

COUNCIL, 16 SEPTEMBER 2015

REPORT OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

SUBJECT: HAVERING & REDBRIDGE JOINT AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS & MORAL EDUCATION

SACREs were set up to ensure that religious and moral education was promoted and maintained throughout the nation's education system through both the Primary and Secondary phases.

SACREs are statutory bodies independent of local authorities, but local authorities, because they are also education authorities, form an integral part of each one. The principal role for SACRE is to set the RE syllabus, monitor its use and review and revise every five years (if it considers it appropriate to do so). Council has the right to review and comment on the syllabus but may not amend it in any way.

The current RE Syllabus "*Pathways*" was set in 2007 and was in place from September 2008. In 2012/13, SACRE considered that it might be time to revise what had been seen by many to have been a ground-breaking and successful syllabus and to bring it up-to-date and in line with the changing dynamics of the early 21st Century.

Once again, Havering's SACRE took an innovative approach and when it was proposed to pool resources with its neighbour in Redbridge, the decision to do so was unanimous. The venture, which was initiated in 2014, came to fruition on the 29th June when, in a joint meeting of both SACREs, the new, Joint Agreed Syllabus was formally adopted by both bodies.

The Syllabus is to be launched at a joint event on 25 September and Members are most welcome to attend. Because the launch has yet to take place, a balance had to be reached between showing Council what had been achieved without revealing the details of its content and its delivery. Quite apart from the size of the document (over 150 pages), most of it forms the technical "hand-book" for teachers and now that both SACREs have adopted it, its contents cannot be changed – though SACRE welcomes comment from the Council and would be proud to have the Council endorse the new Syllabus which is the result of many hours of dedicated input by some of the finest minds in educational RE in the country and truly reflects the demography across both boroughs. It uses technology – indeed whereas its predecessor existed as a physical entity which had electronic options, this version is fully available on-line and can be accessed not only locally but across the globe.

SACRE considers that the syllabus (of which the attached is representative) is "state of the art" and will enhance the education of the borough's children from Reception to College and will challenge their perceptions of the world around them at all levels. After the launch the Syllabus will go to all the schools for which both Councils are responsible and be offered to all other schools and academies,

initially in the two boroughs, but then to any educational establishment which would like to access its contents.

SACRE commends this new, Joint Religious Education Syllabus to the Council.

Recommendation:

The Council endorses the Joint Agreed RE Syllabus.

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