

Report to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools
Report submitted by: Head of Service School Improvement
Date 5 November 2015

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
All

Lancashire Religious Education Agreed Syllabus Conference
(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Executive Summary

The appointment of an Agreed Syllabus Conference on the 23rd November for the purpose of reviewing the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools is recommended to approve that an Agreed Syllabus Conference be convened and that the persons who sit on the representative groups on the Lancashire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), excluding the Co-opted Members, be appointed as members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

Background and Advice

It is a statutory requirement that the Authority should convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference for the purpose of reviewing the Religious Education (RE) syllabus. The syllabus sets out what should be taught to pupils in all key stages and the standards expected of them at the end of each key stage. The syllabus must be reviewed within five years from the date on which it was adopted. The current Lancashire Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education was adopted in December 2010, and is therefore now due for review. It is proposed that the Authority convenes an Agreed Syllabus Conference to produce an agreed syllabus for RE.

The composition of the Conference is very similar to that of the Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) with committees of persons representing the same four groups that constitute the representative groups on the SACRE, namely:-

- (a) Such Christian and other Religious Denominations as, in the opinion of the Authority, would appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area;

- (b) The Church of England;
- (c) Such Associations, representing teachers as, in the opinion of the Authority, ought having had regard to the circumstances of the area be represented; and
- (d) The Authority.

The current membership of the SACRE is set out at Appendix 'A'. There is however, unlike the SACRE, no provision for co-opted members on the syllabus conference. The conference may ask for contributions and advice from anyone who will be useful in reviewing the syllabus.

Consultations

The Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) has been consulted.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The Education Act 1996 requires the Authority to produce an agreed syllabus for Religious Education by bringing together an Agreed Syllabus Conference. Failure to do so would mean that the Authority was in breach of the requirement and the Secretary of State could intervene to take over that role.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Lancashire Religious Education Agreed Syllabus Conference	17 th May 2010	Habib Patel/(01772) 536099

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A