

**MINUTES OF THE  
LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST AGREED SYLLABIUS CONSULTATION  
MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 3 JUNE 2019 @ 5.30PM  
AT WALTHAM FOREST TOWN HALL**

Present: Mr Ted Cooke (TC) Member Group B (Chair) (from 5.45pm)  
 Mr Keith Pilling (KP) Member Group A  
 Mr Mike Stygal (MS) Member Group A  
 Ms Heather Soar (HS) Member Group C  
 Mr Colin Whitehead (CW) Member Group C  
 Ms Ruth Kaufman (RF) Member Group D  
 Ms Darra McFadyen (DMc) Observer

Clerk to the Governors: Gill Hand

**Summary of agreements and actions:**

Minute reference	Formal agreements and/or actions identified	Named person(s) for action(s) identified	Completion date
2.1	To scribe a strong statement of purpose of study and include in relevant section of AS	DF	10.07.19
2.1	To include reference to 6 key religions including Christianity in relevant section of AS	DF	10.07.19
2.1	To consider adding Program of Study tabled document to ASC	DF	10.07.19
2.1	To ensure that web links to non statutory information are included in AS	DF	10.07.19
2.1	To ensure that non statutory information contains up to date information	All	TBC
2.1	To send out email to all Group C members to arrange initial teacher networking meeting	DF	2 weeks
2.1	To scribe outline of what good RE T&L should look like and add to relevant section	DF	10.07.19
2.1	To remove 'Home Front & Parental Right of Withdrawal section from AS and add as an appendix	DF	10.07.19
3.1	To invite Lat Blaycock to next SACRE meeting	DF	10.07.19
3.1	ASC to be agenda item for next SACRE	DM	10.07.19
3.2	To liaise with LA with regards to any funding available to support SACRE/AS development	TC/DF	Update 10.07.19
11.1	<b>Date of next meeting:</b> <u>SACRE</u> Wednesday 10 July 2019 at 5.30pm @ the Town Hall	All /GS	Immediate

**1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 DF welcomed all those present to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies for absence were noted as received from Cllr Richard Sweden.

**2. DRAFT AGREED SYLLABUS (AS) REVIEW**

2.1 DF provided an overview of the aim of the meeting namely to consider the pre circulated draft Agreed Syllabus with a view to informing the final version. To support this review, DF tabled the following papers for information:

- A position paper entitled ‘How should SACREs, ASCs and the LA Proceed?’ (attached as Annex A) for information.
- Program of Study for 11-14s – developed with the support of RE Today and used in other boroughs/area
- Draft Agreed Syllabus for Secondary Schools, Academies, Colleges & Settings

Members held discussions based on the above documents with key reference to:

- Concerns about just using key questions when delivering a program of study
- Potential to ensure other alternative methods are available to allow teachers who are not RE specialists to be able to effectively review practice
- Need to ensure that the website links to non-statutory information are retained in the AS document to provide additional advice and guidance
- Need for review of non statutory information to ensure that it is up to date
- Consideration to be given to providing a wide knowledge base to support understanding of a range of religions
- Development of a broad and balanced curriculum across all key stages
- Consideration of commissioning of professionals to support the AS development
- Timeframe for reviewing all key stage documents
- Progress made on the development of the AS to date
- Current focus on finalisation of statutory guidance requirements in AS to ensure that it can be produced in timely manner for introduction to schools

**2.2 Check List for AS Conference (ASC)**

It was agreed that members present would use the checklist contained in Annex A to review the draft AS at the meeting. The table below records the outcome of the review:

Key Question	Met	Not Met/Next Steps
Outline the legal requirements for teaching and learning of Religious Education.	Met	
Outline the principal aim for RE, clarify the purpose of the subject.	Partially Met	Needs more precise, specific definition of the purpose of the stunt to be included in the AS. Requires a strong statement of purpose to be included
Outline the breadth of study, indicating which religions must be studied and when.	Partially Met	Requires addition of 6 principal religions including Christianity. Noted that doesn't have to be limited to 6 but consideration would then need to be given to available curriculum time

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Offer key questions at the heart of the syllabus and provide a range of exemplar learning outcomes for all key questions.	Not met	Potentially consider adding Program of Study tabled document to ASC to with links to non statutory guidance as a resource for schools to use
Offer schools the flexibility to devise their own key questions and design their own units.	Not met	Previously discussed Teacher's Network Groups need to be established to inform this area Need to send out email to all Group C members to arrange initial networking meeting
Inspire high expectation of best quality teaching and learning of RE	Not met	Requires addition in relevant section of outline of what good RE T&L should look like
Provide an assessment framework to support teachers to plan for and assess student progress in RE.	Met	Met

**ACTION: To scribe a strong statement of purpose of study and include in relevant section of AS**

**ACTION: To include reference to 6 key religions including Christianity in relevant section of AS**

**ACTION: To consider adding Program of Study tabled document to ASC**

**ACTION: To ensure that web links to non statutory information are included in AS**

**ACTION: To ensure that non statutory information contains up to date information**

**ACTION: To send out email to all Group C members to arrange initial networking meeting**

**ACTION: To scribe outline of what good RE T&L should look like and add to relevant section**

**ACTION: To remove 'Home Front & Parental Right of Withdrawal section from AS and add as an appendix**

### 3. EXTERNAL ADVICE & GUIDANCE

3.1 DF updated that she had recently contacted RE Today and had a conversation with Lat Blaylock (LB) with regards to the development of the LBWF AS and the progress made to date. It was noted that LB is a noted experienced professional in his field who hosts RE teaching meetings and had supported the development of both the Islington AS and AS in other areas.

DF provided an overview of the guidance she had received from LB with regards to the effective development of the LBWF AS including the identification of five key points of focus.

Discussions were held on the proposal by DF to invite LB to the next SACRE meeting on 10 July 2019 with view to support the development of the AS. It was agreed that this would be a positive step and that LB's experience would be welcomed.

**ACTION: To invite Lat Blaycock to next SACRE meeting**

**ACTION: ASC to be agenda item for next SACRE**

3.2 Funding available

Discussions were held with regards to identifying and LA funding that might be available to support the engagement of external professionals to support:

- AS development
- Teacher Conference
- Teacher Networking meetings

TC and DF advised that discussions had been held/were due to be held with David Kilgannon with regards to any available funding and updates would be provided in due course

**ACTION: To liaise with LA with regards to any funding available to support SACRE/AS development**

**4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

4.1 A general discussion was held on the need to ensure that there is a strong presence at both the ASC and SACRE meetings from the Islamic community to share good practice and knowledge and inform the collaborative development of the AS.

This discussion included reference:

- to key teachers/members of the community/councillors in the LA who could potentially be approached to support this
- the possibility of funding being available to support engagement across the LA via networking meetings

**5. DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

5.1 Date of next meetings

Summer 2019			
Wednesday 10 July	5.30pm	WF Town Hall – Room 3	Draft SACRE Plan for next year Annual report Work plan to include HMD events etc.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm

Chair: (print) .....

..... (Sign)

Date: .....

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### How should SACREs, ASCs and the LA proceed?

The ASC might review again the current syllabus and may wish to use it as a basis for consultation. Similarly, it will want to take on board the discussions about the guidance that have already taken place in SACRE.

What the AGS does not do is specify exact content; given that this is also locally determined it should reflect life in Waltham Forest. Hence, relative to the framework of teaching and learning the ASC will want to attach non statutory units that already exist (plan rolling review) and are locally relevant.

Finally, the Curriculum Framework for RE (2010 and 2013) repeats the National Curriculum guidance on assessing the subject. There is very clear guidance on assessment provided (courtesy of

The Local Authority too could use the checklist provided on page when it goes through discussions about whether to adopt the syllabus recommended or not. If the syllabus varies widely from the guidance LAs have the right to ask why. In this case members of Committee D of the ASC are crucial as they are the LA representatives on the ASC. If they cannot answer that question the quality of the work of the ASC can be rightly called into question.

### Conclusion

Agreed Syllabus Conferences are statutory bodies and Agreed Syllabuses are statutory documents. This has not changed. Agreed Syllabuses can stipulate the content of RE for non--denominational and Controlled schools, as well as the arrangements for assessment and the time to be given to RE in a school's curriculum, within reason. The syllabus can also be adopted by Aided schools, Academies and Free Schools, in the case of the latter two as a way of fulfilling their funding agreement with the DfE.

**ASCs should take any guidance supported by the government seriously but ultimately it is the ASCs syllabus, once adopted by the LA, which is the statutory document. Guidance remains guidance.**

The new syllabus should build on the previous syllabus and the syllabus for Key Stages 1&2 published in 2016 and should:

- outline the legal requirements for teaching and learning of Religious Education.
- outline the principal aim for RE, clarifying the purpose of the subject.
- outline the breadth of study, indicating which religions should be studied and when.
- offer key questions at the heart of the syllabus.
- provide a range of exemplar learning outcomes for all key questions.
- offer schools the flexibility to devise their own key questions and design their own units.
- offer an outline of knowledge/content as a guide to teachers.

- offer a planning and assessment framework to support teachers to plan for the diverse range of faiths, beliefs and identities within their communities and the wider world and assess and record the progress of learners.

What have we completed and what are the next steps?

Actions	Commentary	Next Steps	Target Date for Completion
Review Previous AGS			
Produce Draft Statutory Guidance.	First draft of statutory produced		March 2019
Consultation of teachers and faith and community leaders on statutory guidelines.	Draft document to HUB with invitation to RE teachers to become involved consultation	Establish teacher consultation group and meet to consider statutory document including assessment framework	April 2019 May 2019
Consider redraft and shape of Statutory and Non Statutory.	SACRE and AGC	Before or after first summer meeting of SACRE	July 2019
Advice from national bodies NASACRE NATRE Faith and Inter Faith and World View Groups	Members of AGC	Review statutory AGS and agree review of non-statutory over reasonable time period	<b>September 2019 (ASC)</b>
<p>By end of summer (July 2019) Agreed Syllabus Conference (AGC) and SACRE, having consulted teaching and faith groups should have</p> <p>1 Agreed the statutory section of the revised Agreed Syllabus with non-statutory guidance on planning and assessment to form the completed document.</p> <p>2 Agreed the time line for publication and launch of revised statutory Agreed Syllabus with assessment framework and rolling programme of review of existing non-statutory units on transition, faiths, beliefs, world views and identity.</p>			

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**Check list for Agreed Syllabus Conference (AGC), Teacher and Faith Group Meetings to use when reviewing proposed and/or draft Agreed Syllabus**

Does the proposed document

Key Question	Met	Not Met/Next Steps
Outline the legal requirements for teaching and learning of Religious Education.		
Outline the principal aim for RE, clarify the purpose of the subject.		
Outline the breadth of study, indicating which religions must be studied and when.		
Offer key questions at the heart of the syllabus  and provide a range of exemplar learning outcomes for all key questions.		
Offer schools the flexibility to devise their own key questions and design their own units.		
Inspire high expectation of best quality teaching and learning of RE		
Provide an assessment framework to support teachers to plan for and assess student progress in RE.		
Additional Comments		

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