

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, 22 MARCH 2016

PRESENT:-

Group A: Mrs Sarah Lane Cawte (United Reformed Christian Denominations and Other Religions or Religious Denominations) and Reverend David Howell (Swindon Evangelical Alliance)

Group B: Reverend Norma McKemey and Ms Steph Church of England Mundin

Group C: Paul Sunners
Teacher Organisations

Group D: Councillors James Robbins, Carol Shelley and Councillors Gemma McCracken

Also in attendance: Peter Nathan and Katy Staples (SACRE Advisor)

Apologies for absence were received from Fidelma Meehan, Reverend Clive Deverell, Mr Gurchoran Singh Lyal, Miss Janet French, Mrs Tracy Mason, Mrs Lottie O'Brien, Mrs Mandy Sandleton, Ms Catherine Lomax, Mr David Burbidge, Mr M S Khan, Mr Tony McAteer, Mr Dinesh Patel, Sarah Foulkes, Councillor Alan Bishop, Councillor Fionuala Foley and Freddy Pound

126. Minutes from the Agreed Syllabus Steering Group

The Conference received a summary of the discussions held by the Steering Group in reviewing the possible options for a new Agreed Syllabus.

The Chair reported that the Steering Group established criteria against which the following six options were considered:

- Remain with the current Agreed Syllabus
- Adopt the Awareness, Mystery and Value Agreed Syllabus currently in use in Somerset.
- Adopt the Agreed Syllabus currently in use in Oxfordshire.
- Adopt an RE Today Syllabus
- Adopt the Pan Berkshire Agreed Syllabus
- Adopt the Dorset Agreed Syllabus

The Conference noted that the RE Today Agreed Syllabus received the highest score against the Steering Group agreed criteria, based on the framework for RE. It was noted that the RE Today Agreed Syllabus could be tailored to suit Swindon needs.

127. Proposal from the Agreed Syllabus Steering Group

The Conference considered the following proposal from the Agreed Syllabus Council Steering Group:

‘Does your Group accept the Agreed Syllabus Council Steering Group’s recommendation that Swindon Local Authority buys an ‘off the peg’ Agreed Syllabus from RE Today Services which will be called ‘The Swindon Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education?’

We will have our own forward, written by the Chair.

We can also have our own appendices to include:

- a) Local units to our area
- b) Non exam units for KS4
- c) Other possible exemplary units such as Humanism or Sikhism

Yes or No’

The Chair thanked the Steering Group and teachers for their hard work, dedication and contributions towards the final proposal detailed above.

The Chair asked the Conference to consider and respond to the proposal in their respective Groups A, B, C and D.

Resolved – That the proposal to adopt the RE Today Agreed Syllabus be agreed.

(Note: The above decision was agreed by all Groups)

128. Costings of Proposal

The SACRE Advisor reported on the financial implications of adopting the RE Today Agreed Syllabus and explained that a budget was in place to purchase 51-100 Agreed Syllabus’ at a cost of £45 each.

Schools would be asked to contribute towards the cost of the launch and invited to buy a scheme of work. Detailed costing would be produced prior to the launch of the Agreed Syllabus.

129. Next Steps

The SACRE Advisor confirmed that the launch of the Agreed Syllabus would be held on 7th November 2016 at Tadpole Farm Primary School.

The Conference noted that the Agreed Syllabus would be trialled at a number of schools prior to its official launch in September 2017.

Resolved – That the SACRE establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference Sub-Committee to consider the detail of the launch event.