



**DARLINGTON**

Borough Council

# Agreed Syllabus Conference Agenda

4.30 pm

Monday, 22 November 2021

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Darlington. DL1 5QT

**Members of the Public are welcome to attend this Meeting.**

1. Attendance at Meeting
2. Appointment of Chair for the purpose of the meeting only
3. Declarations of Interest
4. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 6 September 2021 (Pages 3 - 4)
5. Review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus – Report of the Group Director of People (Pages 5 - 12)
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, 12 November 2021**

**Town Hall,  
Darlington.**

**Membership**

Jenny 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 Crudass  
Councillor Curry  
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, Operations 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](mailto:Allison.hill@darlington.gov.uk) or Tel 01325 405997

## **AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE 6 SEPTEMBER 2021**

### **PRESENT –**

Jenny 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), Morvyn Sanderson (Group A The Methodist Church), Dr Kumari (Group A Hinduism), Rev Paul Baker (Group B Church of England), Councillor C L B Hughes, Councillor Crudass, Councillor Curry and Fiona Rankin (Group C The National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT))

**Co-opted Members –** M Fryer (Co-opted Member of SACRE)

**Officers –** Allison Hill (Democratic Officer) and Anne Davison (SEND Inclusion Advisor)

**APOLOGIES –** Meg Thomson (Group A Darlington United Reformed Church), Councillor Clarke, Stuart Rawle (Group C National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)) and Jan Mole (Co-opted Member of SACRE)

### **4 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

**IT WAS AGREED –** That Jenny Uzzell be appointed Chair for the purpose of the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

### **5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

### **6 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE HELD ON 26 APRIL 2021**

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the Meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 26 April 2021.

**IT WAS AGREED –** That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

### **7 REVIEW OF LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2015 - OPTIONS**

The Group Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) for Members to give further consideration to the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Darlington.

Following the recommendation of the Standing Advisory Council at the meeting held on 8 February 2021 to commence the review process, the submitted report outlined four options for consideration and the budget allocated to the production of an Agreed Syllabus of £5,000.

It was highlighted that the Local Authority is required to produce a Locally Agreed Syllabus for use in its maintained schools, which is four in Darlington; however the options paper also explained the different costs for academies who may adopt the Syllabus if they so wished.

The submitted report outlined the four options and gave details of each option including the cost to primary academies, the cost to secondary academies; and the total cost to the Local Authority. The total cost of the options ranged from just below £2,000 up to £25,000 for a bespoke new Syllabus.

Members discussed the options in detail which included three options from RE Today Services and a further option to purchase a Syllabus from a regional partner which has been used by Durham and other Local Authorities.

Anne Davison, SEND Inclusion Advisor and Lead Officer for SACRE, advised Members that the Training and Development Director of RE Today Services had offered to meet with Members and present in more detail the options available from RE Today Services.

Discussion also ensued on the involvement of the maintained schools in discussions on a preferred option and it was agreed that they be invited to the presentation from RE Today Services.

**IT WAS AGREED** – That Members receive a presentation from RE Today Services to outline the options 2 and 3 (Syllabus A and B) in more detail before any further decision can be made.

## **AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE**

**22 NOVEMBER 2021**

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### **REVIEW OF THE LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2015 – OPTIONS**

#### **Matter for Consideration**

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

#### **Background**

2. At the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education held on 8 February 2021 Members recommended that the local authority commence the review process and convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to progress.
3. Meetings of the Agreed Syllabus Conference have been held on 26 April 2021 and 6 September 2021 when Members discussed the consultation process that had been carried out with all schools which showed there was an appetite for the production of a new syllabus; and Anne Davison presented to Members four options for consideration by the Agreed Syllabus Conference including the cost to primary academies, the cost to secondary academies; and the total cost to the Local Authority ranging from just below £2,000 up to £25,000 for a bespoke new Syllabus.
4. It was agreed at the meeting held in September that as three of the options offered were from RE Today Services it would be beneficial for Members to receive a presentation on the Syllabus options for Model A+ and Model B from RE Today Services and that was carried out via Microsoft Teams on 18 October 2021.
5. The Local Authority is required to produce a Locally Agreed Syllabus for use in its maintained schools and academies may also choose to adopt the syllabus if they so wish.
6. The four options available are outlined in **Appendix 1**.

#### **Recommendation**

7. Members are now requested to agree one of the options outlined for the production of a new Locally Agreed Syllabus.

**James Stroyan**  
**Group Director of People**

### **Background Papers**

No Background papers were used in the compilation of this report.

Allison Hill: Extension 5997

**Outline of costs of 4 options for the adoption of a Locally Agreed Syllabus for presentation at the Agreed Syllabus conference**

For consideration by the Agreed Syllabus Conference - The allocated budget for the production of an Agreed Syllabus is £5000

| <b>Option 1 – RE Today Bespoke Syllabus</b>  | <b>Maintained Schools</b> | <b>Cost to Primary Academies</b>   | <b>Cost to Secondary Academies</b>            | <b>Total cost to the Local Authority</b>  |
|--|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| An Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) set up, overseeing the review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•A survey of teachers</li> <li>•Initial drafts by the adviser / a consultant</li> <li>•Teacher working groups to feed into the process of reviewing the drafts</li> <li>•Re-writing by the adviser / a consultant</li> <li>•Approval from ASC/SACRE and the Local Authority</li> <li>•Design and production of text and/or online version.</li> </ul> | None                      | Syllabus, Support materials and (training costs would be covered by the Local Authority – as training would already be set up for Primary maintained.) | Syllabus Support materials and training costs | <b>Approximate: £12,000 - £25,000</b><br>This would need to be discussed and would depend on the extent to which LA/SACRE wished to involve teacher working groups. |

| <b>Option 2 – RE Today Syllabus A</b>  | <b>Maintained School costs</b>                                       | <b>Cost to Primary Academies</b>  | <b>Cost to Secondary Academies</b>  | <b>Cost to LA of covering statutory duties</b>                   |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Provides the minimum for a SACRE / LA to fulfil its legal requirement, and is designed to offer clear, practical support for schools in planning and teaching excellent RE. The agreement is to buy a five-year licence with RE Today. Additional support resources are also available to purchase.</p> | <p>Syllabus - nil<br/>Support Materials - nil<br/>Training - nil</p> | <p>Syllabus - £90<br/>Support Materials - £248<br/>Training - £100 per school</p> | <p>Syllabus - £96<br/>Support Materials -£248<br/>Training - £1000 (Split between those who attend)</p> | <p>£270<br/>£744<br/>£1000<br/><b>Total</b><br/><b>£2014</b></p> |

| Option 3 – RE Today Syllabus B   | Maintained Schools   | Cost to Primary Academies   | Cost to Secondary Academies  | Cost to LA of covering statutory duties  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <p>A newly developed model with a more systematic approach compared to the more thematic approach of syllabus model A. The agreement is to buy a five-year licence with RE Today. Additional support resources are also available to purchase.</p> <p>Additional training is required for ‘Understanding Christianity’ – this is subsidised, but is why there is an extra cost in option 3</p> | <p>Syllabus - nil</p> <p>Support Materials - nil</p> <p>Training - nil</p> | <p>Syllabus - £90</p> <p>Support Materials £160</p> <p>Training - £180</p> <p>Understanding Christianity £100 - syllabus training</p> | <p>Syllabus - £88</p> <p>Support Materials - £160</p> <p>Understanding Christianity training £180</p> <p>Training - £1000 (split between those who attend)</p> | <p>£270 – 5 year licence for syllabus</p> <p>£180 (UC)</p> <p>£480 – support materials</p> <p>£1000 - training</p> <p><b>Total cost: £1930</b></p> |

| Option 4 - Locally Agreed Syllabus 5 year licence from Regional Partner  | Maintained Schools | Cost to Primary Academies | Cost to Secondary Academies | Cost to LA of covering statutory duties |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <p>Cost of licence and use of syllabus for 5 years is £5500</p> <p>Optional support (as used by Durham and other LAs for implementation for their Agreed Syllabus)- <b>Price upon asking</b> if syllabus adopted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultancy support - briefing for HTs and Governors</li> <li>• Virtual launch event (hosted, platform and associated materials- 4 spaced online workshops with RE Adviser) if the syllabus is adopted and unchanged.</li> <li>• Primary RE Coordinators course – Virtual training using an online platform with embedded resources and some live virtual sessions – support for implementation and mid leader development</li> </ul> | <p>Nil</p>         | <p>£50 per paper copy</p> | <p>£50 per paper copy</p>   | <p>£5500</p>                            |

## Overview of available options in the production of a new Locally Agreed Syllabus

Summer 2021

The Agreed budget by the Education department for this piece of work is:

**Please note that: SACREs are responsible for ensuring that pupils in the local authority's Maintained Schools receive their statutory entitlement in RE, of the highest possible quality.**

Each committee has to agree the syllabus not just a majority. If a syllabus cannot be agreed it is referred to the Secretary of State for Education.

[https://www.retoday.org.uk/uploads/RE%20Today%20Website/Consultancy%20documents/Syllabus%20booklet\\_PAGES-compressed.pdf](https://www.retoday.org.uk/uploads/RE%20Today%20Website/Consultancy%20documents/Syllabus%20booklet_PAGES-compressed.pdf)

The Agreed Syllabus sets out what pupils should be taught in religious education (RE) from ages 5 to 19. All maintained schools have a statutory duty to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which includes RE. Maintained schools without a religious character are required to teach RE to all registered pupils in accordance with the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

Academies and free schools are also required through the terms of their funding agreement to make provision for the teaching of RE. They can choose to use the locally agreed syllabus but are not required to do so.

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