

Report for: ACTION
Item Number: 2

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	NO
Title	New Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education
Responsible Officer(s)	Julie Lewis, Director Learning Standards and School Partnerships
Author(s)	Andrew Williams – External Consultant commissioned by the LA
Portfolio(s)	Cllr Yvonne Johnson
For Consideration By	Agreed Syllabus Conference
Date to be Considered	2 July 2020
Implementation Date if Not Called In	N/A
Affected Wards	All
Keywords/Index	Agreed Syllabus

Purpose of Report:

The final version of the **New Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2020-2025** ‘*Believing, Behaving and Belonging*’ has been developed by SACRE, supported by Religious Education professionals as well as the borough’s RE school networks and subject heads.

The report replaces the previous syllabus for Religious Education, ‘*Sowing the Seeds of the Future: An Exploration of Human Beliefs and Values*’, which was published in 2014.

The new syllabus seeks to build on the earlier provision in a number of distinctive, yet integrated, ways.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To consider the draft syllabus for religious education attached as Appendix 1
- 1,2 To recommend to the Council that the New Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education is adopted in substitution for the existing Syllabus

2. Reason for Decision and Options Considered

The locally agreed syllabus is a statutory syllabus of religious education adopted by the Local Authority. It must be followed in maintained schools without a designated denomination.

In addition to establishing a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) Local Authorities are required to establish an occasional body called an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) for the purpose of reconsidering the agreed syllabus.

(Extracted from: Religious education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010, DfE publication) (See also 5.)

3. Key Implications

In the event that it is not possible for the Local Authority to approve a new syllabus the matter is deferred to the Secretary of State.

4. Financial

None

a) Financial impact on the budget (mandatory)

The approved (revenue or capital) budget contains £ xxx in 20xx/xx for e.g. park improvements

	Year 1(state year)	Year 2(state year)	Year 3(state year)
	Capital £000	Capital £000	Capital £000
Addition			
Reduction (-)			

	Year 1(state year)	Year 2(state year)	Year 3(state year)
	*Revenue £000	Revenue £000	Revenue £000
Addition			
Reduction (-)			

* Revenue figures need to be shown as incremental / year on year to the budget

State in approx 50 words (3-4 lines), if new funds are being sought or if the proposal relates to existing budgets; state how much will be spent from which business unit and in which department, if none, say none. The financial impact, if any, should be shown over a minimum of 3 years.

The funding for the review of the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education is included in the existing 2019/20 budget to the Ealing Learning Partnership by the Council. The review has been undertaken by an external adviser.

***Note all figures presented in this section need to be confirmed by the relevant service Head of Finance or Finance Manager and supported with the reference to Budget Book (Budget Book page, item no).**

If there are no financial implications / impact on the budget say 'no financial implications'. You can explain the broader financial background in the paragraph below.

b) Financial background (optional)

State in two paragraphs approx 80 words other relevant financial information.

5. Legal

Section 375 and Schedule 31 Education Act 1996 set out the statutory requirements with respect to the review and approval of the Agreed Syllabus. On any question to be decided by the ASC a single vote shall be given for each of the committees constituting the ASC.

S 149 Equality Act 2010 requires Local Authorities and schools to have due regard to the need to:

- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by the Act;
- b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- a) Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low. The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- a) Tackle prejudice, and
- b) Promote understanding

Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

6. Value For Money

Establishing a SACRE (including convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference when necessary) and supporting the agreed syllabus for religious education and its periodic review is a statutory obligation for every local authority. The allocation of funding to the review of the Agreed Syllabus has been benchmarked with other SACREs who have recently completed a similar review.

7. Sustainability Impact Appraisal

The syllabus will be posted on the Ealing Grid for Learning, to be downloaded individually by schools. The service will only print and distribute hard copies if requested by individual schools.

8. Risk Management

Identify any potential risks associated with the options and the proposed course of action; if none, say so. Please keep to one paragraph.

None

9. Community Safety

If none, say so. Please keep to one paragraph.

None

10. Links to Strategic Objectives

A healthy and great place to live

11. Equalities, Human Rights and Community Cohesion

Ealing's agreed syllabus for religious education has always promoted inclusion and cohesion and the new syllabus will continue this tradition. As the approach in the new syllabus is neutral with regard to the spectrum of religious or non-religious beliefs, the impact should be that no pupils will feel excluded from the discussion/curriculum. In addition, no single belief or philosophy or tradition is given precedence or more credence over any others. It was therefore considered unnecessary to complete a full EIA.

12. Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications:

None

13. Property and Assets

If the report does not involve property, please state that there are no property implications.

If the report does involve property, please consult with the Matthew Bunyon in the Regeneration Finance team to find out if the property in question is on the planned schedule of disposals.

You must then state either:

a) the property is not on the planned list of property disposals

OR

b) the property is in the list of disposals

NB if this is the case you need to justify why the expenditure should take place. (In some cases it may be that even though a property is being disposed of, there are urgent health and safety works that cannot be avoided in the short term and in these cases, expenditure is unavoidable).

The relevant Head of Finance must check when signing off the financial implications that the property implications have been addressed.

None

14. Any other implications:

Anything else that seems appropriate, including impact on front line services and Area implications. Please keep to one paragraph..

None

15. Consultation

The proposal to review the Agreed Syllabus was agreed at the SACRE meeting in February 2019. Following extensive consultation with Ealing schools, SACRE received a report in June 2019 and a new syllabus was commissioned following a presentation from Reverend Andrew Williams from University of Roehampton.

An initial draft was made available in October 2019 to SACRE members and schools for feedback and comments. Detailed feedback was received from four SACRE members.

In February 2020, a meeting was held with primary schools attended by Reverend Andrew Williams and in March RE subject leaders from high schools met to review the syllabus. Feedback from all groups was incorporated into the final version of the syllabus.

16. Timetable for Implementation

It is envisaged that the Agreed Syllabus will be agreed by the ASC and adopted by the Local Authority for full implementation at the start of the Autumn term 2020.

17. Appendices

If appendices are essential to the understanding of the report, list titles here. Please ensure that appendices have proper titles.

Appendix 1

New Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2020-2025 '**Believing, Behaving and Belonging**'

18. Background Information

Religious education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010, DfE Education Act 1996 s375 and Schedule 31

Consultation (Mandatory)

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent to consultee	Date response received	Comments appear in paragraph
Agreement to review the Agreed Syllabus and set up an Agreed Syllabus Conference				
Internal				
Julie Lewis	Director, Learning Standards Education	27 th February 2019	27 th February 2019	15. Consultation
External				
	SACRE members representing various groups	27 th February 2019	27 th February 2019	15. Consultation
	Ealing high schools – initial consultation	March and May 2019	March and May 2019	15. Consultation
	Ealing primary schools – initial consultation	March and May 2019	March and May 2019	15. Consultation
Commissioning of new Syllabus	SACRE members representing various groups	13 th June 2019	13 th June 2019	15. Consultation
Draft syllabus consultation				
Internal				
Julie Lewis	Director, Learning Standards Education	October 2019	October 2019	15. Consultation

Justin Morley Helen Harris (Convening ASC)	Head of Legal Services Director of Legal and Democratic services	12/06/20	12/06/20	5. Legal
External				
	SACRE members representing various groups	October 2019	February- May 2020	15. Consultation
	Ealing high schools	March 2020	March 2020	15. Consultation
	Ealing primary schools	February 2020	February 2020	15. Consultation

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent to consultee	Date response received	Comments appear in paragraph:
Internal				
e.g. Paul Najsarek	Executive Director			
e.g. Helen Harris	Director, Legal Services			e.g. 5. Legal
e.g. Ross Brown	Director, Finance			e.g. 4. Financial
e.g. Julian Bell	Leader / Cabinet Member for:			
External				
	eg voluntary organisation			

Report History

Decision type:	Urgency item?
Key decision	Yes
Report no.:	
Angela Doherty, ELP Quality & Partnerships Lead 11-19 adoherty@ealing.gov.uk	