



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

Agreed Syllabus Conference Agenda

4.45 pm

Monday, 21 March 2022

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Darlington. DL1 5QT

Members of the Public are welcome to attend this Meeting.

1. Attendance at Meeting
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 22 November 2021 (Pages 3 - 4)
4. Review of Locally Agreed Syllabus –
Report of the Director of People
(Pages 5 - 12)
5. 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
6. Questions

Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Friday, 11 March 2022

**Town Hall,
Darlington.**

Membership

Jenny Uzzell, Group A Paganism
Martin Stand, Group B Church of England
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
Rev Thompson, Group A Darlington Baptist Church
B Singh, Group A Sikhism
Bess Robertson, Group A Darlington Hebrew Congregation (Judaism)
Gen Chogma, Group A Buddhism
Meg Thomson, Group A Darlington United Reformed Church
Dr Kumari, Group A Hinduism
Emma Walden, Group A Methodist Circuit
Rev Paul Baker, Group B Church of England
Beth Miller, Group B Church of England
Councillor C L B Hughes
Councillor Crudass
Councillor Renton
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 or Tel 01325 405997

**AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, DARLINGTON. DL1 5QT
MONDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2021**

PRESENT –

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

Co-opted Members – Jan Mole (Co-opted Member of SACRE)

Officers – Allison Hill (Democratic Officer)

APOLOGIES – Kelsang Dragden (Group A Buddhism), Dr MA Quader (Group A The Islamic Society of Darlington), Morvyn Sanderson (Group A The Methodist Church), Bess Robertson (Group A Darlington Hebrew Congregation (Judaism)), Meg Thomson (Group A Darlington United Reformed Church), Councillor Clarke and M Fryer (Co-opted Member of SACRE)

8 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING ONLY

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

9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

10 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE HELD ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2021

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 6 September 2021,

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

11 REVIEW OF THE LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS

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

It was reported, that following the decision made at the last meeting, RE Today Services gave a presentation on the Syllabus options for Model A+ and B from RE Today Services which was carried out via Microsoft Teams on 18 October 2021 and all Members were invited to attend.

Members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) discussed the options available however

as attendance was low, although quorate, they did not feel they were in a position to make a decision at this stage and agreed that they wanted to consult with RE teachers to seek their views on which Syllabus option they would prefer.

It was also suggested that the Chair contact all Members of the ASC and emphasise the importance of full attendance from each group before an informed decision can be made on which option to choose.

IT WAS AGREED – (a) That further consideration of the review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus be undertaken at a future meeting of the ASC proposed for 21 March 2022 at 5.00 pm.

(b) That RE teachers be consulted on the options available and to offer their comment.

AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

21 MARCH 2022

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, 6 September and 22 November 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.
4. On 18 October 2021 Members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference were invited to attend a presentation on the Syllabus options for Model A+ and Model B from RE Today Services.
5. On 14 February 2022 the Chair and Lead Officer also met with representatives from Harrowgate Hill Primary School and Whinfield Primary School to seek their views to be taken into account when the AGS make their final decision on the choice of Syllabus for the authorities three maintained schools. Redhall Primary School did not attend this meeting.
6. No decision was made by the school representatives on which option they preferred and further information was requested from them to share with their colleagues to discuss further.
7. The Lead Officer has made further contact with the three schools in question and the Head Teacher of Harrowgate Hill Primary School has expressed a preference for Option B.

8. 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.
9. The four options available are outlined in **Appendix 1**.

Recommendation

10. 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

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

Option 2 – RE Today Syllabus A	Maintained School costs	Cost to Primary Academies	Cost to Secondary Academies	Cost to LA of covering statutory duties
<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 Support Materials - nil Training - nil</p>	<p>Syllabus - £90 Support Materials - £248 Training - £100 per school</p>	<p>Syllabus - £96 Support Materials -£248 Training - £1000 (Split between those who attend)</p>	<p>£270 £744 £1000 Total £2014</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 Support Materials - nil Training - nil</p>	<p>Syllabus - £90 Support Materials £160 Training - £180 Understanding Christianity £100 - syllabus training</p>	<p>Syllabus - £88 Support Materials - £160 Understanding Christianity training £180 Training - £1000 (split between those who attend)</p>	<p>£270 – 5 year licence for syllabus £180 (UC) £480 – support materials £1000 - training Total cost: £1930</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)- Price upon asking if syllabus adopted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultancy support - briefing for HTs and Governors • Virtual launch event (hosted, platform and associated materials- 4 spaced online workshops with RE Adviser) if the syllabus is adopted and unchanged. • 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 	<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

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.

This page is intentionally left blank