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| MEETING: | STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) |
| MEETING DATE: | 21 November 2014 |
| TITLE OF REPORT: | AGREED SYLLABUS REVIEW |
| REPORT BY: | RE Consultant – RE Today |

Classification

Open

Purpose

To consider the review of the RE Agreed Syllabus.

Recommendation

THAT:

- a) the report be noted; and;
- b) an option for a Review of the RE Agreed Syllabus Review be recommended to the Cabinet Member (Young People and Children's Wellbeing).

Reasons for Recommendations

- 1 To enable SACRE to comment and make comments on the attached options and recommend a way forward to the Cabinet Member (Young People and Children's Wellbeing).

Alternative Options

- 2 There are no alternative options as this is a statutory requirement for SACRE.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 3 SACRE must consider reviewing its RE Agreed Syllabus after five years. An Agreed Syllabus Conference can be set up to conduct the review. An agreed syllabus must *'reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.'*

Education Act (1996 Section 375 (3)) / School Standards and Framework Act (1998, Schedule 19, para.5.

Key Considerations

- 4 The development of a clear, well-structured agreed syllabus is probably the single most important function of SACRE. Combined with on-going implementation training and resources, a new syllabus offers the possibility of raising achievement in RE in all local schools.
- 5 The RE Council (REC) Review of RE produced the National Curriculum Framework for RE (NCFRE) in October 2013, to run in parallel with National Curriculum changes. The links will enable RE programmes of study to be easily understood and implemented alongside the new orders for National Curriculum subjects such as Science or History. To this end, the NCFRE should be taken into account when revising the agreed syllabus, as well as building on what is good in the current Herefordshire agreed syllabus.

Community Impact

- 6 RE is a crucial contributor to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. It also makes a significant contribution to social cohesion within and outside school. The Department for Education and Ofsted have both highlighted the importance of promoting understanding and tolerance of, and respect for, different religious traditions. RE is the key opportunity for this in schools. The involvement of faith communities on SACRE also demonstrates good community relations

Financial Implications

- 7 The cost of the options is included in the Appendix.

Legal Implications

- 8 SACREs must, every five years, review an agreed syllabus for the area. The Agreed Syllabus outlines the statutory requirements for schools in Herefordshire. It is a unique document as RE is the only subject where the local community determines the curriculum.
- 9 Local Authorities are required to provide a clear structure which highlights the contribution of RE, particularly taking into account local circumstances and characteristics. They must also ensure that there is continuity and progression, a clear statement about expected standards and appropriate pedagogy and levels of challenge for pupils of different ages and abilities. The syllabus must reflect curriculum developments to ensure RE is part of a coherent curriculum for all its pupils.

Risk Management

- 10 Failure to devise and publish a suitable Agreed Syllabus for RE would leave the Council in breach of its statutory obligation. Failure to devise an Agreed Syllabus that builds on the latest national guidance also risks limiting the achievement of Herefordshire pupils in RE.

Consultees

11 All members of SACRE.

Appendices

Appendix 1- Agreed Syllabus Options

Background Papers

None identified.