

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION		
DATE OF DECISION:	19 OCTOBER 2016		
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None.			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
<p>Southampton SACRE convened an Agreed Syllabus Conference in Summer 2015 to begin the process of revising the Locally Agreed Syllabus that had been in place since 2011. This has been carried out successfully and on 19th September the SACRE met and approved the new syllabus "Living Difference III" subject 2016 advice from Legal Services. Therefore the SACRE recommend the Council should require its use in all maintained Southampton Schools (with Voluntary Aided schools being the exception). SACRE members, Council officers and teachers worked together with colleagues from Hampshire, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight to undertake the review as the syllabus is shared by all.</p>			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	To accept the revised Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and require its use in all Southampton maintained schools, except those who are Voluntary Aided, from January 2017. This is as a result of the approval of the syllabus by Southampton SACRE on 19/9/2016 who recommend it to the Local Authority.	
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
1.	Southampton SACRE have ensured that the syllabus has been revised in accordance with the statutory responsibility that they must require the LA to revise it every 5 years, or more regularly if required.		
2.	SACRE members, Council officers and teachers have revised the syllabus over the past year following consultation with schools in conjunction with colleagues from Hampshire, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight.		
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED			
3.	As the syllabus was approved and is recommended to the Council for use in all maintained schools in Southampton that are not Voluntary Aided, no other options need to be considered.		
4.	If it was not approved, Southampton SACRE would have needed to develop		

	another syllabus or adopt a different syllabus from another SACRE. It was decided that the syllabus was effective and therefore to review the existing syllabus given its basis in academic theory.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
5.	<p>Consultation carried out comprised the following:</p> <p>June 2015 – city wide schools consultation proposing areas of review and improvement.</p> <p>July 2015 – Review Group established across all partners</p> <p>September 2015 - May 2016 – four writing days to review and rewrite</p> <p>April - June 2016 – selected schools consulted on draft changes</p> <p>July 2016 – Review Group agrees the final revisions</p> <p>August – September 2016 document prepared for publishing</p> <p>September 19th Southampton Agreed Syllabus Conference recommends the new syllabus “Living Difference III” to the Council for use in all maintained schools (with the exception of Voluntary Aided schools).</p>
6.	<p>Key changes have taken into account the recommendation from the High Court Ruling R (Fox) v Secretary of State for Education [2015]: to ensure that the Locally Agreed Syllabus includes Key Stage 4 coverage of non-religious world views where there may not be covered within GCSE Religious Studies syllabi. It has also reviewed how Religious Education can be assessed by considering the skills of enquiry that should be demonstrated in line with current wider educational practice. This ensures that school will be able to assess progress within the skills of enquiry more in line with other national curriculum subjects</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
7.	<p>Resource implications are that:</p> <p>Costs had already been allocated within existing budgets for the launch and training. There is currently no cost for the immediate solution for a web presence. However the area within the site will be hosted on “Young Southampton” is under review and therefore this may not be a long term solution depending upon the outcomes of this review within digital transformation.</p>
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
8.	<p>Southampton SACRE has an existing budget allocation to launch the syllabus and offer four training sessions for teachers to ensure it is implemented effectively in all schools. Working in conjunction with other Council’s and SACREs has enabled savings in the number of days required to revise the syllabus as the work has been shared between those involved in the review.</p>
9.	<p>Southampton SACRE is currently exploring costs with officers in the School Improvement team fund the development of a website/space to host the syllabus for promotion to schools, ease of access for teachers and to host the resources that support the delivery of the syllabus. This web presence is important as Southampton SACRE does not have budget to produce hard copies of the syllabus for all schools, as had been the case for the 2004 and 2011 syllabi.</p>

<u>Property/Other</u>	
10.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
11.	<p>The responsibilities of the SACRE include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to provide advice to the Local Authority's on all aspects of its provision for Religious Education in its schools (this does not include Voluntary Aided Schools) to decide when the Local Authority's Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education needs reviewing, to require the Local Authority's does so every 5 years by convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC), and require the use of the agreed syllabus in its schools to advise on matters relating to training for teachers in Religious Education and Collective Worship.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
12.	<p>The review of the syllabus has taken into account and fully included the High court Ruling, November 2015, R (Fox) v Secretary of State for Education [2015]: https://www.judiciary.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/r-fox-v-ssfe.pdf</p> <p><i>'the state has a duty to take care that information or knowledge included in the curriculum is conveyed in a pluralistic manner... the state must accord equal respect to different religious convictions, and to non-religious beliefs; it is not entitled to discriminate between religions and beliefs on a qualitative basis; its duties must be performed from a standpoint of neutrality and impartiality as regards the quality and validity of parents' convictions.'</i> (Paragraph 39)</p>
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
13.	None
KEY DECISION	Yes
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Living Difference III – available after 6 th October 2016
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and	No

Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.		
Privacy Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be carried out.		No
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)	
1.	None	