



**NOTES OF THE AGREED
SYLLABUS CONFERENCE
10 JANUARY 2024**

PRESENT:

Christian Denominations and Other Religious Denominations (Committee A)

Chris Burke (Roman Catholic Church), Dr Amanda Grant (Jewish Community), Andrew Hornsby (Methodist Church), Claire Simons (Salvation Army),

The Church of England (Committee B)

Cherry Edwards OBE, Lynsey Norris and Mark Plater

Associations Representing Teachers (Committee C)

Chris Thompson (NEU) and Elizabeth Moore (NAHT)

The Local Authority (Committee D)

Councillor Mrs Jacqueline Brockway

Officer/Advisers

Jill Chandar-Nair (Inclusion and Attendance Manager – Children’s Education) Gillian Georgiou (Diocesan RE Adviser) and Emily Wilcox (Democratic Services Officer)

The meeting began at 10:05am

1. Apologies for Absence/Declarations of Interest.

Apologies for absence had been received from Jennifer King and Sian Wade.

2. Notes of the last meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference on 7 December 2023

The notes of last meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference on 7 December 2023 the were noted.

3. Proposal for the new Religious Education Agreed Syllabus for Lincolnshire.

The Conference considered a report by the Inclusion and Attendance Manager, which presented a proposal for the development of the next Religious Education Agreed Syllabus for Lincolnshire.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference was required to review the agreed syllabus every five years and the current Lincolnshire syllabus was due to be reviewed.

Since the launch of the current syllabus, there had been significant changes which needed to be reflected in the new agreed syllabus, which included:

- A new Ofsted Framework (20198) with an emphasis on the curriculum, including RE.
- The most recent Ofsted Research Review into RE (2021)
- New thinking in RE, e.g. a move towards a Worldviews approach, an emphasis upon knowledge (substantive and disciplinary), Big ideas etc
- A new framework for Early Years Foundation Stage

It was proposed that members approve the development of the Agreed Syllabus for Lincolnshire through adaptation of a syllabus currently being developed by Wendy Harrison (RE Adviser). This option had been discussed with the RE Adviser who had shared a brief outline of the final proposed content. The local authority was confident that the syllabus produced would be in line with the legislation of Section 375 of the Education Act 1996, representative of the new approach outlined in the Ofsted Research Review, bespoke for Lincolnshire and ready to launch according to timescales.

Assurance was provided that should the recommendation be approved, the services of Wendy Harrison could and would be secured in a way that was compliant with the Council's constitution and legal obligations and within the budget available for the Conference's work.

Other options that could be considered for the writing of the new syllabus were included:

- Purchasing a syllabus from a national organisation such as RE Today
- Purchasing a syllabus from another authority
- Commissioning support for the process from someone other than Wendy Harrison

Members considered the report and other options available and unanimously supported the recommendation for the development of the next Agreed Syllabus for Lincolnshire through adaptation of a syllabus currently being developed by Wendy Harrison, with support from Wendy Harrison for the work of the Conference. During the discussion the following points were recorded:

- The importance of ensuring that the next syllabus was bespoke to Lincolnshire was emphasised. This was not considered possible through the purchasing of a syllabus through a national organisation or another authority.

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- Members stressed the need to ensure that other expertise were used to support Wendy Harrison in the writing of the syllabus, such as the Diocesan RE Advisor and Schools. It was considered important to utilise all knowledge and expertise and ensure that Wendy Harrison was not working in silo.
- Members were assured that the writing of the syllabus would be in conjunction with other relevant individuals and groups and would be open and transparent. Meetings of the Agreed Syllabus Conference would be convened to allow consideration of the syllabus during its development. Sub-groups were also permitted if it was felt appropriate.
- Members welcomed the move towards a Worldviews approach with an emphasis upon knowledge and the inclusion of lived experience.
- The Diocesan RE Adviser referred to the publication of the National Content Standard for Religious Education for England, which had been published in 2023, and the use of this as a benchmark syllabus for providers and other bodies to evaluate their work.
- Members voted to thank David Coleman, Chief Legal Officer for his work in supporting and advising the Conference.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendation that Wendy Harrison (RE Advisor) develop the next Agreed Syllabus for Lincolnshire, through adaptation of a syllabus currently being developed by Wendy Harrison, be supported;
2. That thanks be recorded for David Coleman, Chief Legal Officer for his work in supporting and advising the Conference.

The meeting closed at 10:51 am

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