



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 28th February
2018

To the Chair and Members of the Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education

ESTABLISHMENT OF AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE (ASC) AND APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is required to establish an occasional body called an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) for the purpose of reconsidering Doncaster's agreed Religious Education syllabus. It is recommended that the current members of SACRE be appointed to the ASC for this purpose.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That:
 - a. The SACRE establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference for the purposes of reviewing the agreed RE syllabus 2018 and the inaugural meeting of the ASC take place immediately following the scheduled SACRE meeting.
 - b. The current members of SACRE be appointed to the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC).
 - c. That the membership and voting requirements detailed at paragraphs 8 to 12 be adopted and agreed.

- d. That the SACRE appoint a Chair and Vice Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. Ensuring arrangements are in place to establish an ASC will support the provision of RE in schools. A sound and robust RE syllabus will contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils in schools and will support wider community cohesion.

BACKGROUND

5. Every local authority is required to establish and support an occasional body called an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). The purpose of the ASC is to unanimously recommend an agreed syllabus of Religious Education, which is educationally sound and meets legal requirements, for adoption by the local authority. In Doncaster the establishment of the ASC is undertaken by the SACRE.
6. The locally agreed syllabus is a statutory syllabus of RE prepared under Schedule 31 to the Education Act 1996 and adopted by the Local Authority under that schedule. It must be followed in maintained schools without a designated denomination and is subject to review on a five yearly basis. The next review is scheduled to be undertaken during 2018.
7. Once adopted by the Local Authority, the agreed syllabus sets out what pupils should be taught and can include the expected standards of pupils' performance at different stages. Every locally agreed syllabus must reflect that the religious traditions of Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. The law does not define these principal religions. It is a matter for ASCs to decide which are the principal religions represented in Great Britain, other than Christianity, to be included in their agreed syllabus.

Membership and Voting

8. Representatives appointed to the ASC should be drawn from the following groups of persons ("known as committees"). 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.
 - **Committee A** – Christian denominations and such other religions and religious denominations as, in the opinion of the LA, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area;
 - **Committee B** - the Church of England
 - **Committee C** - teacher associations
 - **Committee D** - the Local Authority.
9. These Committees reflect the current membership committees of the SACRE in Doncaster. In view of this it is recommended that the current members of SACRE are also appointed to the ASC to ensure continuity and quorum. SACRE is also asked to appoint a Chair and Vice Chair of the ASC

to ensure the effective management of the meetings.

10. There is no legal provision for an ASC to include co-opted members, but it can seek the advice it considers appropriate from additional individuals, to inform the development of effective RE provision in its area.
11. Any sub committees appointed by the ASC shall each include at least one member of each of the committees constituting the conference.
12. On any question to be decided by the conference or by any sub-committee of the Conference, a single vote shall be given for each of the committees constituting the conference.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

13. Option 1 – establish an ASC drawing from individual members from the SACRE’s Committees.
Option 2 – establish an ASC drawing from the full membership of the SACRE.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

14. Due to recent membership and attendance issues a number of recent SACRE meetings have been inquorate. Steps have recently been taken to fill outstanding vacancies however, by appointing all Members of SACRE to the ASC will ensure the pool of members available to attend the ASC remains as wide to ensuring meetings are quorate. The initial meeting of the ASC is scheduled to take place upon the conclusion of the SACRE meeting.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL’S KEY OUTCOMES

15.

	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 	<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>

	<p>quality, affordable home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • 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>Ensuring the membership of the ASC is in place will assist in delivering an up to date fit for purpose RE syllabus that will support learning within schools.</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

16. There is a risk that the meetings of the ASC will not be quorate and able to progress the review of the RE syllabus. Efforts will continue to be made to ensure vacancies on SACRE are filled and ASC meeting dates will be scheduled to maximise attendance.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials HMP Date 9.2.18.]

17. 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), This report requires that SACRE meet to undertake this function.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials DB Date 12.2.18.]

18. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials MLV Date 22.2.18.]

19. There are no specific human resource implications related to the content of this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PW Date 12.2.18.]

20. There are no specific technology implications associated with this report.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials SH.Date 13.2.18]

21. No health implications associated with this report.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials AS..... Date 5th January 2018.]

22. There are no specific equality implications in respect of the appointment of SACRE members to the ASC as they are representatives of the required "committees". However, the requirement for the ASC to meet and effectively fulfil its function will provide a key context to develop young people's understanding and appreciation of diversity, promote shared values and challenge racism and discrimination.

CONSULTATION

23. There has been no consultation in respect of this report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

24. Religious Education in English schools: Non - statutory guidance 2010

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