

A G E N D A

Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference

Date: **Monday, 7th March, 2005**

Time: **3.00 p.m. (or following the
preceding SACRE meeting if later)**

Place: **Council Chamber, Brockington**

Notes: Please note the **time, date** and **venue** of
the meeting.

For any further information please contact:

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**County of Herefordshire
District Council**

AGENDA

for the Meeting of the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference

Members: Cllr Mrs. W.U. Attfield, Mrs. C. Ault, Revd. P. Barlow, Mrs. J. Brown, Father M Donnelly, Dr. D. Goodman, Cllr P.E. Harling, Mrs S McCamley, Mrs A. Mundy, Mr. Z. Pandor, Mr. J. Rendall, Mr M. Rollnick, J. Stone and Revd. I. Terry

	Pages
1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN	
The Head of IASPS will announce the appointment of Chairman by the Local Education Authority.	
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
To receive apologies for absence.	
3. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)	
To receive details any details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.	
4. THE ROLE OF AN AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE	1 - 8
To inform the Conference of a number of issues relating to the role of an Agreed Syllabus Conference and the formulation of a Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.	
5. AGREED SYLLABUS REVIEW - CURRENT POSITION	
The Consultant for Religious Education will report on the background work undertaken so far and propose areas of work to be undertaken.	

THE ROLE OF AN AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

Report By: Committee Officer (Scrutiny)

Purpose

1. To inform the Conference of a number of issues relating to the role of an Agreed Syllabus Conference and the formulation of an Agreed Religious Education Syllabus.

Background

2. At the meeting of the Herefordshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held on 29th November 2004, SACRE noted that Herefordshire Schools are using the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus which was introduced in September 2001. It is a requirement that the Syllabus be reviewed every 5 years. Therefore the current syllabus needs to be reviewed and agreed for implementation by September 2006. Having considered the time needed to undertake consultation and redrafting of the Agreed Religious Education Syllabus, particularly following the publication of the Non-statutory National Framework, SACRE agreed to recommend that the Local Education Authority re-establish the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference.
3. In accordance with Section 35, Schedule 31 of the Education Act 1996 the Local Education Authority (LEA) established an Agreed Syllabus Conference to produce and recommend to the LEA an agreed Religious Education Syllabus for Herefordshire.
4. The Conference should be aware that the process of undertaking a syllabus review is governed by legislation and legal advice will be made available at the meetings as necessary. However, a number of key guidance points contained in the Department for Education Circular 1/94 are brought to your attention.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference.

5. The Conference is a separate legal entity from a SACRE and, although common membership is permissible, it must be separately convened, therefore separate agendas will be produced for SACRE and the Agreed Syllabus Conference.
6. The Conference is made up of four committees each comprising representatives appointed by the LEA to represent the following bodies:

Committee A	Such Christian denominations and other religions as reflect the principal religious traditions in Herefordshire
Committee B	The Church of England.
Committee C	Associations representing teachers.
Committee D	Local Education Authority (LEA).

7. There is no provision for an Agreed Syllabus Conference to include co-opted members. However, it is anticipated that the Agreed Syllabus Conference will wish to seek particular advice or comment from the co-opted members on SACRE.
8. The role of the conference is to produce and recommend an agreed syllabus for RE which meets fully the requirements of the 1996 Act and is educationally sound. The task of producing a syllabus cannot be delegated except to a sub-committee which must include at least one member of each of the committees constituting the conference. This does not prevent a conference receiving advice or comment from outside groups or individuals.

The Religious Education Syllabus

9. DFE circular 1/94 outlines the aims of religious education in schools as seeking: to develop pupils' knowledge, understanding and awareness of Christianity, as the predominant religion in Great Britain, and the other principal religions represented in the Country; to encourage respect for those holding different beliefs; and to help promote pupils' spiritual, moral, cultural and mental development".
10. Syllabuses must be non-denominational and must not be designed to convert pupils, or to urge a particular religion or religious belief on pupils.
11. When drawing up an agreed syllabus account should be taken of the needs of pupils who want to take a GCSE or other examination in Religious Studies.

Key Principles

12. It is important that the review of the Herefordshire RE syllabus is linked to some key principles that provide both a foundation for the review and give direction to the task ahead. These principles will therefore provide an important reference point for those practitioners involved with any working parties formed to revise the syllabus and report back to the Conference. The Consultant for Religious Education has compiled 6 key principles for the review for consultation (Appendix 1)

Timetable for the review

13. To ensure that the review meets the Syllabus implementation date of September 2006, the Consultant for Religious Education has compiled a draft timetable for consideration (Appendix 2).

Decision-making

14. On any question to be decided by conference, the representative committees, as outlined in paragraph 6 above, shall each have a single vote.
16. Only an Agreed Syllabus Conference may recommend an agreed syllabus and its recommendation must be unanimously agreed by the committees constituting the conference.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

- a) the report be noted and the key principles for the review be adopted and;
- b) the timetable for the review be accepted.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- DFE Circular 1/94 "Religious Education and Collective Worship"

Principles for review of Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

Draft principles for consultation

The review and development of the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus will....

- ◆ ***be built on collaboration and consultation;***
- ◆ ***be evolutionary not revolutionary; supportive not disruptive;***
- ◆ ***draw strongly on national developments in RE, particularly the non statutory national framework for RE 2004;***
- ◆ ***promote improved teaching and learning in RE;***
- ◆ ***assist schools to provide greater coherence across and within phases and key stages;***
- ◆ ***provide support for teachers through amended non statutory guidance and training.***

**Action Plan for review of
Hereford Agreed Syllabus for RE 2005/6**

	<p>Consultation meetings to be held during Spring term 2005 20.1.05 Secondary meeting 26.1.05 Primary meeting</p>
<p>7th March 2005 : Agreed Syllabus Conference convened for the purpose of reviewing the Agreed syllabus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to establish key principles to guide the review process; • to agreed a timetable for the review process; • to agree an effective way of managing the review. 	
<p>By 29th April 2005 3 working parties of teachers to be established as follows: FS2 + KS1 KS2) Secondary phase (KS3; 14-19) Their purpose will be to develop draft recommendations, taking account of the principles underpinning the review, the findings of the consultation groups and national developments, for the consideration of the Agreed Syllabus Conference. It is envisaged that these working parties will be chaired by Mrs J. Mackley (RE Consultant to SACRE) with Mr Jonathan Rendall (Diocesan Schools Adviser) & Ms Sue Peasgood (Early Year inspector) acting as consultants</p>	<p>Ted: letter to all schools inviting volunteers for working parties (Pre Easter)</p> <p>2 meetings of each group during Summer term 05</p> <p>Dates of meetings:</p> <p>The purpose of these is to draft the amendments to the existing agreed syllabus and identify aspects requiring further development (in the form of non statutory guidance)</p>
<p>24th June 2005 SACRE /ASC meeting - update on progress of working parties</p>	
<p>Working parties:</p>	<p>Continued work on drafting materials to support revisions made to the Agreed Syllabus JM to edit and amend to produce draft for ASC by early Nov 2005</p>
<p>Sept 29th 05 Annual SACRE conference: updating delegates on Agreed Syllabus developments. Opportunities for feedback.</p>	
<p>28th November 2005 Agreed Syllabus Conference considers initial recommendations and agree a draft syllabus to be sent out to schools for consultation.</p>	
<p>Dec- Jan 2006 School Consultation on draft proposals</p> <p>Feb 06: JM to draft report to ASC on findings and recommendations arising out of school consultation. JM amends final draft to take account of these. Copies sent to ASC for discussion and agreement at March meeting</p>	
<p>20th March 2006: Agreed Syllabus conference considers amendments and agrees Agreed Syllabus to be recommended to the LEA for use in schools</p>	
<p>April 2006 Printing of revised sections</p>	
<p>May/June 06: series of cluster/area meetings at which the Agreed Syllabus is distributed and introduced to schools.</p>	
<p>Sept 2006 – Revised Agreed Syllabus implemented.</p>	

