

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	Revised Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2012
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	02 July 2012
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2466

Purpose of Report: To seek approval for the revised Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education to take effect from September 2012.

Recommended Action: That the syllabus is approved

Reason for decision to be taken: Statutory requirement

Other options considered: None

Key background documentation: Non-Statutory Guidance for RE (attached)

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Irene Neill - Tel (0118) 971 2671
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Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Jon Houghton
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Implications

Policy: Syllabus compiled in accordance with relevant legislation
Financial: None
Personnel: None
Legal/Procurement: None
Environmental: None
Property: None
Risk Management: None
Equalities Impact Assessment: None

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council: Graham Jones
Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman: Brian Bedwell
Ward Members: n/a
Opposition Spokesperson: Alan Macro
Local Stakeholders: SACRE
Officers Consulted: Head of Education
Trade Union: n/a

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months		<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Report is to note only		<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 All Local Councils are required to approve the syllabus for Religious Education for use in their schools. This task is delegated by statute to an Agreed Syllabus Conference that has representatives from all parties with a vested interest in its content and approach. In reality the membership is identical to the SACRE who monitors and supports its implementation.
- 1.2 There is a requirement for the syllabus to be reviewed every five years – hence this revision.
- 1.3 It is proposed that the new syllabus takes legal effect from September 2012 and that the current one also has legal status until August 2013. By running the two in parallel it allows school to move seamlessly from one to the other at a pace that suits their particular circumstances.
- 1.4 The proposed syllabus is very similar to the current one. It is structured differently in that the guidance is taken out of the curriculum and becomes an annex. The main difference in terms of content is that the questioning approach to the curriculum has been strengthened and clarified. School have been fully consulted and the feedback is very positive.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

All the key religious groups in the area are represented on the SACRE and Agreed Syllabus Conference. Representatives of all the groups have been formally consulted and have contributed to the new syllabus. The proposed syllabus had unanimous approval from members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

3. Conclusive

The Portfolio Holder is asked to approve the revised Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education to take effect from September 2012.

Appendices

Appendix A – Equality Impact Assessment – Stage 1

Appendix B – Non-statutory guidance on Religious Education

APPENDIX A

Equality Impact Assessment – Stage One

Name of item being assessed:	Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2012
Version and release date of item (if applicable):	To take effect from September 2012
Owner of item being assessed:	Jon Houghton
Name of assessor:	Jon Houghton
Date of assessment:	22 June 2012

1. What are the main aims of the item?
To prescribe the content of the Religious Education curriculum for all West Berkshire schools with the exception of Church of England Voluntary Aided schools and Academy schools who can choose whether to adopt this or not and Catholic schools to whom it does not apply.

2. Note which groups may be affected by the item, consider how they may be affected and what sources of information have been used to determine this. (Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation)

Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this.
Religious Groups	The curriculum is designed to provide pupils with accurate information on a number of religions to develop understanding, tolerance and their own personal belief system	Non-statutory guidance (attached)

Further comments relating to the item:
There syllabus is designed to develop pupils' tolerance of others and so it should have a positive impact on their response to a wide range of people and their situations.

3. Result (please tick by double-clicking on relevant box and click on 'checked')
<input type="checkbox"/> High Relevance - This needs to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment

<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium Relevance - This needs to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low Relevance - This needs to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No Relevance - This does not need to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment

For items requiring a Stage 2 equality impact assessment, begin the planning of this now, referring to the equality impact assessment guidance and Stage 2 template.

4. Identify next steps as appropriate:	
Stage Two required	
Owner of Stage Two assessment:	
Timescale for Stage Two assessment:	
Stage Two not required:	

Name: Jon Houghton

Date: 22 June 2012