



Doncaster Council

Agenda

To all Members of the

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Notice is given that a Meeting of the above Committee is to be held as follows:

Venue: Council Chamber - Civic Office

Date: Wednesday, 27th June, 2018

Time: 4.00 pm

Items for Discussion:

Item	PageNo.
1. Apologies	
2. Declarations of Interest, if any	
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 26th March, 2018	1 - 2
4. Minutes of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education (SACRE) - Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 26th March, 2018.	3 - 6
5. Update on Planning and Preparation for the Implementation of the Agreed RE Syllabus 2018 and SACRE Work Programme	7 - 12

Jo Miller
Chief Executive

Issued on: Thursday 21st June, 2018

Governance Services Officer for this meeting

Andrew Sercombe
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Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
www.doncaster.gov.uk

6. Date and time of next meeting

Members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Chair – Rev T McCready - Unitarian (Doncaster Interfaith)

Vice-Chair – Councillor Kevin Rodgers

Councillors Andrea Robinson, Derek Smith and Jonathan Wood

Mr R Iball, Methodist

Mrs P Kaur, Sikh

Ms S Norburn, Humanist

Mr S Syed, Muslim

Mr B Teimoori, Baha’i

Lucy Saxton, Roman Catholic

Mary Sivaanbu, Hindu

Ms J Crowther, Church of England

Ms A Nicolson, National Union of Teachers

Mr T Griffiths, National Association of Headteachers

Mr A Depledge, Church of England

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MONDAY, 26TH MARCH, 2018

A MEETING of the STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) was held at the 007 B - CIVIC OFFICE on MONDAY, 26TH MARCH, 2018, at 4.00 pm.

PRESENT:

Chair - Rev T McCready
Vice-Chair - Councillor Kevin Rodgers

Councillors Derek Smith and A. Depledge, T. Griffiths, R. Iball, M. Sivaanbu and B. Teimoori.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andrea Robinson and from J Crowther, P Kaur and A Nicolson.

60 Appointment of Vice-Chair

Following the resignation of Bruce Gillham the Committee considered the appointment of a Vice Chair.

RESOLVED that Councillor Kevin Rodgers be appointed Vice Chair of SACRE.

61 Declarations of Interest, if any.

There were no declarations made at the meeting.

62 Minutes of the meeting held on 20th October, 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th October, 2017 be agreed as a true record.

63 Establishment of Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) and Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair.

The SACRE was informed of its requirement to establish an occasional body called an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). The purpose of the ASC is to agree a Religious Education Syllabus which is educationally sound, meets legal requirements and may be adopted by the local authority. The syllabus must be followed in maintained schools without a designated denomination and is subject to a review on a five yearly basis. The next scheduled review is scheduled to be undertaken during 2018.

It is a requirement that the membership of the ASC should include representatives from: Christian denominations and such other denominations that appropriately reflect the principal

religious traditions in the area i.e. the Church of England, Teachers' Associations and the Local Authority.

In view of this requirement it was recommended that the members of the SACRE be appointed to the ASC.

RESOLVED that:-

- 1) The SACRE establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) for the purpose of reviewing the agreed RE syllabus 2018 and the inaugural meeting take place immediately following the close of the SACRE meeting;
- 2) That the following terms of reference be agreed:
 - i. The purpose of the ASC is to agree a Religious Education Syllabus which is educationally sound, meets legal requirements and may be adopted by the local authority;
 - ii. The current members of SACRE be appointed to the Agreed Syllabus Conference;
 - iii. At least one representative is required to be drawn from each Committee and must be present at an ASC meeting to ensure it is quorate;
 - iv. Any sub committee appointed by the ASC shall include at least one member of each of the committees constituting the conference; and
 - v. On any question to be decided by the ASC or by any of its sub committees, a single vote shall be given for each of the committees constituting the conference.
- 3) The ASC may seek advice it considers appropriate from additional individuals who are not members of the ASC to inform the development of effective RE provision in the area.

CHAIR: _____

DATE: _____

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 4

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) - AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE.

MONDAY, 26TH MARCH, 2018

A MEETING of the STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) - AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE. was held at the 007 B - CIVIC OFFICE on MONDAY, 26TH MARCH, 2018, at 4.30 pm.

PRESENT:

Chair - Rev T McCready
Vice-Chair - Councillor Kevin Rodgers

Councillors Derek Smith and R. Iball, T. Griffiths, M. Sivaanbu, B. Teimoori.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrea Robinson and from P. Kaur, A. Nicolson and J. Crowther.

1 Declarations of Interest, if any.

There were no declarations made at the meeting.

2 Update on planning and preparation for the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus 2018

The Clerk informed the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) of its duty to agree a Religious Education Syllabus which is educationally sound, meets legal requirements and may be adopted by the local authority. Members were also informed that the syllabus must be followed in maintained schools without a designated denomination and is subject to a review on a five yearly basis. The next review is scheduled to be undertaken during 2018.

A Sub-Committee of SACRE met on 14th December 2017 to consider options relating to the design and implementation of a new syllabus. A representative from RE Today was also invited to the meeting to provide information on the options available when reviewing and implementing a new syllabus. The meeting considered the future needs of a syllabus within Doncaster, as well as potential costs, impact on the quality of teaching, pupil progress and effectiveness of monitoring arrangements. It was agreed that further consideration be given by the ASC to the development of the syllabus and specifically the following three options:

- **Option 1** - The design and implementation of a fully bespoke syllabus
- **Option 2** - Use of a "franchised" syllabus which meets statutory requirements but has enhanced features and options such as teaching materials and resources which can be adapted to meet the needs of young people and teachers.
- **Option 3** - Use a franchised system without the option of materials and CPD.

The Committee welcomed Fiona Moss to the meeting to provide further information on the options available to the ASC. Fiona reported that RE Today was a charity established to support Religious Education in schools, including the teaching of the major world faiths and ensuring an accurate and fair representation of beliefs, values and practices in all its teaching materials.

Fiona delivered a presentation that detailed the approaches available to SACREs when agreeing a syllabus.

RE Today had developed a draft syllabus which met minimum statutory requirements and could be adapted to include information to ensure it was Doncaster specific.

The presentation focused on the content of the syllabus including:-

- Purpose and aims of RE
- Key strands within the syllabus (Believing, Expressing, Living).
- Example of programmes of study for key stages
- Guidance on planning and delivering key units within the syllabus and examples of teacher resources
- Examples of syllabuses adopted by other local authorities.
- Advice on planning and launching the revised syllabus to ensure maximum impact.
- Model scheme of work and additional resources available to schools wishing to enhance their RE offer..
- Additional support available from RE Today for SACREs , schools and teachers.

The Committee took the opportunity to ask questions and the following issues were raised:

Members welcomed the resource package which was available to assist RE teachers and non-specialist teachers delivering RE lessons. It was felt this would be particularly helpful in Primary Schools.

Whilst recognising schools' focus on core subjects such as Maths, English and Science examples were given of recent Ofsted inspections where the school's approach to RE had impacted on the overall judgement.

Members discussed the need for an effective launch event to ensure school's bought in to the new RE offer.

Following the opportunity for questions, Fiona left the meeting to allow the ASC to consider the offer from RE Today.

Members asked about the resources available to support the delivery of the revised syllabus. The Clerk informed members that £12.5k had been allocated within the current budget and authority had been given to progress with the development and launch of the syllabus. Members also asked if other funding opportunities could be explored to help develop implement and promote the process.

Members discussed how the syllabus document could be reviewed to ensure it included information about Doncaster, its schools and RE.

Members expressed a preference for Option 2. Although it acknowledged there was limited engagement with schools in respect of content it believed this model would best meet statutory requirements and have the flexibility to include the necessary training and support materials to deliver an effective new syllabus and be relevant to all schools. It was also stated that the revised syllabus would be more up to date and relevant than the current syllabus. Option 1 was considered to be both time and resource intensive to deliver and implement.

Option 3 was considered to be a minimalist offer with limited opportunity to promote and develop the RE offer in Doncaster schools.

RESOLVED that:-

- 1) The ASC support Option 2 - a “franchised syllabus” which meets statutory requirements and has enhanced features and options such as teaching materials and continuous professional development which meets the needs of Doncaster young people and teachers;
- 2) A sub group be established to agree timescales for reviewing and progressing the development and launch of the syllabus;
- 3) The membership of the sub group include Reverend T McCready, Councillors K Rodgers, Derek Smith, R Iball, B Teimmori, M Sivaanbu, Alec Depledge and T Griffiths; and
- 4) All members of the ASC be invited to meetings of the sub group and substitute arrangements be permitted to ensure a quorum can be achieved.

CHAIR: _____

DATE: _____

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Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 27th June 2018

To the Chair and Members of the SACRE

Update on Planning and Preparation for the Implementation of the Agreed RE Syllabus 2018 and SACRE Work Programme

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Nuala Fennelly		Yes/No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. SACRE have a duty to review and implement a locally agreed RE syllabus every 5 years. This function is undertaken by the Agreed Syllabus Conference – an occasional body established by SACRE. The revised syllabus is due from September 2018.
2. The Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) convened in March 2018 and resolved to adopt a 'franchised' syllabus which would meet statutory requirements and include enhanced features and options such as teaching materials and Continued Professional Development opportunities which would meet the needs of Doncaster young people and teachers.
3. The formal process of tendering and commissioning for a provider of consultancy and professional services was completed in April 2018.
4. SACRE and its curriculum development sub-committee are now in a position to work with the chosen provider to establish the exact scope and content of the curriculum, its adaptation to Doncaster's context including involvement of stakeholders, and its delivery, including a launch event with all relevant education settings.
5. As well as considering the development of the revised RE syllabus, Member will also be provided with an opportunity to discuss future work plan issues for SACRE.

EXEMPT REPORT

6. This is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

7. That the curriculum sub-committee be convened in the Summer/ Autumn term 2018 with the remit of fully evaluating the proposed curriculum, its contents and materials to support teaching.
8. That the curriculum committee plan a timeline of events with identified dates and times for planning and implementation activity
9. That arrangements be made with the RE consultant to support this process, in accordance with the timeline.
10. That the RE consultant and curriculum committee establish a group of key stakeholders and related processes to support the development of a meaningful syllabus for Doncaster schools
11. Agree issues for consideration on the SACRE work programme.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

12. The planning and delivery of a meaningful, relevant curriculum is of the highest priority. It is crucial for young people in Doncaster so that they can face a rapidly changing and increasingly diverse future. Their involvement in its development and shaping of content is vital so that it reflects their needs and circumstances.
13. The addition of materials to support and strengthen the quality of RE teaching, learning and assessment will ensure that there is a sharp focus on what is taught but also how it is taught so that it has a strong impact on the knowledge, skills and understanding of young people.

BACKGROUND

14. Following the Spring term SACRE meeting on 24.3.18, it was agreed that a sub group be formed to look at all options relating to the design and implementation of a new syllabus. This meeting took place on 14.12.18 and was attended by a 3 SACRE members including the Clerk to SACRE. Invited to attend the meeting was a representative from RE today, who was asked to provide information, based on experience with other regional and national SACRE, on the different options available when reviewing and implementing a new syllabus. Great consideration was given to the current demands and needs of a syllabus within the context of Doncaster, its young people and schools. In particular, attention was given to a range of options, costs and expected impact measures, particularly on how well the different options may impact on the quality of teaching and SACRE's ability to monitor the impact of any syllabus on the quality of teaching and pupil progress.
15. Stephen Pett from RE Today and the Clerk to SACRE will be in attendance at the meeting to answer questions and provide information in respect of the different options and the development of an agreed syllabus.
16. The development of the revised syllabus is a key piece of work for the SACRE during 2018. Members will also be given an opportunity to consider further issues for consideration on the SACRE work programme for the forthcoming year.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

17. i). Design and implement a fully bespoke syllabus.
- ii). Use a ‘franchised’ syllabus which meets statutory requirements but has enhanced features and options such as teaching materials and CPD which meet the needs of Doncaster young people and teachers.
- iii) Use an ‘franchised’ syllabus without the option of materials and CPD

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

18. The recommended option is to use a ‘franchised’ syllabus which meets statutory requirements but includes enhanced features and options such as teaching materials and CPD which would meet the needs of Doncaster young people and teachers. Whilst this is not the cheapest option, it combines design and implementation of a syllabus, with the opportunity to put in place teaching materials and CPD which would support with delivery, assessment and monitoring opportunities over the next 5 years.
19. This report provides members with the opportunity to consider how they wish to undertake the key stages of developing the revised syllabus and the Committee’s work programme over the coming year.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL’S KEY OUTCOMES

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	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	
	<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster’s people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean 	<p>The development of a sound RE syllabus has the potential to contribute to pupils’ personal development and well-being and to community cohesion by promoting mutual respect and tolerance in a diverse society.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	
	<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	<p>Agreeing an up to date fit for purpose RE syllabus will support learning within schools.</p> <p>The quality of teaching in the wider curriculum, including RE, will be strengthened.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	
	<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

21. The Local Authority through its SACRE has a legal responsibility to produce an agreed RE syllabus.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer HMP 20.6.18.]

22. The Local Authority has a duty under schedule 31 of the Education Act 1996 to establish an occasional body called an agreed syllabus conference (ASC), SACRE are to undertake this function.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [SB 20-06-18]

23. As part of the 2016-17 decision to release a member of staff via VER who completed the SACRE function it was expected that Doncaster Council would have to employ consultant support to lead the development of a new RE curriculum which needs to be completed every five years. The cost of this decision was built into the staffing saving identified as part of this VER application.
24. The expected cost of this consultant support in 2018-19 is £12,000.
25. The cost of this consultant support will be funded from the general fund budget of the Standards and Effectiveness Service.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials...MLV... Date 20/06/18]

26. There are no technology implications in relation to this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials...PW Date...20/06/18]

27. There are no technology implications in relation to this report.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials RSDate20/06/2018]

28. A broad curriculum that is consistent with the 5 ways to wellbeing (be active, take notice, learn give and connect) should be promoted. Decision makers will wish to ensure that any new curriculum is based on evidence based practice and where implemented is appropriately monitored.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [JS Date 19.06.18]

29. Developing and agreeing an agreed RE syllabus, including stakeholder consultation, will provide a key driver to develop young people's understanding and appreciation of faith, diversity, promote shared values and challenge racism and discrimination.

CONSULTATION

30. Consultation on the approach to the agreed syllabus has been discussed with a sub group of SACRE members.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

31. Religious Education in English schools: Non statutory guidance 2010.

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

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