



Doncaster Council

AGENDA ITEM 3

Report

Date: 28th February 2018

To the Chair and Members of the SACRE – AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

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

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 in September 2018. Much has changed in the social and political landscape over the past 5 years. Issues that are pertinent in 2018 were emerging in 2013. Consequently, SACRE must seek out the very best advice and guidance on how to develop and implement a syllabus which will be fit for purpose now and in the future given the current climate.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That the ASC adopt a 'franchised' syllabus which meets statutory requirements and includes enhanced features and options such as teaching materials and Continued Professional Development which would meet the needs of Doncaster young people and teachers.
4. That the ASC note arrangements and resources available to provide professional consultancy and guidance in the design and implementation of a locally agreed RE syllabus 2018.

5. That additional resources will be available to support the delivery of the syllabus, including materials, training and CPD for leaders and teachers which will ensure that the teaching, learning and assessment of RE is of the highest quality.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

6. In a time when the curriculum and its delivery is of the highest priority, establishing a strong RE syllabus is crucial for young people in Doncaster so that they can face a rapidly changing and increasingly diverse future. The addition of materials to support and strengthen 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

7. Following the Autumn term SACRE meeting on 20.10.17, 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 14.12.17 and was attended by 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.
8. 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.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.
 - 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 a 'franchised' syllabus without the option of materials and CPD

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

10. 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.

11. There would be an opportunity for a support package for Doncaster SACRE for the coming three years which would support the implementation and delivery of the syllabus in primary and secondary phases through support for teachers and in addition give SACRE access to RE expertise through the RE Today team.
12. In addition, and to support delivery, there are further opportunities to enhance the Doncaster RE offer through the role out of initiatives such as conferences in RE for primary and secondary teachers and learners, INSET / CPD on, for example, assessing RE, stakeholder accountability / monitoring questionnaires on quality and impact, preparation of further publications for SACRE to support all schools and offer advice services to schools. Costs are to be confirmed based on agreed service level.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

13.

	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 • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	<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>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that</p>	<p>Agreeing an up to date fit for purpose RE syllabus will support learning within schools.</p>

	<p>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>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

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

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials HMP Date23/02/18.....]

15. 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 Date 26-02-18]

16. 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.

The expected cost of this consultant support in 2018-19 is £12,000.

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 AG Date.... 23.02.18..]

17. There are no HR implications related to this matter.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [PW Date...23/02/18]

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

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [RS... Date 23/02/2018]

19. 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 23.02.18]

20. Developing and agreeing an agreed RE syllabus will provide a key context to develop young people's understanding and appreciation of faith, culture and diversity, promote shared values and challenge racism and discrimination.

CONSULTATION

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

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