

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 8 June 2022 | | ITEM: 7 |
| Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education | | |
| Agreed Syllabus Support Material Updates | | |
| Wards and communities affected: All | Key Decision: Non-Key | |
| Report of: Deborah Weston, Associate Adviser for Religious Education | | |
| Accountable Assistant Director: Michele Lucas, Assistant Director Learning Inclusion and Skills | | |
| Accountable Director: Shelia Murphy, Corporate Director of Children's Services | | |
| This report is: Public | | |

Executive Summary

This report introduces the details of the additions to Model Syllabus A and the additional support materials for the Agreed Syllabus (see page numbers in appendix A that can be viewed online before the meeting) The Agreed Syllabus Conference agreed at its January meeting, to renew its license with RE Today subject to changes to the titles of two units.

RE Today have confirmed in writing that they will update the titles as requested WHEN the syllabus is published for Thurrock. A preview is available online – see separate email with confidential password to copyright documents.

- 1. Recommendation(s) that SACRE:**
 - 1.1 Reconvene an Agreed Syllabus Conference (first meeting June 2021)**
 - 1.2 Review the additional materials**
 - 1.3 Approve the amended titles as follows:**
 - **From U2.9 What can be done to reduce racism? Can religion help? To U2.9 What can be done to reduce racism? What can we learn from religious and non-religious worldviews?**
 - **From U2.10 Green religion? How and why should religious communities do more to care for the Earth?**
 - **To U2.10 Green religion? What do religious and non-religious worldviews teach about caring for the earth?**

2. Introduction and Background

Every Local Authority is required to establish and support an occasional body called an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)

An ASC must:

- Produce and recommend to the LA an agreed syllabus for RE which is educationally sound and meets legal requirements.
- Institute a review of its locally agreed syllabus within five years of the last review, and subsequently every five years after the completion of each further review
- With any sub-committee it may appoint,1 meet in public, subject to exceptions in relation to confidentiality2
- Unanimously recommend a syllabus for adoption by the LA (each committee having a single vote) - there are provisions for the Secretary of State to become involved where an ASC is not unanimous3
- Include on any sub-committee at least one member of each of its constituent committees.
- An ASC may specify what must be taught through the locally agreed syllabus. In recommending a syllabus the ASC may not specify the amount of curriculum time that must be allocated to RE by schools, but they may provide an estimate of how much time their syllabus would require, to help schools to plan their timetable.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 The current Agreed Syllabus for Thurrock was implemented in schools in September 2016. It is now due for review.
- 3.2 The Agreed Syllabus conference was convened at the June meeting and three options were discussed from those in appendix A. Option A was agreed on the condition that amendments could be made to two questions.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The steps recommended are required in order that SACRE can launch the Agreed Syllabus updates in the Autumn Term.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 Not applicable

1 Schedule 31(6), Education Act 1996

2 Regulation 3, S1 1994/1304

3 Schedule 31(10), Education Act 1996

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

6.1 The Local Authority reviews its Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education on a regular basis;

- Publishes an Annual Report of its work;
- Offers guidance on resources and methods of teaching and in consultation with Thurrock Schools;
- Monitors the quality of provision for RE and Collective Acts of Worship in Thurrock.

This exercise falls under the third element of this programme.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **David May**
Strategic Lead Finance

Funding to produce an agreed syllabus is provided by central government within the Central Schools Serviced Block. The operational guidance 2020-2021 page 72 includes a statement to this effect.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Allison Thiele-Callan**
Locum Education Solicitor

SACRE has a statutory remit to advise the local authority on religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus

- SACRE must review its RE Agreed Syllabus every five years.
- An Agreed Syllabus Conference is to be convened to conduct that review.

The agreed syllabus must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain, as well as appropriately accounting for any changes made by case law and legislation.

[Section 375 (3) Education Act 1996 and Schedule 19, para 5 School Standards and Framework Act 1998; Academy School Funding Agreements; Academy School Funding Agreements]

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**
Team Manager, Community Development & Equalities

SACRE will continue to dedicate time for the discussion of the way in which religious education can help improve the level of community cohesion in Thurrock. The current Agreed Syllabus is specific about the expected outcomes of teaching of religious education in this respect. The teaching of RE should help schools to fulfil their statutory duty to promote community cohesion and to encourage better respect and tolerance for those with different religions and beliefs.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder or Impact on Looked After Children

- Not applicable

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- None

9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1 - Thurrock Agreed Syllabus: Model A+ Additional Material

Report Author:

Deborah Weston

Associate Adviser for RE

Thurrock Agreed Syllabus: Model A+ Additional Material

Background

Option A, Renew licence with RE Today syllabus (model A) plus supplement

The Thurrock syllabus was written by RE Today. It has been adopted by over 15 other local authorities, with very positive feedback as to its effectiveness.

This syllabus provides the minimum for a SACRE / LA to fulfil its legal requirement.

- The licence renewal would include a slight update to the 2016 syllabus – including new dates, a few corrections and potentially an updated Foreword.
- It would also include a **supplement**. This would be produced electronically, so that it can be sent around to all schools together with the updated syllabus.

The supplement will include: Syllabus Model A+

This updates Model A, including:

- Updated EYFS outcomes, in line with 2020 EYFS Profile (page 25)
- Guidance on curriculum design (page 18)
- Guidance on idea of worldviews (in line with CoRE - institutional/personal) (page 19)
- Additional questions (C3):
 - L2.5a How do people from religious and non-religious communities celebrate key festivals? (multi-disciplinary approach)
 - L2.10 How do family life and festivals show what matters to Jewish people?
 - U2.9 What can be done to reduce racism? Can religion help?
 - U2.10 Green religion? How and why should religious communities do more to care for the Earth?
- Systematic units for KS3: Islam, Sikhi, Buddhism
- Expanded SEND guidance (page 98)
- Revised and rewritten guidance on assessment (page 106-113)
- Local demographic information

Appendices on:

- cultural capital
- creating a coherent curriculum
- types of knowledge (in line with Ofsted Subject Review - substantive knowledge, ways of knowing, personal knowledge) (Page 123)
- introduction to knowledge organisers (E5)
- keywords and core concepts (E7)
- descriptions of achievement for pupils with SEND working below national curriculum outcomes
- planning RE in special school settings (page 98)

Online support including:

- Knowledge organisers
- Sample long-term plans
- Guidance on religious and non-religious worldviews (religions guide, do's and don'ts etc)

The licence includes:

- **Permission for each school to use the syllabus** – including photocopying within school for classroom use
- The syllabus will be **provided to schools as a PDF, via a password protected area** of the RE Today website. The syllabus cannot be made available for public access – this is a breach of the licence conditions. It is the responsibility of the SACRE to ensure all licences schools are compliant.
- **Licences are per school**, not bundled per academy chain, for example
- A **hard copy** of the syllabus will be provided for each school if you choose to adopt model B
- A **hard copy** of the supplement will be provided for each school if you relicence model A
- A **summary document will be supplied as a PDF** to the SACRE/LA to host as a publicly available document on their website
- Licence also includes **essential updates from RE Today** during the five-year licence period. These will be available electronically, not in print.
- The syllabus remains the copyright of RE Today.