

## CABINET

7 March 2023

### SACRE AND THE AGREED SYLLABUS 2023-28

#### Report of the Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services

Strategic Aim:	All	
Key Decision: Yes	Forward Plan Reference: FP/220722	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Councillor David Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services	
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Ward Councillors	All	

#### DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2023 - 2028

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The locally agreed syllabus is a statutory syllabus of RE prepared under Schedule 31 to the Education Act 1996 and adopted by the LA under that schedule.
- 1.2. Section 375 and schedule 31 of the Education act 1996 requires the establishment of an Agreed Syllabus Conference to oversee the Syllabus review. Members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference comprises of the members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) which includes representatives of local faith groups, teacher representatives and elected Members. The agreed syllabus has to be reviewed within five years of the previous syllabus, which was from 2018 to 2023.

#### 2. BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 Rutland SACRE agreed to work on the agreed syllabus alongside Cambridgeshire and Peterborough SACRE's as they had done in the current agreed syllabus 2018-23, as this approach was the most effective as combining people from different faiths and

expertise. When the review began, with teachers and representatives of the faith groups were fully involved in its composition. Since the last syllabus was launched in May 2018 there have been developments in RE from both the academic world and Ofsted. The Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) reviewed the research and recommendations from the Religious Education Council and Ofsted about taking a 'Worldviews Approach' and a more academic approach to RE and added these recommendations to the new syllabus. The ASC also updated the primary assessment criteria, moving away from using targets to assess pupils to pupils showing progression through Key stage 1 to the end of Key Stage 2. A review of the previous syllabus showed that teachers would like more resources, so the ASC agreed to add some units of work for Key Stages 1 and 2, with lists of suitable units for Key Stages 1,2 and 3. The final draft report was agreed by the agreed syllabus conference on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

- 2.2 Subject to the agreement, the new Syllabus will be formally launched on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and will become effective from 1 September. Further events to support the introduction of the Syllabus in schools will take place during the academic years 2023-2025 for all schools in Rutland.
- 2.3 SACRE will monitor and support the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus over the next 5 years.

### **3. CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 All the religious groups in the area are represented on SACRE and the Agreed Syllabus Conference. Representatives of all the groups have been formally consulted and have contributed to the new Syllabus. Schools are represented on SACRE and the Agreed Syllabus Conference. Schools were invited to send participants to contribute to working groups.
- 3.2 Rutland County Councillors are appointed to SACRE and were part of the agreed syllabus conference.

### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Under the 1996 Education act schedule 31 every local authority must have a Locally Agreed Syllabus that is broadly Christian in nature and reflects the religious and non-religious makeup of the local community. This must be reviewed every 5 years through an agreed syllabus conference.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The cost of publishing and circulating the revised Syllabus will be met from the existing budget across the three counties. In addition, there will be costs in respect of launching the Syllabus into schools and supporting schools with the implementation of the Syllabus. These costs will also be met through existing budgets. The total cost for the Agreed Syllabus preparation is £20,888 for all three LAs including the cost of the launch which will reduce this cost. Rutland's share of this is 6% based on the number of schools compared to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

## **6. LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 Section 375 and Schedule 31 of the Education Act 1996 requires a Local Authority to review its Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education every five years. For this purpose, the Local Authority is required to establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference which reviews the Syllabus and formally recommends a revised Syllabus to the Local Authority for adoption.

## **7. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed as there are no significant risks/issues to the rights and freedoms of natural persons.

## **8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening has been completed and there are no issues arising.

## **9. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no community safety implications.

## **10. HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications.

## **11. CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 11.1 Each local Authority's Agreed Syllabus must be revised every five years. As Rutland 's Agreed Syllabus was last reviewed in 2018, it was a statutory requirement for an Agreed Syllabus Conference to be formed to undertake its revision. Rutland is in a tri county agreement with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and one adviser works across all three Local Authorities.

## **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12.1 There are no background papers.

## **13. APPENDICES**

- 13.1 Appendix A – The Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2023-28

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.