

**CABINET
5 JULY 2022**

AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Responsible Cabinet Member -
Councillor Jon Clarke, Children and Young People Portfolio**

**Responsible Director -
James Stroyan, Group Director of People**

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 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.
5. The Agreed Syllabus is attached at **Appendix A**.

Recommendation

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

Reasons

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

**James Stroyan
Group Director of People**

Background Papers

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

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 and Climate Change	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.
Council Plan	The Agreed Syllabus provides an overarching framework which links all themes from the Council Plan. Inclusion is at the heart of the Agreed Syllabus.
Efficiency	There is no specific impact on efficiency.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Purpose and Reason for this Report

8. For the purpose of preparing an Agreed Syllabus for religious education the local authority must convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference. An Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) is a separate legal entity from the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. The representatives 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. For local authority maintained schools, the governing body and the local authority must also exercise their functions in securing provision.
15. 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

16. As part of the consultation process Primary and Secondary Schools in Darlington a survey was circulated to all schools in May 2021 which showed that 67.86 per cent of responses agreed that the current syllabus required review and that there was an appetite for the production of a new syllabus.
17. At the meeting of the AGS on 6 September 2021, Anne Davison, SEND Inclusion Advisor and Lead Officer for SACRE presented to Members four options for the production of a revised Syllabus including the cost to primary and secondary academies and the total cost to the Local Authority.
18. Members agreed to receive a presentation from RE Today Services to outline in more detail Syllabus A and B and this was delivered on 18 October 2021 to Members of the ASC.
19. 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 were unable to attend this meeting however were contacted again thereafter with the information shared and following further contact with the schools a preference was expressed from Harrowgate Hill Primary School.

20. For the purpose of preparing an Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, meetings of the Agreed Syllabus Conference were held on 26 April 2021, 6 September 2021 and 22 November 2021 and at the meeting held on 21 March 2022 it was unanimously agreed by the four groups represented at the Agreed Syllabus Conference to approve Syllabus Option B from RE Today Services and to commence the process to enable the Syllabus to be presented to Cabinet for approval at its meeting scheduled for 14 June 2022.