

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
9 NOVEMBER 2020**

**PROPOSAL TO RECOMMEND TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY THE NEED TO
REVIEW OF THE LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
2015**

Matter for Consideration

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

Background

2. Every five years a local authority has to review its agreed syllabus for religious education and in order to do this it must establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC).
3. An ASC is a separate legal entity from the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) and its role is to produce and recommend an Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education which meets fully the present legislative requirements and is educationally sound.
4. The ASC is made up of the same four groups as the SACRE and may therefore have the same membership as SACRE, but it is a separate legal entity and must therefore be separately convened ie separate agenda and minutes.
5. It is not usual for the ASC members to be given the task of writing the Agreed Syllabus but of working with an Adviser in RE throughout the review process.
6. 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.
7. The ASC will finally vote approval of the Agreed Syllabus and then recommend it to the Local Authority for legal adoption as the statutory Agreed Syllabus for use in LA community schools.
8. The current Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education was approved by this local authority at a meeting of Cabinet held on 7 April 2015.
9. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic meetings of SACRE were unable to take place during Spring/Summer 2020 to commence the process of review any sooner.

Consultation with Schools

10. As part of the review process it is advisable to include Primary and Secondary Schools, including special Schools in Darlington in a consultation exercise.
11. As Members will be aware this local authority has a large number of academies which in law have the same requirement to provide RE and collective worship, and a good proportion of these academies currently adopt the Locally Agreed Syllabus.
12. Anne Astbury, the SENCO Partnership Link Officer has recently circulated a questionnaire to all schools to collate information in relation to the teaching of religious education within their schools; use of the Locally Agreed Syllabus; and information on the daily Act of Collective Worship and withdrawal from collective worship.
13. Data analysis of the returned questionnaires will be presented in a separate report to Members at this meeting.

Recommendation

14. Members are requested to recommend that the local authority commence the review process and convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to progress.

James Stroyan
Director of Children and Adult Services

Background Papers

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