

AGENDA

Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference

Date: **Monday 22 November 2010**

Time: **2.20 pm (Or on the rising of SACRE if later)**

Place: **Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road,
Hereford**

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

For any further information please contact:

Paul James, Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 01432 260460

Email: pjames@herefordshire.gov.uk

If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please call Paul James, Democratic Services Officer (01432) 260460 on or e-mail in advance of the meeting.

Agenda for the Meeting of the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference

Membership

Chairman

Councillor J Stone

Councillor WU Attfield

Mrs. C. Ault

Mrs L Barker

Revd. P. Barlow

Mr. P. Bowen

Mrs S Bryant

Ani-La Choesang

Councillor Brig P Jones CBE

Mrs Gurmit Jutle

Mrs S McCamley

Sr. D. O'Donnell

Mr. Z. Pandor

Ms D Vickress

Ms C Wolfe

Local Authority

Bahai faith

Secondary Teachers

Church of England

Church of England

Church of England

Buddhist

Local Authority

Sikh Faith

Primary Schools

Roman Catholic Church

Muslim Faith

Special Education Schools

Jewish Faith

GUIDANCE ON DECLARING PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

The Council's Members' Code of Conduct requires Councillors to declare against an Agenda item(s) the nature of an interest and whether the interest is personal or prejudicial. Councillors have to decide first whether or not they have a personal interest in the matter under discussion. They will then have to decide whether that personal interest is also prejudicial.

A personal interest is an interest that affects the Councillor more than most other people in the area. People in the area include those who live, work or have property in the area of the Council. Councillors will also have a personal interest if their partner, relative or a close friend, or an organisation that they or the member works for, is affected more than other people in the area. If they do have a personal interest, they must declare it but can stay and take part and vote in the meeting.

Whether an interest is prejudicial is a matter of judgement for each Councillor. What Councillors have to do is ask themselves whether a member of the public – if he or she knew all the facts – would think that the Councillor's interest was so important that their decision would be affected by it. If a Councillor has a prejudicial interest then they must declare what that interest is. A Councillor who has declared a prejudicial interest at a meeting may nevertheless be able to address that meeting, but only in circumstances where an ordinary member of the public would be also allowed to speak. In such circumstances, the Councillor concerned will have the same opportunity to address the meeting and on the same terms. However, a Councillor exercising their ability to speak in these circumstances must leave the meeting immediately after they have spoken.

AGENDA

	Pages
1. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY) To receive details of any Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.	
2. MINUTES To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2010.	1 - 4
3. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY) To answer any pre-received written questions from members of the public.	
4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive apologies for absence.	
5. AGREED SYLLABUS REVIEW - CONSIDERATION OF FURTHER DRAFTING WORK To consider the further drafting work undertaken by the Consultant for RE as part of the review of the Agreed Syllabus. (NOTE: copies of the draft pages will be despatched to Members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference with this agenda for their initial consideration. This work will form the basis of the publicly available published work early in 2011)	
6. FURTHER WORK TO PROGRESS THE SYLLABUS REVIEW To consider any further issues requiring attention as part of the review of the Agreed Syllabus.	

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference held at Council Chamber, Brockington on Monday 5 July 2010 at 2.30 pm

Present: Councillor J Stone (Chairman)

Cllr. WU Attfield, Revd. P. Barlow, Mr. P. Bowen, Mrs S Bryant, Ani-La Choesang, Cllr. Brig P Jones CBE, Mrs G Jutle, Mrs S McCamley, Sr. D. O'Donnell and Ms C Wolfe

In attendance: Mrs A Daniel and Ms. K. Mayglothing

30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from: Mrs C Ault; Mrs L Barker; Mrs A Daniel and Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins.

31. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

There were no named substitutes.

32. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

33. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No written questions were received.

34. AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP

The Agreed Syllabus Conference considered its membership.

Church of England Member

The Chairman reported that Mr Tony Leach, Director of Education for the Church of England Diocesan Board of Education, had resigned on health grounds. The Clerk's representative reported that the Conference's best wishes had already been forwarded to Mr Leach.

The Conference noted that Ms T Gregory, nominated substitute for Mr T Leach had also left the Diocesan Board of Education.

The Conference noted that Mrs Sheila Bryant had been nominated by the Diocesan Board of Education to replace Mr Leach on Committee B and that the local authority had approved the nomination. The Conference welcomed Mrs Bryant to the meeting.

Buddhist Member

On considering nominations for new membership the Chairman reported that the Venerable Tsuiltrim Tenzin Choesang, who was a senior nun within the Tibetan tradition of Buddhism, had been nominated as the member for the Buddhist faith on Committee A. The Conference agreed the nomination and noted that the local authority had approved the nomination. The Conference welcomed Ani-La Choesang to the meeting.

Special Education Teaching Member

The Chairman further reported that following the resignation of Mrs J Brown the local authority proposed that Ms D Vickress (Barrs Court Special School) become the member for special education teaching on Committee C. The Conference agreed the appointment of Ms D Vickress to Committee C.

35. SYLLABUS REVIEW - CONSIDERATION OF FURTHER DRAFTING WORK

The Agreed Syllabus Conference considered the further drafting work undertaken by the Consultant for RE as part of the review of the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus.

The Consultant for RE reported that while undertaking the further drafting work he had taken into account the feedback from the secondary school sector consultation held 24 April and the primary school sector consultation held 17 May 2010. In so far as it was currently possible, he had also taken into consideration changes to government policy and any implications for RE and the new syllabus.

A number of 'first draft' pages for the new syllabus had been previously issued to members of the Conference and the Consultant for RE took members through each page.

On considering the drafting work the following principal points were noted:

- A desire was expressed to keep a Herefordshire flavour to the 'Programme of Study'
- The Early-Middle-Late (EML) grid format would not now be used. Following the change of government the Department of Education (formerly DCSF) had cancelled the introduction of the new primary curriculum which had championed the use of the EML progression grid.
- Ofsted strongly suggested that if guidance for teachers was provided then teachers may be less likely to consult the whole document. The Conference agreed that teachers should be given whatever assistance could be made available and therefore decided that, if possible, the guidance should be retained.
- Conference debated whether greater focus could be given by reducing the current five aims to one main aim with other sub-aims. The Consultant for RE undertook to give further consideration to this.
- Comment was made regarding the consistency of terms used. The Consultant responded that government policy may be clearer by the autumn and he would try to ensure consistency with the policy terms.
- Government policy indicated greater freedom in how schools were set-up and managed e.g. academies, free schools policy, and therefore account needed to be given to the wider range of learning provision.
- Conference considered that a stronger emphasis should be given to the recommended number of hours given to teaching RE.
- Conference debated the other principal religions represented in the county – other than Christianity. The Consultant for RE was requested to review which principal religions should be taught at which Key Stage.
- Questioned whether the Buddhist concepts currently listed should conform to common usage and English spelling, the Consultant for RE responded that they conformed to the guidance given in the national model syllabus.
- Where appropriate more up to date quotations should be used and should include quotes from children.

- The Consultant for RE described some of the pros and cons of using 'How to plan your RE at KS2 using the key questions provided' and 'How to plan your RE at KS2, devising your own key questions'.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference thanked the Consultant for RE for his drafting work and looked forward to further updates.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the direction of the new Agreed Syllabus, indicated in the drafting work now undertaken, be continued and a further report be made to the next meeting.

36. FURTHER WORK TO PROGRESS THE SYLLABUS REVIEW

No further issues were considered.

The meeting ended at 4.05 pm

CHAIRMAN

