
Decision Maker: **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

Date: **7 November 2012**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

TITLE: AGREED SYLLABUS UPDATE

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Chief Officer: Terry Parkin, Executive Director, Education and Care Services

Ward: N/A

1. INFORMATION

- 1.1 Agreed Syllabuses have to be reviewed by the SACRE every 5 years and are usually revised and updated every 10 years. The current Bromley Agreed Syllabus was written in 2006 and was due for review. The current suggested scheme of work for schools was written in 1995 and updated in 2004.
- 1.2 As a result of discussion regarding the current documentation of the Bromley Agreed Syllabus, it was decided to revise the syllabus and rewrite the scheme of work to bring them in line with current thinking on RE teaching.
- 1.3 It was agreed that the RE Consultant would use most of the 35 days to do this work while maintaining some of the other duties.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 **Members to read the attached report and comment.**
- 2.2 **Members to spend time at the meeting looking at the work completed so far and to give feedback.**

Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Nil.
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**Revision of the Bromley Agreed Syllabus and Scheme of work
Penny Smith-Orr**

In the Spring term it was decided to revise the Bromley Agreed Syllabus. The process started with a questionnaire being sent to all RE coordinators with a number of questions on how they felt about the current syllabus. There was also a part for teachers to ask pupils about their feelings. The general feeling was that some of the units were too long, there was not enough teaching of religions other than Christianity and there was not enough scope for creativity. Many teachers reported making up their own activities which has been noted in previous school visits. The pupil comments were that they wanted to find out more about other religions, go on more visits to different places of worship and have more creative activities. The full results of this work were presented and discussed at the SACRE meeting.

I organised a meeting for Primary RE coordinators to discuss the findings of the teacher/pupil questionnaire at the start of the Summer term. The teachers have also attended two further coordinators meetings where the scheme of work has been discussed. At the meeting this term, I presented a number of documents showing what the new scheme might look like. The feed back on these was very positive. The teachers liked the way it was laid out and felt that the 'enquiry' type of learning objectives and the suggested questions for Attainment target 2 were very helpful. Most primary teachers are non specialists in religious education and increasingly the RE lesson is being taken by a classroom assistant or someone who is covering the PPA time for the class teacher. Therefore, some information on attainment target 1 and the suggested questions and activities would be very useful.

Also it is clear that, with changes to the Primary Curriculum, many schools are arranging the timetable differently sometimes to the detriment of the RE lesson. This means that set lessons and numbers of weeks to be taken over each unit are not always adhered to. The new model allows coordinators to divide the units as they see fit and allows teachers to spend the maximum time on the teaching of religious knowledge while allowing for flexibility.

In discussions held with the secondary teachers it is clear that their scheme is more up to date and while there may need to be a few amendments to encompass the enquiry method, on the whole it does not need to be revised.

At the 7th November meeting, the members of SACRE will have an opportunity to look at some of the completed units and to give their own feedback. It is important to note that the current syllabus document will have to be amended with regard to the religions taught in each key stage and my recommendation would be that the final document is put onto a CD which would include the amended syllabus document and the new scheme of work.