

Individual Decision

Title of Report:	Revision of Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE		
Report to be considered by:	Cllr Graham Pask	on:	4 May 2006
Forward Plan Ref:	ID 1150		

Purpose of Report:

To consider the revision of the Locally Agreed syllabus for Religious Education for West Berkshire

Recommended Action:

That the Executive Member for Children and Young People resolves to approve the Revised Syllabus as shown in the Appendix 1.

That the Portfolio holder, in consultation with the Shadow Portfolio holder, be given delegated authority to make any necessary amendments to the Locally Agreed Syllabus prior to it being published.

Reason for decision to be taken:

It is a statutory requirement that the RE Syllabus is revised every five years.

List of other options considered:

None

Key background documentation:

None

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Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 It is a statutory requirement that each local authority review its syllabus for Religious Education every five years.
- 1.2 In June 2005 members of the SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) were appointed as members of the West Berkshire Agreed Syllabus Conference after consultation with the leaders of the faith groups or Unions which they represented on the SACRE. The members of the West Berkshire Agreed Syllabus Conference delegated the writing of the revised Locally Agreed Syllabus to Jo Fageant, the Consultant, and Maxine Slade, the Local Authority Adviser.
- 1.3 It was agreed that representatives from each of the six Unitary Authorities across Berkshire should work together to produce a syllabus that was appropriate to all Authorities, and would give scope for each school to provide Religious Education that was relevant. Teachers of RE at all Key Stages from all six Unitary Authorities met during September 2005 to discuss the content and format of the syllabus, and have continued to have input throughout the process.
- 1.4 The West Berkshire Agreed Syllabus Conference met on three occasions, in November 2005 and in February and April 2006 to review the syllabus as it was being produced, and agreed at its meeting on 18 April 2006 that the revised syllabus should be submitted for approval by the Executive Member for Children and Young People.
- 1.5 The syllabus as attached is complete as far as Key Stages 1 and 2 are concerned. The expectations in Key Stage 3 are currently being produced, but will follow in style and format those in Key Stages 1 and 2.

Appendices

Appendix A – Revision of the Locally Agreed syllabus for Religious Education for Bracknell Forest, Reading, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Slough, west Berkshire and Wokingham.

Implications *(Please note that the asterisked areas need to be completed in full)*

Policy:	None arising from this report
Financial:	None arising from this report
Personnel:	None arising from this report
Legal:	None arising from this report
Environmental:	None arising from this report
Equalities:	The Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education promotes social inclusion in line with the Council's Equality policy
Partnering:	None arising from this report
Property:	None arising from this report
Risk Management:	None arising from this report
Community Safety:	None arising from this report

Consultation Responses

(Consultation must be undertaken with the following Members, where appropriate, before any decision can be made by the Portfolio Member.)

Members:	Cllrs Keith Lock, Barbara Alexander and Billy Drummond
Leader of Council:	Cllr Graham Jones
Overview & Scrutiny Commission Chairman:	Cllr Jeff Brooks
Ward Members:	N/a
Opposition Spokesperson:	Cllr Sally Hannon
Policy Development Commission Chairman:	Cllr Gordon Lundie
Local Stakeholders:	Members of faith groups including representatives of the Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Baha'i and Humanist Communities, the International Faith Centre, and teachers of Religious Education across the six Unitary Authorities
Officers Consulted:	Maxine Slade
Trade Union:	Representatives from the NUT, NAS/UWT, ATL, PAT, NAHT and ASCL.