

AGENDA

Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference

Date: **Friday 20 March 2015**

Time: **2.00 pm**

Place: **Shire Hall, St Peter's Square, Hereford HR1 2HX**

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

For any further information please contact:

David Penrose, Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 01432 383690

Email: dpenrose@herefordshire.gov.uk

If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format, please call David Penrose, Democratic Services Officer on 01432 383690 or e-mail dpenrose@herefordshire.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

Agenda for the Meeting of the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference

Membership

Chairman

Councillor J Stone

Councillor CNH Attwood
Councillor EMK Chave

Local Authority
Local Authority

Mrs. C. Ault
Mrs L Barker
Mrs S Bryant
Venerable Tsuiltrim Tenzin Choesang
Mrs A. Daniel
Miss E James
Mrs G Jutle
Mrs A Nugent
Sr. D. O'Donnell
Mrs M Williams
Ms C Wolfe

Bahai faith
Secondary School Teachers
Church of England
Buddhist
Primary School Teachers
Special School Teachers
Sikh Faith
County Ecumenical Officer, Herefordshire
Roman Catholic Church
The Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat School
Jewish Faith

Non Voting

Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins
Mrs K Mayglothling
Miss A Taylor

Co-opted member
Co-opted Member
Co-opted Member

AGENDA**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. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence.

3. GUIDANCE FOR THE AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

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

4. AGREED SYLLABUS REVIEW

To receive a report on the background work undertaken on the Agreed Syllabus Review and propose areas to be addressed.

Pages

7 - 16

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YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO: -

- Attend all Council, Cabinet, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings unless the business to be transacted would disclose 'confidential' or 'exempt' information.
- Inspect agenda and public reports at least five clear days before the date of the meeting.
- Inspect minutes of the Council and all Committees and Sub-Committees and written statements of decisions taken by the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members for up to six years following a meeting.
- Inspect background papers used in the preparation of public reports for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting. (A list of the background papers to a report is given at the end of each report). A background paper is a document on which the officer has relied in writing the report and which otherwise is not available to the public.
- Access to a public Register stating the names, addresses and wards of all Councillors with details of the membership of Cabinet and of all Committees and Sub-Committees.
- Have a reasonable number of copies of agenda and reports (relating to items to be considered in public) made available to the public attending meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees.
- Have access to a list specifying those powers on which the Council have delegated decision making to their officers identifying the officers concerned by title.
- Copy any of the documents mentioned above to which you have a right of access, subject to a reasonable charge (20p per sheet subject to a maximum of £5.00 per agenda plus a nominal fee of £1.50 for postage). Agenda can be found at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/meetings
- Please note that filming, photography and recording of meetings is permitted provided that it does not disrupt the business of the meeting.
- The reporting of meetings is subject to the law and it is the responsibility of those doing the reporting to ensure that they comply.
- Access to this summary of your rights as members of the public to attend meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees and to inspect and copy documents.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

SHIRE HALL, ST PETER'S SQUARE, HEREFORD, HR1 2HX.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

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Please do not allow any items of clothing, etc. to obstruct any of the exits.

Do not delay your vacation of the building by stopping or returning to collect coats or other personal belongings.



MEETING:	HEREFORDSHIRE AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE
MEETING DATE:	20 MARCH 2015

TITLE OF REPORT:	GUIDANCE FOR THE AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE
REPORT BY:	RE Consultant – RE Today

1. Classification

Open

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To inform the Conference of a number of issues relating to the role of an Agreed Syllabus Conference and agree the formulation of an Agreed Religious Education Syllabus

3. Recommendation (s)

THAT:

- (a) the report be noted;
- (b) the key principles and timetable for the Review, set out in Appendix 2, be adopted and recommended to the Local Authority.
- (c) In principle, the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education be recommended to the Local Authority for implementation in September 2015

4. Alternative options

- 4.1 There are no alternative options, as an Agreed Syllabus Review must take place every five years.

5. Reasons for recommendations

In accordance with Section 35, Schedule 31 of the Education Act 1996 the Local Education Authority (LEA) is obliged to establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference to produce and recommend to the LEA an agreed Religious Education Syllabus for Herefordshire.

6. Key considerations

- 6.1 At the meeting of the Herefordshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held on 21 November 2014, it was noted that Herefordshire Schools were using the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus introduced in September 2011. It is a requirement that the Syllabus be reviewed every 5 years. Therefore the current syllabus should be reviewed and agreed for implementation by September 2016. SACRE agreed to recommend that the Local Education Authority re-establish the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus Conference, and bring forward the Implementation of the Agreed Syllabus to September 2015.
- 6.2 The Local Education Authority (LEA) is obliged to establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference to produce and recommend to the LEA an agreed Religious Education Syllabus for Herefordshire. In 2009 the Department for Education produced a consultation document "Religious education in English Schools: Non-statutory guidance 2009". An extract from the 2009 draft guidance is attached at appendix 1. Any question to be decided by conference, the representative committees, as outlined in Appendix 1 paragraph 5.4.2, shall each have a single vote. Only an Agreed Syllabus Conference may recommend an agreed syllabus and its recommendation must be unanimously agreed by the committees constituting the conference.
- 6.3 To ensure that the review meets the agreed Syllabus implementation date of September 2015, the Consultant for Religious Education has compiled a draft outline and timetable for consideration (Appendix 2).

7. Equality and human rights

- 7.1 In fulfilling its responsibilities the Conference must have regard to the general public sector equality duty placed on public authorities as set out below:

"A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct ... prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it."

8 Legal implications

- 8.1 In accordance with Section 35, Schedule 31 of the Education Act 1996 the Local Education Authority (LEA) is obliged to establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference to produce and recommend to the LEA an agreed Religious Education Syllabus for Herefordshire.

9 Financial implications

- 9.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

10 Appendices

Appendix 1 - Extract from department for children, Schools and Families Religious education in English schools: Non-statutory Guidance 2009

Appendix 2 – Draft outline and timetable

Appendix 3 - SACRE Primary and Secondary Schools Conference leaflet

11 Background Papers

- None identified.

Extract from DCSF Religious education in English schools: Non-statutory Guidance 2009

5.4 Agreed Syllabus Conferences

5.4.1 Role and working of Agreed Syllabus Conferences

Every LA is required to establish and support an occasional body called an Agreed Syllabus

Conference (ASC). Its role is to produce and recommend an agreed syllabus for RE which meets legal requirements and is educationally sound, and then review it every five years. An ASC can specify what must be taught through the locally agreed syllabus but it may not require schools to allocate particular time to RE in the curriculum. The guidance offered by the Framework provides a national benchmark for an ASC when revising its syllabus.

An ASC and any sub-committee it may appoint must meet in public, subject to exceptions in relation to confidentiality. Each of the four committees of a conference must cast its single vote in favour of a recommendation that an agreed syllabus be adopted by the LA before the LA can adopt that syllabus. Any sub-committee of an ASC must include at least one member of each of its constituent committees.

5.4.2 Membership of an ASC

An ASC is required to be made up of four committees representing respectively:

- A Christian denominations and other religions and religious denominations
- B The Church of England
- C Teacher associations
- D The local authority

There is no provision for an ASC to include co-opted members, but this does not mean that advice cannot be sought beyond its membership. Some individuals might be invited to attend all meetings of the conference, and of committees of the conference, in order for their advice to be available to members of the ASC. For an ASC to work effectively and produce a syllabus, it is important that its membership is as inclusive as the law allows.

5.4.3 Nature of an agreed syllabus

The local agreed syllabus must meet statutory requirements and reflect breadth and balance in RE, particularly in taking into account local characteristics and circumstances. To ensure the effective promotion of high quality RE for pupils, it is recommended that an agreed syllabus should:

- provide a clear structure which users find easy to follow and which highlights the contribution of RE to the curriculum;
- ensure that learning in RE has both continuity and progression;
- have clear statements about expected standards and assessment arrangements;
- provide clear guidance about the process of learning which should underpin effective planning of pupils' learning in RE;
- provide appropriate levels of challenge for pupils of differing ages and abilities; these should be progressive and demanding but realistic; and
- reflect curriculum developments nationally (such as the aims of the curriculum, the use of key concepts and ideas, the personal, learning and thinking skills) to ensure RE is part of a coherent curriculum for all pupils.

The Framework is the basis for the illustrative non-statutory programmes for RE set out by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) alongside the National Curriculum. Both the Framework and the programmes of study, provide guidance on designing a RE curriculum for agreed syllabuses and for programmes of RE in schools with a religious character. To ensure a consistent entitlement to breadth and richness in RE for all pupils, and adherence to a coherent national set of standards, it is recommended that ASCs should use the illustrative programmes of study published by the QCA, as the basis for their development of the local syllabus. The ASC can interpret those programmes of study in the light of local circumstances, and to select appropriate content and construct learning experiences.

Syllabuses should enable schools to develop a balanced and inclusive approach to the organising of concepts, content, understanding, skills and attitudes.



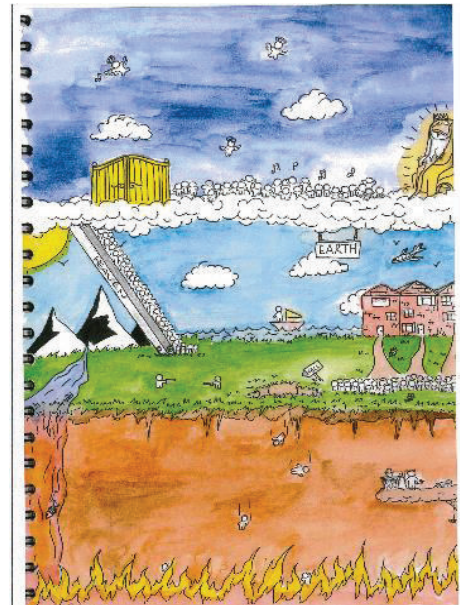
**Tuesday
2nd June
2015**

A balance of practical ideas and inspiration

**Primary RE
Conference**

*Planning great RE
Achieving more in RE
Spiritual development
Developing questioning
Making progress in RE*

***Introducing the new
Herefordshire Agreed
Syllabus 2015***



Venue:

**Whitecross High School
Hereford **HR4 0RN****

**Fee
£95**

**Or £160 for two teachers from the
same school**

Introducing the new Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus

Making the most of RE: better teaching, better learning

Tuesday 2nd June 2015

9.30am-3.30pm

(Registration and refreshments from 9.00am)

This one-day conference will introduce teachers to the new Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus. It will focus on practical classroom ideas and strategies, enabling teachers to get to grips with the new syllabus and how to apply it in their schools.

8.45 Registration and refreshments

9.30-11.00 Planning great RE using the new syllabus

This session will consider the place and value of RE for pupils, highlighting the developments and opportunities in the new syllabus. It will demonstrate how to use the syllabus to plan and teach engaging, thoughtful RE

Break - refreshments

11.30-1.00 Excellent teaching and learning

This session will offer at least six high quality teaching and learning ideas, based on the syllabus, to deepen pupils' understanding and skills, and promote spiritual development.

Lunch

2.00-3.30 Achieving more in RE

This session will look at methods of assessment and provide examples of ways to enable pupils to make good progress in RE.

On the day, you will receive a hard copy and a CD-ROM of the syllabus, plus exemplar schemes of work. Copies of all resources used on the day will be available to take away, and electronic copies available to download afterwards. A wide range of resources will be available to purchase or order on the day.

Who is it for?

The conference is aimed at teachers of RE from primary schools, including subject leaders, HLTAs and head teachers. It will also be valuable for governors to find out about the new syllabus and explore best practice in RE.

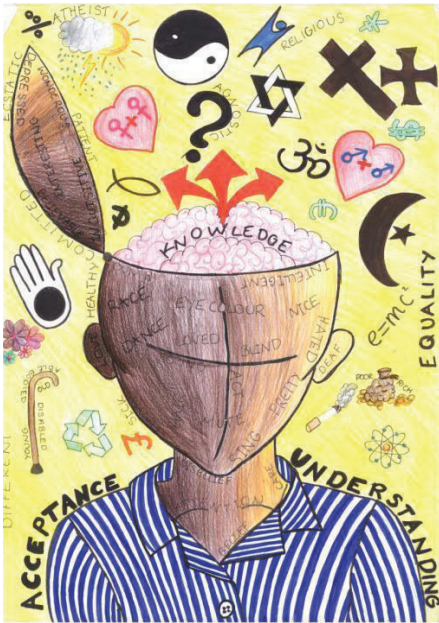
Aims

- To introduce the new Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE, with its increased flexibility and extra support for planning RE
- To provide practical strategies, guidance and resources for teachers and subject leaders in planning creative, challenging, thoughtful RE to promote the personal development of pupils
- To inspire teachers and help them to develop their confidence in planning and delivering RE, whether in the context of cross-curriculum themes, RE days or discrete RE lessons.
- To model examples of thoughtful RE, challenging all pupils and promoting deeper thinking

Fee:

£95 or £160 for two teachers from the same school, including refreshments, lunch and resources
(Contact mark@retoday.org.uk for deals for three teachers or more from the same school)

Booking details attached. Please send to mark@retoday.org.uk or post to RE Today Services, 1020 Bristol Road, Birmingham, B29 6LB



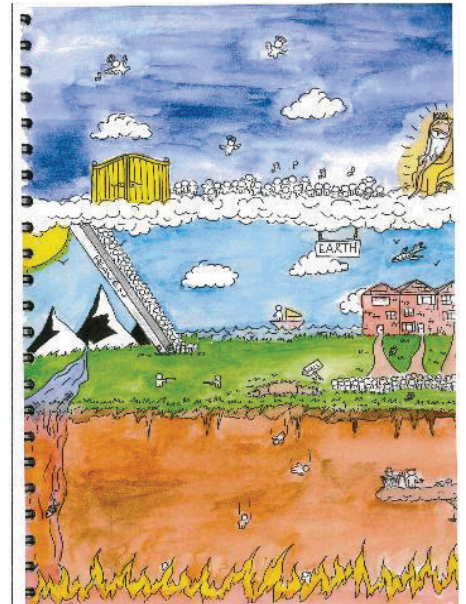
Monday
**15th June
2015**

A balance of practical ideas and inspiration

Secondary RE Conference

*Planning great RE
Achieving more in RE
Spiritual development
Developing questioning
and deeper thinking
Making progress in RE*

Introducing the new Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus 2015



Venue:

**Whitecross High School
HR4 0RN**

**Fee
£95**

**Or £160 for two teachers from the
same school**



Introducing the new Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus ***Making the most of RE: better teaching, better learning***

Monday 15th June 2015

9.30am-3.30pm

(Registration and refreshments from 8.45am)

This one-day conference will introduce teachers to the new Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus. It will focus on practical classroom ideas and strategies, enabling teachers to get to grips with the new syllabus and how to apply it in their schools.

8.45 Registration and refreshments

9.30-11.00 Making the most of RE: using the new syllabus

This session will consider the place and value of RE for pupils, highlighting the developments and opportunities in the new syllabus. It will show ways of using the syllabus to plan and teach engaging, thoughtful, challenging RE

Break – refreshments

11.30-1.00 Excellent teaching and learning

This session will offer at least six high quality teaching and learning ideas, based on the syllabus, to deepen pupils' understanding and skills, and promote spiritual development.

Lunch

2.00-3.30 Achieving more in RE

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On the day, you will receive a hard copy and a CD-ROM of the syllabus, plus exemplar schemes of work. Copies of all resources used on the day will be available to take away, and electronic copies available to download afterwards.

A wide range of resources from RE Today Services will be available to purchase or order on the day.

Aims

- To introduce the new Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE, with its increased flexibility and extra support for planning RE
- To provide practical strategies, guidance and resources for teachers and subject leaders in planning creative, challenging, engaging RE to promote the personal development of pupils
- To model examples of thoughtful RE, challenging all pupils and promoting deeper thinking
- To explore ways of promoting and assessing progress in RE

Fee:

£95 or £160 for two teachers from the same school, including refreshments, lunch and resources (Contact mark@retoday.org.uk for deals for three teachers or more from the same school!)

Booking details attached. Please send to mark@retoday.org.uk or post to RE Today Services, 1020 Bristol Road, Birmingham, B29 6LB