

THE ADVISERS RECOMMEND ADOPTION OF THE SYLLABUS.

The proposed Pan-Berkshire Syllabus has been produced after extensive collaboration with teachers, SACRE/ASC members and the advisers, who have in turn sought advice and expertise from a wide range of experts within the RE community. Feedback has been gathered since October 2023. The six SACRE chairs or their representatives have been at the hub meetings, from which documents have been disseminated and to which feedback has been delivered.

- **there has been extensive consultation with ample opportunities for responses**
- **Advisers** have taken on board all of the **feedback and responses that were educationally sound**, but as stated throughout this process a syllabus is a starting point - an outline - from which teachers will build a curriculum.
- Content must be accessible, and **appropriate for the age and stage of learners**, and in composing a syllabus the authors have had to be mindful of limitations, such as **curriculum time and resources allocated to RE in schools**, as well as expectations for teacher knowledge and expertise. All responses and feedback have been given careful consideration, but it is not possible to take on board each and every suggestion.
- the final say is **educational**, with teachers feeding back on and creating parts of the syllabus
- **teachers** are the experts when it comes to what is appropriate at what age for their pupils
- we are developing a **syllabus**, which is the statutory framework from which teachers will construct a school RE **curriculum** that is appropriate to their pupils and their whole-school curriculum
- the syllabus is built from the **most recent research and developments in RE** (e.g., it draws on a Religion and Worldviews Approach and Disciplinarity).
- the guidance and content on specific religions, based on contributions from SACRE representatives and other sources, is to help teachers, but are **not statutory**
- **schools and teachers** construct the exact curriculum that they will deliver.
- RE is, by its very nature, a contested subject and there are differing opinions around its nature, purposes and content, but its main purpose is to educate, **combining academic rigour and personal development**
- the Agreed Syllabus therefore needs to balance accurate and appropriate knowledge, recent educational developments in RE and good practice in teaching **to enable teachers to plan high quality RE within an ambitious and coherent curriculum**

Since the last version of the syllabus (June 2024), the advisers have undertaken further consultation to refine the draft syllabus which is being presented to ASCs this Autumn.

This final extensive consultation has involved, among others, members of Group A, including Jewish, Muslim and Hindu representations, as well as highly regarded national organisations including the Board of Deputies of British Jews and NASACRE.

The advisers now recommend that this syllabus is adopted by ASC.