

Notes of the Agreed Syllabus Working Group, held at 13.00 on 28 March 2019 in Interview Room 2, Centenary House, Durrington

Present: Rosie Black, Firooz Firoozmand, Vikki Macrae and Jacky Pendleton (Chairman)

Apologies: Jude Edwards and Angela Smith

Attending: Rob Castle (Democratic Services) and Victoria Ludlow (Area Education Adviser)

1. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

2. Agreed Syllabus Discussion

The Group considered comments submitted by the Chairman and teachers from Steyning Grammar School and Thomas A Beckett Junior School and covered the following in discussion: -

2.1 Positive Points of the Agreed Syllabus

- The core curriculum was good
- The three aims expressed were good (Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews, express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews and gain and deploy the skills needed to engage purposefully with religions and worldviews)
- Its broadness allowed teachers to cherry pick parts that were most suitable for their pupils
- The diversity covered was good

2.2 Negative Points of the Agreed Syllabus

- It needed to be more succinct with simplified wording
- Encouragement to deliver the curriculum could be improved
- Errors and out of date information to be corrected

2.3 Suggestions

- Teachers need more training and access to resources – RE Today could be a source of both or training sessions could be delivered through training schools or recorded – **ACTION:** Rob to check with Clare Jones re webcasting
- Advice needed on how to use the syllabus
- The importance of RE and its links to other subjects and work to be emphasised
- Work with Oxfordshire on a revised syllabus – **ACTION:** Victoria Ludlow to see if this is possible
- A major change to the syllabus would not be beneficial to teachers at this time

- The amount of time RE should be taught to be specified highlighting legal requirements and audited
- SACRE to have more communication with teachers

2.4 Resolved – that the Working Group asks SACRE to agree the following: -

- i. The core syllabus to be tightened and include signposting to resources
- ii. The Agreed Syllabus to be checked for inaccuracies, be updated and made more succinct
- iii. Training of RE teachers to be provided by face to face sessions (with information cascaded down to those who cannot attend), videos and webinars
- iv. An Agreed Syllabus Conference, which would be held in private, should be held separately to any SACRE meeting. Proposal would be that this should be on the same day prior to the SACRE Meeting & outcomes reported at that meeting. Although not statutorily required, it is recommended that a table by age group showing the amount of time each group should expect to be taught RE is included in the Agreed Syllabus.
ACTION: Rosie Black to send an example of this to Rob Castle by 30 May 2019 – attached as appendix 1
- v. SACRE to have more communications with RE subject leads

Appendix 1 – Curriculum Time