

## Review of Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education Background and statutory requirements<sup>1</sup>

The Education Reform Act (1988) established compulsory Standing Advisory Councils (SACREs) on Religious Education (RE). The main function of a SACRE is to advise the LA on matters connected with Religious Education (RE) and collective worship. SACREs also oversee the five-yearly revision of the Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) for RE. The 1993 Education Act requires that every LA institutes a review of the LAS within five years of the last review, and subsequently every five years after the completion of each further review. For the purpose of preparing a LAS the LA must convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). Its role is to produce and recommend a LAS for RE which meets fully the requirements of the 1988 Education Act and is educationally sound. **Only an ASC may recommend a LAS** and its recommendation must be unanimously agreed by the committees constituting the conference. The ASC can consist of **all** SACRE members (which means a separate meeting could be convened<sup>1</sup> after each SACRE meeting + additional meetings set up if necessary) or a separate group which meets independently and reports back to the full SACRE.

### The Lincolnshire context

The present syllabus runs from 2018-23. It is not anticipated that a detailed re-write is required but this needs to be discussed with the ASC (see above). In addition, many changes have taken place since the present syllabus was produced. These changes include:

1. Approaches towards RE, e.g. Religion and Worldviews in the Classroom<sup>2</sup> and numerous other reports.
2. A new Ofsted Framework, with an emphasis on the curriculum, especially in non-core subjects, including RE.<sup>3</sup>
3. The most recent Ofsted Research Review into RE (2021)<sup>4</sup>
4. Updates to key stage 4
5. A new Framework for EYFS.<sup>5</sup>

### Timescales

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[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/281929/Collective\\_worship\\_in\\_schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/281929/Collective_worship_in_schools.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/draft-handbook-for-the-religion-and-worldviews-in-the-classroom/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-handbook-eif/school-inspection-handbook>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-religious-education/research-review-series-religious-education>

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[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/974907/EYFS\\_framework\\_-\\_March\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974907/EYFS_framework_-_March_2021.pdf)

The process for the review needs to be agreed at the autumn meeting (2022) of Lincolnshire SACRE. This should enable us to have the new syllabus in place by summer 2023. A questionnaire has been sent out to schools to provide us with an idea of the changes teachers might like to see. Outcomes will be shared with SACRE.

### **Funding**

The bulk of the work will be done by Gillian Georgiou (Diocese) and Wendy Harrison (LA). Any work with teachers will hopefully be able to take place via Zoom/Teams outside of school time. Online training on the changes to the LAS would be provided by Gill and Wendy, reducing costs further. There are no plans to produce hard copies of the new document – all schools will be sent an electronic version.

### **Next steps**

At the SACRE meeting on 22nd November, in line with guidance set out in Circular 1/94, SACRE must recommend how it wants to move forward. This recommendation will then be passed on to the LA.

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