

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 2 September 2021

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2021

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contacts for further information:

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Executive Summary

The new Lancashire Religious Education Syllabus 2021 has been approved by the Agreed Syllabus Conference after a period of consultation.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference unanimously recommends the new syllabus for adoption by the county council.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to agree that the county council adopts the new Religious Education Syllabus 2021 for Lancashire as set out in Appendix 'A', as unanimously recommended by the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

Background and Advice

It is a statutory requirement (conveyed by the Education Act 1996) that the county council should convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference every 5 years for the purpose of reviewing the Religious Education syllabus. The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education is responsible for forming an Agreed Syllabus Conference. 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 current Lancashire Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education was last reviewed in November 2015 and was adopted in 2016.

On 3 December 2020, Cabinet approved that an Agreed Syllabus Conference be convened to review the syllabus and that a selection of persons who sit on the

representative groups on the Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), excluding the Co-opted Members, be appointed as members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference was convened by the county council on 16 December 2020 to manage the process of review according to legal requirements and has met on several occasions since then to review and where appropriate revise the syllabus. A copy of the final syllabus, unanimously agreed by all members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference is attached at Appendix 'A'.

Consultations

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

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Schedule 31 of The Education Act 1996 requires the county council to convene a conference to reconsider the agreed syllabus for Religious Education by bringing together an Agreed Syllabus Conference. Failure to do so would mean that the county council was in breach of the requirement and the Secretary of State could intervene to take over that role and appoint a body of persons to prepare the syllabus.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Lancashire Religious Education Agreed Syllabus Conference	3 December 2020	Misbah Mahmood, (01772) 530818

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A