

A G E N D A

Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference

Date: **Friday, 24th June, 2005**

Time: **2.00 p.m.**

Place: **Council Chamber, Brockington**

Notes: Please note that the SACRE meeting scheduled for 2.00 p.m. has been cancelled and that the Syllabus Conference meeting scheduled for 3.00 pm will now start at 2.00 p.m.

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

To: Councillor J. Stone (Chairman)

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

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| 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | |
| To receive apologies for absence. | |
| 2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY) | |
| To receive details of any Member nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Agreed Syllabus Conference. | |
| 3. MINUTES | 1 - 2 |
| To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th March, 2005. | |
| 4. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT 'BREADTH OF STUDY' SECTIONS FOR EACH KEY STAGE | 3 - 6 |
| To consider, amend as necessary and agree the wording of the 'Breadth of Study' statements for each Key Stage proposed by the Working Parties. | |
| 5. FURTHER WORK TO PROGRESS THE SYLLABUS REVIEW | |
| To report any further issues requiring attention as part of the review of the Agreed Syllabus. | |

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference held at Council Chamber, Brockington on Monday, 7th March, 2005 at 3.55 p.m.

Present:

**Mrs. C. Ault, Revd. P. Barlow, Mrs. J. Brown, Dr. D. Goodman,
Cllr. P.E. Harling, Mr M. Rollnick, Cllr. J. Stone and Revd. I. Terry**

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

The Syllabus Conference noted that Councillor J. Stone had been appointed by the Local Education Authority (LEA) to Chair the Conference.

COUNCILLOR J. STONE IN THE CHAIR

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Mrs W.U. Atfield, Ms K. Mayglothling, Ms S. McCamley, Mrs A. Mundy, Mr Z. Pandor, and Mr J. Rendall.

3. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

There were no named substitutes.

4. THE ROLE OF AN AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

SACRE considered a number of issues relating to the role of an Agreed Syllabus Conference, key principles and a timetable for the Syllabus review.

The Committee Officer (Scrutiny) presented a report to inform the Conference of a number of issues relating to the role of an Agreed Syllabus Conference and the formation of an Agreed Religious Education Syllabus.

The report detailed a number of key guidance points contained in the Department for Education Circular 1/94 relating to the Conference and committee membership; the role of the conference; the aims of the syllabus; decision-making and the recommendation of a new Agreed Syllabus to the Local Education Authority (LEA).

The Consultant for RE reported that it was important that the review of the Herefordshire RE Syllabus should be linked to some key principles to provide a foundation for the review and give direction to the task. Six principles for consideration were contained at Appendix 1 to the report. She highlighted that since the last review elements of best practice and a range of initiatives needed to be taken full account of including the National non-statutory Framework for RE; Foundation Stage Curriculum; 14-19 developments and various national strategies.

To ensure that the review met the Syllabus implementation date of September 2006, the Consultant for RE proposed the draft timetable, set out at Appendix 2, for consideration.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted and the key principles for the review set

out in Appendix 1 to the report be adopted and the timetable set out in Appendix 2 to the report be accepted.

5. AGREED SYLLABUS REVIEW - CURRENT POSITION

SACRE received a report on the background work to the review undertaken so far and considered areas of work to be undertaken.

The Consultant for RE reported that initial discussion group meetings had been held with both primary and secondary school sectors. Both discussion groups agreed that the syllabus as a whole was basically good but anticipated that the Non-statutory Framework and examples of good practice would be drawn on to improve the Syllabus still further. The Conference confirmed that the review was not expected to be revolutionary as the basic syllabus was satisfactory. It was also appreciated that teachers would not welcome any further major changes.

Conference noted that a key aim of any RE syllabus must be to 'encourage respect for those holding different beliefs' which it was hoped would contribute to social cohesion. While the Non-statutory Framework also placed a very high profile on respect for other faiths, in the review emphasis would be given to putting this into a local context, particularly in view of the secular members of the community.

Conference noted a view that the secondary sector teachers wished, this time, to develop non-statutory guidance to support teaching in the way this had been done for the primary sector in the current syllabus.

Conference noted the action plan, referred to in the previous agenda item, and that progress reports would be presented to future meetings.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and progress reports be presented to future meetings.

The meeting ended at 4.35 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT 'BREADTH OF STUDY' SECTIONS FOR EACH KEY STAGE

Report By: Committee Officer (Scrutiny)

Purpose

1. To consider, amend as necessary, and agree the wording of the 'Breadth of Study' statements for each Key Stage proposed by the Working Parties.

Background

2. In accordance with the action plan for the review of the Agreed Syllabus, agreed by the Syllabus Conference at their meeting held on 7th March, 2005, three working parties of teachers has been established. The remit of the working parties is 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.
3. Meetings of the Working Groups have taken place and a statement, prepared by the RE Consultant (Appendix1), informs of the process so far and outlines some of the key amendments that the Working Groups recommend be made to the Agreed Syllabus.
4. Copies of the working drafts have been issued separately to Members for **detailed consideration** at the meeting. Members are therefore advised to prepare comments, questions or issues for discussion at the meeting. The detailed Programme of Study for KS1, KS2, KS3 will not be drafted until the Syllabus Conference has agreed the proposed wording contained in these working drafts.
5. The drafting of proposed changes to the Agreed Syllabus is at an early stage. A full version of the proposed redrafted Agreed Syllabus will be made publicly available later in the drafting process.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT: The Syllabus Conference consider, amend as necessary, and agree the wording of the breadth of study statements for each key stage in order that further work can be undertaken by the Working Parties on amending the detail of the programmes of study.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None.

Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

Update on developments for the Agreed Syllabus Conference 24.6.05

Working party meetings

Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1: meetings held on 19/4/05; 7/6/05

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| Paula King | Marlbrook Primary School |
| Marion Webster | Kingsland C E Primary School, |
| Anna Nugent | Wellington |
| Jonathan Rendall | Schools Adviser |
| Sue Peasgood/ Beckki Miller | Early Years Inspector Early Years consultant |

Key Stage 2: meeting held on 27/5/05 - further meeting on 4/7/05

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|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Sue Morgan | Ivington Primary |
| Midge Ault | Leominster Junior |
| Anna Nugent | Wellington |
| Judith Rollings | Kimbolton St James CE |
| Marion Webster | Kingsland C E Primary School |
| Jonathan Rendall, | Schools Adviser |

Key Stage 3: meetings held on 21/4/05; 12/4/05; 16/6/05

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|---|
| Kevin Scott Aylestone High School, Hereford |
| Kate Mayglothing Wigmore High School, Ford St , Wigmore. Leominster |
| Peter Bowen, Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat school, Hereford HR 1 1UU |
| Gill Haslam Kingstone High School, Kingstone Hereford |
| Michael Goodman Queen Elizabeth High School Bromyard |

Developments to date

- A draft breadth of study for each key stage was prepared by Joyce Mackley for discussion and amendment by the working parties. These drafts suggest revisions/amendments to bring the 2006 syllabus in line with Non statutory National Framework recommendations published in October 2004.
- It is proposed that the Foundation Stage has its own section. Four themes which identify RE learning linked to early learning goals/stepping stones have been identified.
- It is proposed that the three strands of the current syllabus (Beliefs, Practices, Lifestyles) are amended to BELIEVING, EXPRESSING, LIVING. These provide a framework for learning in RE which can be matched to the expectations in the levels statements in the NSNF.

- Breadth of study statements have been developed to introduce the areas of learning and standards required at each key stage. These draw on the Non Statutory National Framework and place greater emphasis on what is expected in terms of pupils achievement at each level and on the experiences and opportunities pupils should have. Religions becomes 'Religions and Beliefs' and the themes identified as appropriate by the framework are listed.
- Existing units have been 'tweaked' to ensure that each is sufficiently challenging to enable pupils to work at the level expected. Key Stage 2 and 3 units now identify possible 'key questions'
- Use of the overview grid ensures continuity and progression between key stages.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference will need to

- consider, amend and agree the wording of the breadth of study statements for each key stage in order that further work can be undertaken by the working parties on amending the detail of the programmes of study

Future meetings of the ASC will need to

- consider, amend and agree the details of the programmes of study
- consider, amend and agree the general syllabus requirements
- approve a consultation version of the syllabus to be sent out to schools.

Joyce Mackley RE consultant to SACRE/ASC 31.5.05