



# 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

20

	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Implications</b>
	<p><b>Doncaster Working:</b> 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"> <li>• Better access to good fulfilling work</li> <li>• Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish</li> <li>• Inward Investment</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Doncaster Living:</b> 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"> <li>• The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster</li> <li>• More people can live in a good quality, affordable home</li> <li>• Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport</li> <li>• Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>• Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Doncaster Learning:</b> 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"> <li>• Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school</li> <li>• Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better</li> <li>• Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work</li> </ul>	<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><b>Doncaster Caring:</b> Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have the best start in life</li> <li>• Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust</li> <li>• Older people can live well and independently in their own homes</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Connected Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modern, efficient and flexible workforce</li> <li>• Modern, accessible customer interactions</li> <li>• Operating within our resources and delivering value for money</li> <li>• A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents</li> <li>• Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths</li> <li>• Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance</li> </ul>	

## 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**

Jonathan Sharp, Clerk to SACRE  
01302 888550 [jonathan.sharp@partnersinlearning.org.uk](mailto:jonathan.sharp@partnersinlearning.org.uk)

**Damian Allen**  
**Director of People (DCS/DASS)**