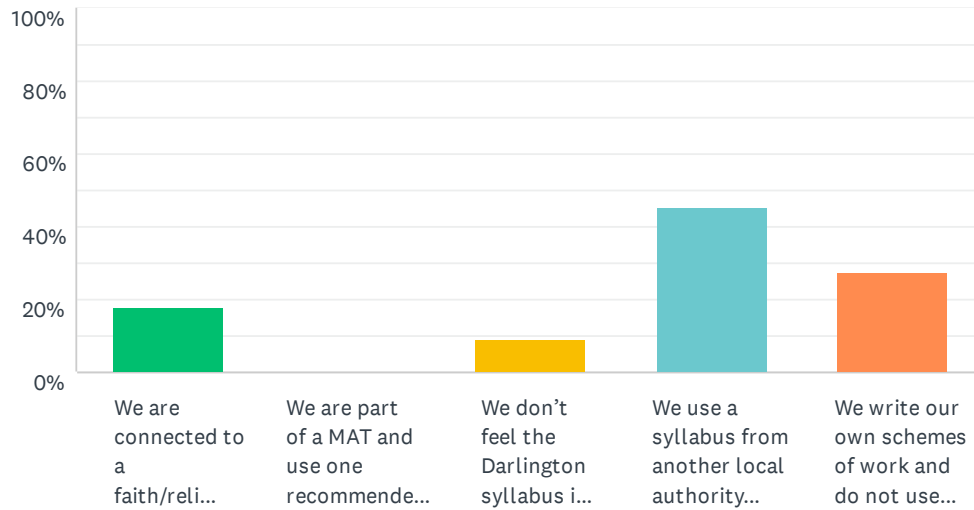
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	60.71%	17
No	39.29%	11
TOTAL		28

Q2 If you answered no to Q1, why not?

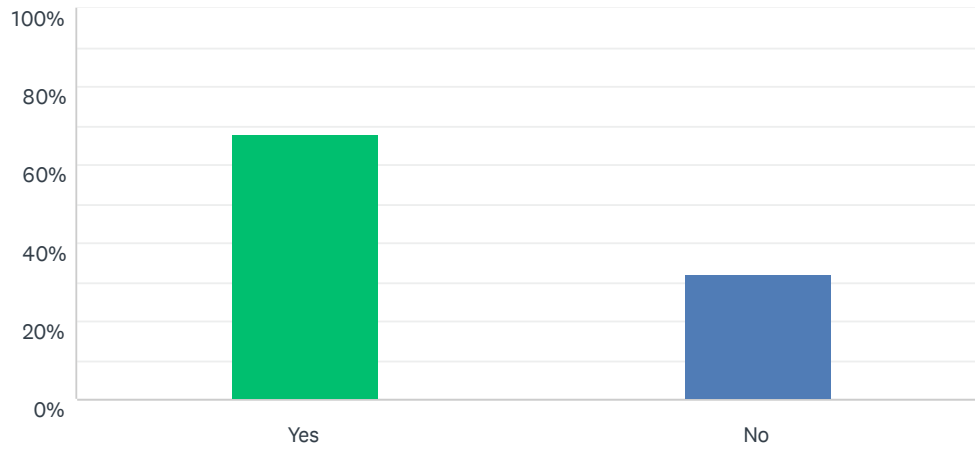
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
We are connected to a faith/religious community and so use one from the diocese.	18.18%	2
We are part of a MAT and use one recommended by them.	0.00%	0
We don't feel the Darlington syllabus is appropriate.	9.09%	1
We use a syllabus from another local authority area.	45.45%	5
We write our own schemes of work and do not use a syllabus?	27.27%	3
TOTAL		11

Q3 Do you think that the current syllabus needs to be changed?

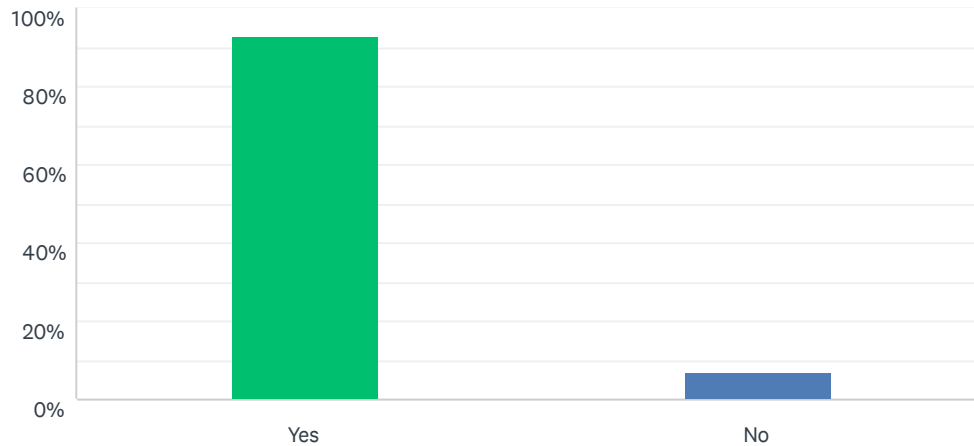
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	67.86%	19
No	32.14%	9
TOTAL		28

Q4 Would you like the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) to provide training on the Locally agreed syllabus if it does change?

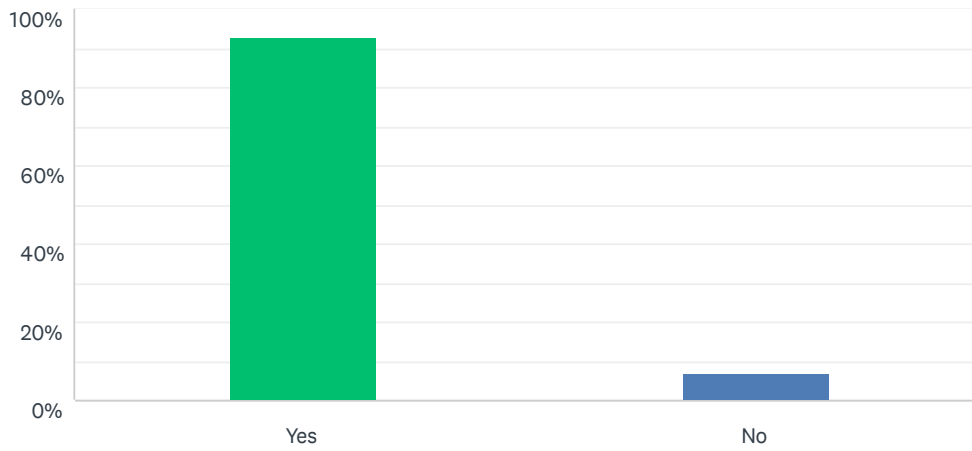
Answered: 28 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	92.86%	26
No	7.14%	2
TOTAL		28

Q5 Would you consider using a Darlington Locally Agreed syllabus if it were updated?

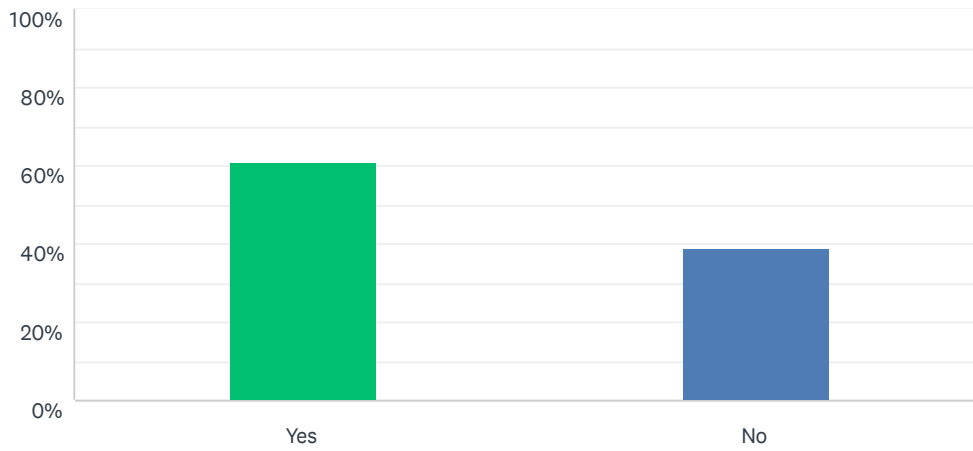
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	92.86%	26
No	7.14%	2
TOTAL		28

Q6 Do you think that the Locally agreed Syllabus reflects the history of faith in our local community?

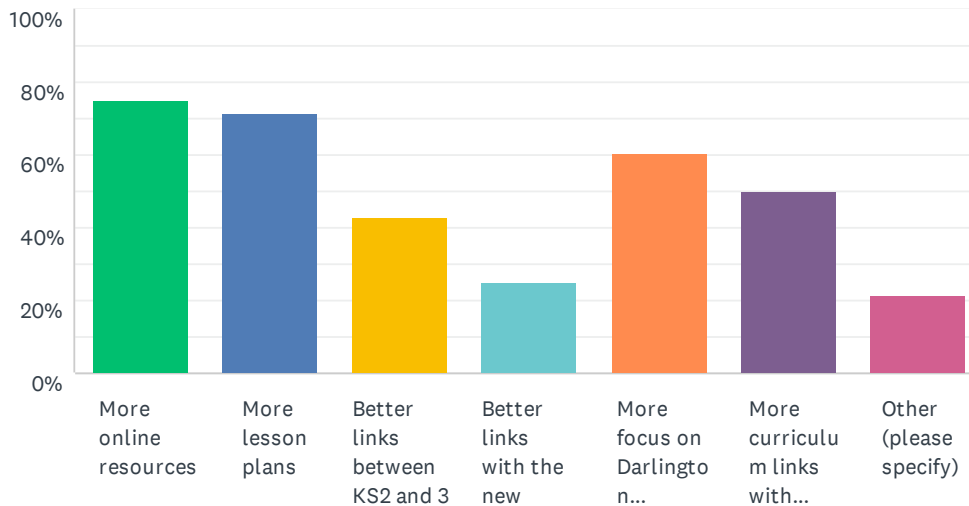
Answered: 28 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	60.71%	17
No	39.29%	11
TOTAL		28

Q7 What changes would you like to see in the Locally Agreed Syllabus? (tick all that apply)

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0



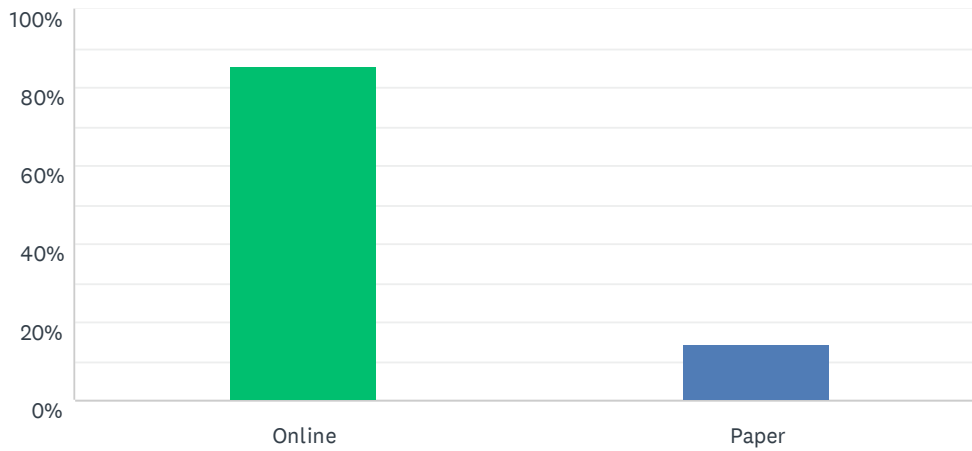
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
More online resources	75.00%	21
More lesson plans	71.43%	20
Better links between KS2 and 3	42.86%	12
Better links with the new GCSEs	25.00%	7
More focus on Darlington communities such as the Quakers	60.71%	17
More curriculum links with other subjects	50.00%	14
Other (please specify)	21.43%	6
Total Respondents: 28		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	It needs to reflect the religious communities in Darlington at this present time as well as taking account of the wider world. The current syllabus reflects Darlington religious communities at the time when it was written - at least 5 years ago. We need assessment built into the syllabus that is easy to use, individual schools shouldn't have to devise their own system.	3/25/2021 9:05 AM
2	Units of work for all year groups for all terms. Also more resources to be provided as in many cases they are considerably lacking. Many of the units need to be supplemented or written by teachers themselves.	3/19/2021 2:27 PM
3	More SMSC and British Values links	3/18/2021 4:12 PM
4	At secondary level all that is required is a list of outcomes to meet- similar to the National Curriculum in other subjects. All Heads of RS in Darlington secondary schools are subject specialists- we need the autonomy to plan curriculums which meet the needs of our students.	3/18/2021 3:49 PM
5	A more balanced range of religions e.g. 1 1/2 terms on one religion is quite a lot to consider planning for without overlap to different year groups. More questions that can be used as examples to plan lessons from.	3/18/2021 2:22 PM
6	When we have used guest speakers from different faiths they have said that the syllabus	3/18/2021 12:30 PM

doesn't reflect modern day practises and tends to represent a one-size fits all

Q8 Would you prefer a physical copy of the syllabus, or would you prefer online access?

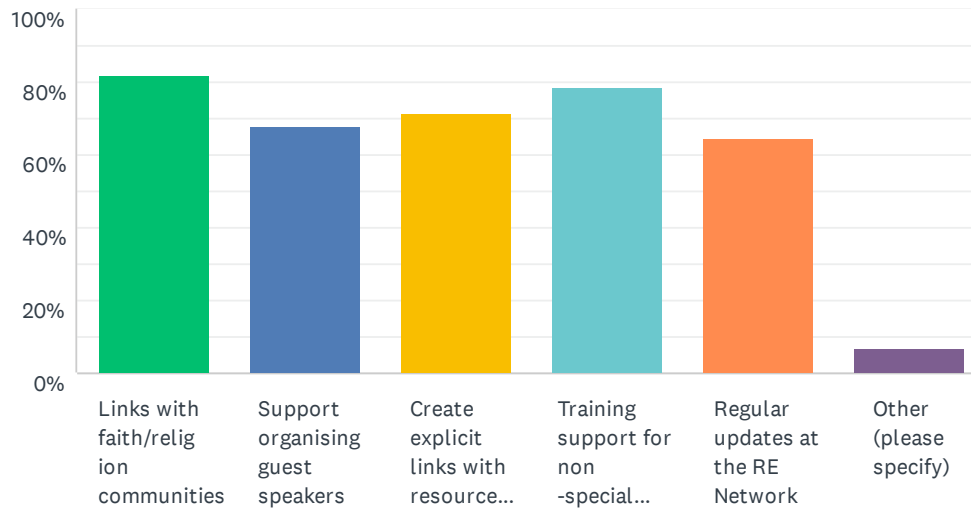
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Online	85.71%	24
Paper	14.29%	4
TOTAL		28

Q9 In what other ways could the SACRE support the RE community in Darlington better? (tick all that apply)

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

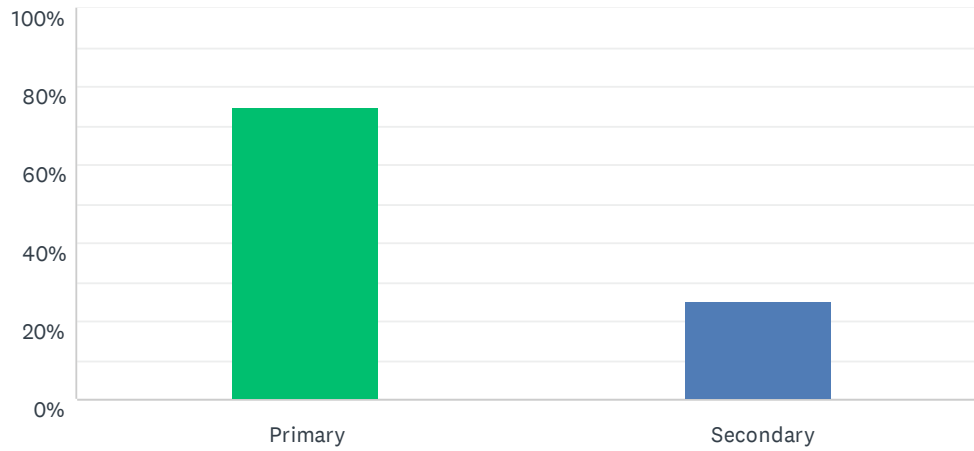


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Links with faith/religion communities	82.14%	23
Support organising guest speakers	67.86%	19
Create explicit links with resources for our local community	71.43%	20
Training support for non-specialist teachers of RE	78.57%	22
Regular updates at the RE Network	64.29%	18
Other (please specify)	7.14%	2
Total Respondents: 28		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	An RE network would be very useful. In Darlington you always feel like you are on your own in your individual school doing what you think is right. There is no sharing of good practice or collaborative work and no support from anywhere. Visits and speakers are difficult due to the sensitive nature of the subject so to have LA approved links would be very reassuring for my SLT.	3/25/2021 9:05 AM
2	Focus on transition and fluidity from KS2 to KS3. more network meetings for KS2-3 teachers to liaise	3/19/2021 9:21 AM

Q10 Which age phase do you work in?

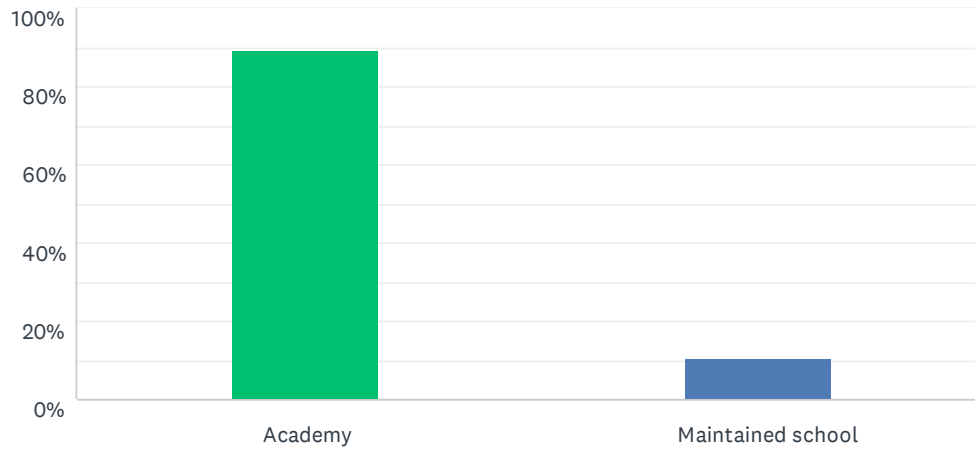
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Primary	75.00%	21
Secondary	25.00%	7
TOTAL		28

Q11 Do you work in an Academy or a Maintained school?

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Academy	89.29%	25
Maintained school	10.71%	3
TOTAL		28

Q12 Comments

Answered: 6 Skipped: 22

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	As a Primary School we would benefit greatly from training and support to organise religious visits and speakers to come into school.	4/13/2021 4:13 PM
2	I have said an online version is best but it is always good to have at least one paper copy per school as well.	3/25/2021 9:05 AM
3	More specific guidance would be beneficial, other than just key question. It would be of helpful to include key vocabulary that needs to be covered for each religion, key objectives broken down into steps and into the correct order for teaching and significant religions festivals/ celebrations important to cover across school.	3/22/2021 3:45 PM
4	I would like to see the whole RE scheme focus on how religion is relevant to our lives today and how religious views influence actions. Linking RE to topics would be more beneficial to teaching RE in the primary school.	3/19/2021 3:37 PM
5	We have designed our own RE curriculum using elements of the Darlington Syllabus. We felt our pupils were not retaining the knowledge about each religion as they were not revisiting them frequently enough. Our new curriculum allows pupils to build on what they have learnt in previous units/years.	3/18/2021 4:16 PM
6	I think that the needs of primary schools and secondary schools are very different. At the Secondary Network meeting we all agreed that we would prefer to write our own contributions for the secondary curriculum and not have it prescribed to us. There is a lot of work in secondaries about planning our curriculum and we are all subject specialists- we would like to have control over what we teach. Primary schools certainly expressed that they needed more support and may benefit from lesson plans etc. Secondary schools do not require this- instead something in line with what other subjects have as part of the National Curriculum would be more appropriate.	3/18/2021 3:49 PM

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