

Agreed Syllabus Conference – Meeting held on Monday, 18th June, 2012.

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Zara Choudhary (Islam), Hardip Singh Sohal (Sikhism)

Committee 2 – Church of England

Jo Fageant, Christine Isles

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Lynda Bussley (National Union of Teachers) (Chair)

Committee 4 – Representatives of the Local Authority

Councillors Bains, Brooker, M S Mann and Wright

Also in attendance

Maggie Stacey (LA support), Ashpreet Singh (observer)

Apologies for Absence:- None

PART 1

7. Minutes of the last meeting held on 8th February, 2012

Resolved - That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved.

8. Presentation on the final draft of the revised RE syllabus

The Chair, Lynda Bussley, invited Jo Fageant, Chair of the Slough SACRE to present the final draft of the revised syllabus for Religious Education for Slough schools. The full draft document was presented to all members shortly before the meeting and this document was referred to during the presentation.

Meetings between teachers, faith groups and other interested parties had taken place to improve the document. A successful meeting for members of Christian Denominations and Other Faiths (Committee A) had been held on March 19th. This meeting had allowed this group to make contributions to the draft, such as to amend the key faith concepts, and members who attended this meeting were thanked for the contribution. Members of all faith groups, including those from the Slough SACRE had also contributed to support materials for teachers, which were available on the internet.

Key areas of the syllabus were outlined. These included the non-compulsory methods for planning lessons, the continued use of an eight level scale for attainment descriptors and the foundation stage section, much of which had remained the same as the previous syllabus. It was emphasised that the theme and intention of the guiding questions for the syllabus was for pupils to “learn about religion” and “learn from religion”. Also outlined was the higher key stages, including the provision for 16-19, which set a basic minimum of

Agreed Syllabus Conference - 18.06.12

six hours a year of teaching of the subject and the appendices of the syllabus which outlined compulsory questions and what would be expected that children would learn and achieve in their studies.

It was noted that no teaching staff from Slough schools had contributed to the pedagogic side of the syllabus review. Consultants working with Reading Borough Council and Wokingham Borough Council had worked on the design of the final document.

The Chair thanked Jo Fageant for presenting the syllabus and it was proposed that the approval of the syllabus be put to a vote.

Resolved - That the presentation of the final draft of the revised syllabus for religious education be noted and that the syllabus be put to a vote for approval.

9. Vote to decide whether to accept the revised syllabus

The Chair proposed that the agreed syllabus be put to a vote. All Committees that made up the Agreed Syllabus Conference agreed to approve the syllabus and to recommend to Cabinet that the syllabus be formally approved for introduction into Slough's schools from 1st September, 2012.

Recommendation - That Cabinet be asked to formally approve the revised Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education for introduction into Slough's schools from 1st September, 2012.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 5.15 pm and closed at 6.04 pm)