

## **SACRE - Agreed Syllabus Conference 2015/16**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 23rd November, 2015 at 11.40 am in Cabinet Room 'B' - The Diamond Jubilee Room, County Hall, Preston**

**Present:**

**Chair**

### **Committee Members**

Mr Peter Martin, (Representing the ASCL)

County Councillor Yousuf Motala

Mrs Moira Pate, (Representing the Balshaw's Church of England High School)

Mrs Harsha Y Shukla, (Representing Hinduism)

### **Officers**

Jonathan Hewitt

Mrs Alison Lloyd

Kieran O'Doherty

#### **1. Welcome**

The members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference were welcomed to the meeting.

#### **2. Role of the Agreed Syllabus Conference**

Members were informed that the role of the ASC was to produce and recommend an agreed syllabus which would fully meet the requirements of legislation and be educationally sound – only an Agreed Syllabus Conference could recommend an agreed syllabus, and any recommendations made must be agreed unanimously by the committees constituting the conference. The local authority may give effect to the recommendation of the Agreed Syllabus Conference if it is unanimous in recommending the new Syllabus and provided the Syllabus complies with legal requirements.

Before a recommendation made by the working group is presented to the SACRE, all four committees must agree on that recommendation – it may then be adopted by the SACRE and employed for 5 years.

#### **3. Membership of the Agreed Syllabus Conference**

**Resolved:** That, following a recommendation put forward by J Hewitt, Joanne Harris as the representative of “teachers in secondary schools” on the SACRE be invited to attend the Agreed Syllabus Conference as an adviser.

#### **4. Plan for reviewing the Syllabus**

Members were informed that the current position for Lancashire was that many schools were well-respected, although at this current time many were stressed because of the national change in the curriculum; Responses from schools have generally been in support of retaining continuity with the previous curriculum, and so it was agreed that Agreed Syllabus presented a strong basis to work upon as it met the requirements for young people within schools.

Following a recent OfSTED review, several key questions were collected and presented to members to consider as they review the Syllabus:

- *"Are the aims of RE appropriate and clearly set out in the Syllabus?"*
- *"Does the Syllabus provide opportunities for deeper learning in RE?"*
- *"Does the Syllabus promote the skills of enquiry into religion?"*
- *"Does the Syllabus promote learning from religion as well as learning about religion?"*
- *"Is the model for the assessment of RE promoted by the Syllabus effective in informing teaching and learning?"*
- *"Does the Syllabus provide progression, continuity, coherence, breadth and balance in learning about religion?"*

**Resolved:** That:-

- i. In favour of a formal audit, and to provide the membership of SACRE with a better understanding of the Agreed Syllabus, a full and sufficient answer be provided for each key question raised from the OfSTED report.
- ii. Members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference begin reviewing the current Syllabus, with additional comparison against the National Guidance.

## **5. Next Steps**

**Resolved:** That:-

- i. 3-4 days be chosen between early January and mid-February 2016 for the Agreed Syllabus Conference working group to meet, bearing in mind any work constraints and other commitments members may have when organising and confirming dates.
- ii. The working group review the first half of the Agreed Syllabus to present at the next full meeting of the SACRE on 22 February 2016.

I Young  
Director of Governance,  
Finance and Public Services

County Hall  
Preston