

**NEW AGREED SYLLABUS LAUNCH AT SACRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE****Report by: Lead Officer for SACRE****Purpose**

To receive an update on the launch of the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2011-2016 and a report of the SACRE annual conference.

**Report****• Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE 2011-2016**

Each school has received a booklet copy of the Agreed Syllabus that contains programmes of study for all key stages, related guidance and information and sample planning.

A new dedicated site within the Herefordshire Council website has been set up and the Agreed Syllabus is available for teachers to download relevant sections as they require. The site may be found at:

[www.herefordshire.gov.uk/religiouseducation](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/religiouseducation)

The lead officer for SACRE has submitted an article to the Council's Communications Team for the weekly electronic information update to schools, *Schoolsonline*. The article reminds schools of statutory requirements with regard to their provision of RE, the Agreed Syllabus booklet they have been given and how to access the Agreed Syllabus from the website.

**• SACRE Annual conference 2011**

The conference took place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June at Queen Elizabeth Humanities College. The change of date from the 8<sup>th</sup> June accommodated a rescheduled meeting between the People's Directorate leadership team for children's services and head teachers.

58 teachers or head teachers attended. Registration was slow initially with a sudden rush in demand in the last few days. The continuing professional development (CPD) manager was helpful in permitting the conference to be offered at a reduced fee and to go forward with insufficient delegates by the normal deadline.

Conference evaluations are very positive.

- Teachers commented especially on their appreciation of the practical ideas for planning and delivery of the Agreed Syllabus in lessons and that they felt inspired by the many creative ideas to make lessons engaging for pupils.
- The summer date seemed popular; primary school colleagues liked it after the test period. Teachers also seemed to like the event in the summer when they are reviewing their planning for the next school year.
- Teachers were delighted with the opening meditation and there was a lot of interest to know more.
- Teachers liked the Queen Elizabeth school venue.

There are common threads to teachers' stated follow up intentions.

- To study the revisions in the new Agreed Syllabus.
- To use the model planning to update school planning.
- To access the documents on the website.
- To lead staff and governor update training.
- To encourage colleagues in school to use more creative approaches in lessons.
- To focus on questioning techniques.

Teachers identified some aspects where they would welcome help.

- A list of representatives of different faiths who would come into school.
- Opportunities to collaborate on planning units of work.
- More ideas for teaching Early Years children.
- Help with assessment at P-Level.
- Help with moderating work at secondary level.
- A website where they could share ideas.

### **Recommendations**

- That SACRE continues to hold a school based conference in mid June.
- That SACRE agrees that the next conference and / or other training events respond to the requests for support from schools identified in the conference evaluations.
- That SACRE considers how to publicise and maximise the impact of successful training events such as the conference and of good practice in schools, for example, through a newsletter.
- That SACRE considers how it can monitor RE provision and the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus.