

## APPENDIX 2



### **A REQUEST FOR INVESTMENT FOR A REVISED LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND WORLDVIEWS**

*To:* **Jonathan Lewis, Service Director, Education**

*Meeting Date:* **6<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

*From:* **Amanda Fitton, RE Adviser to CCC, PCC and RCC**  
**Julia Ewans, Chair of CCC SACRE**  
**Laura Corcoran Clerk to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Sacre's**

## Background

1. The Local Authority has a duty to establish a permanent body known as the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for Peterborough (SACRE) in accordance with the 1996 Education Act.
2. The broad role of the SACRE is to support the effective provision of Religious Education (RE) and collective worship in schools within the local authority area and to enrich the experience of RE and collective worship for all pupils. The SACRE must comply with its statutory obligations as set out in the Act and shall advise the Local Authority on matters connected with:
  - RE to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus (AS);
  - religious worship in community schools or in foundation schools which do not have a religious character;
  - following a referral from the Local Authority for such advice or otherwise as the SACRE sees fit;
  - monitor the provision and quality of RE taught according to the AS together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus; and
  - provide advice and support on the effective teaching of RE, the choice of teaching materials for RE and the provision of teacher training.
3. RE helps develop an individual's knowledge and understanding of the religions and beliefs which form part of contemporary society. Religious education provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong, and what it means to be human. RE also contributes to pupils' personal development and well-being and to community cohesion by promoting mutual respect and tolerance in a diverse society. RE can also make important contributions to other parts of the school curriculum such as citizenship, personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE education). It offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development, deepening the understanding of the significance of religion in the lives of others – individually, communally and cross-culturally.
4. The Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) is a statutory syllabus of RE prepared under Schedule 31 to the Education Act 1996 and adopted by the LA under that schedule. It must be followed in maintained schools without a designated denomination. Once adopted by the LA, the agreed syllabus sets out what pupils should be taught and can include the expected standards of pupils' performance at different stages. Every LAS must reflect that the religious traditions of Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.
5. Cambridgeshire County Council's LAS was introduced in Sept 2018 in a collaboration of SACRE's between Peterborough City Council (PCC), Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), and Rutland County Council (RCC). It was built in consultation with local schools and local faith and local non-faith groups. It is distributed free-of-charge to all schools which led to all LA schools adopting the syllabus and 80% of academies doing the same. It is expiring in August 2023 and we have a statutory duty to review and update it.

## Reason for resources

6. Since our current one was produced RE has changed significantly, such as the introduction of worldviews and the need for a more academic approach to RE across all key stages. Ofsted are taking a greater interest in RE, with their Review of RE in May 2021, suggesting the need for more academic rigour in RE and a greater reflection of Worldviews for pupils' personal development. This increased interest is reflected with noticeable references to RE in recent Ofsted Reports. With all these changes SACRE is obliged to incorporate them into a new LAS.
7. A worldview is a person's way of understanding, experiencing and responding to the world. It can be described as a philosophy of life or an approach to life. A person's worldview is likely to influence and be influenced by their beliefs, values, behaviours, experiences, identities and commitments. Young people today are growing up in a world where there is increasing awareness of the diversity of religious and non-religious worldviews. Young people will need to live and collaborate well with people with very different worldviews from themselves.
8. SACRE believes that to keep ahead of the required and suggested changes then the LAS needs to be reviewed and revised accordingly.

## Options we considered

9. To meet our obligations, we have considered the following options:
  - a. **Do nothing.** This will lead to being in breach of our statutory duties and consequently being obliged to choose option b or option c.
  - b. **Buy in a new LAS.** RE Today have one. We could buy one from another major county council. We assume they incorporate world views. This has the advantage of speed. It has the disadvantage of not reflecting the population we represent or the priorities our local schools have valued. It will cost a license fee fixed for a five-year period of £18,550 plus VAT. With this system schools or the LA cannot change any aspects of the curriculum.
  - c. **Refresh the existing one.** Local faith groups and schools like it. We have time and so we are not in a rush. It has the advantage of co-production and buy-in. The disadvantage is we need to free up resources to produce the update. It will cost up a production fee of £20,880 and income of £13,500 leading to a net cost of £7,380. See Appendix 1 break down. Changes to the curriculum can be managed locally usually at no cost and at any suitable time.
10. We recommend option c, as it allows for co-productions, flexibility and least net cost.
11. To reduce the financial burden, we have held discussions with PCC and RCC, they would like to join us. By joining us they will share the work and consequently cost. Between the 3 authorities there are 374 schools [see appendix 2 for details]. We will ask them to make a contribution in proportion to the number of schools. This means CCC [73%], PCC [21%], RCC [6%]. NCC has since changed legal status. Consequently, we asked West Northamptonshire County Council (WNC) if they would like to join however, they were not able to commit at this time.
12. To reduce the financial burden further we explored collaborating with other neighbouring local authorities. The result was that we discounted:
  - Norfolk County Council's LAS (published before Worldview details were published), and

- Lincolnshire County Council’s LAS (a partnership with RE today); and
- other neighbouring authorities (Bedford Borough Council, Suffolk County Council) who have significantly different LAS consequently we may not reach consensus in a timely manner.

### **Recommendation and implementation**

13. We recommend CCC pay the full fee of £20,800 and claim back £5,650 from PCC and RCC. Should WNC join the claim back increases. This way we know it gets done and makes it easier to transact. We also recommend we retain that the agreed syllabus is free to all schools to encourage uptake and continuous feedback of the syllabus. The expenditure is as follows:

- 2021/22           £ 2,500
- 2022/23           £ 9,380
- 2023/24           £ 9,000

14. The Local Authority has a duty to establish an occasional body known as an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) to review an Agreed Syllabus in accordance with the Act. This document sets out how the SACRE and the ASC will operate, their membership and composition, the procedures both bodies will follow and their decision-making structures. The aim is to ensure that both SACRE and the ASC operate efficiently, transparently and are fully accountable to the public. The work we would do is to convene an ASC 2023. We are applying the mandated approach to Curriculum development.

15. This group will do the following:

- a. Terms of reference,
- b. Communications plan,
- c. review the existing agreed syllabus, review the recommendations from Ofsted, the RE Council and other official bodies, especially around curriculum content and the new ‘World views’ element of RE.
- d. Work with the adviser and teachers to create updated assessment guidance, curriculum guidance and materials.
- e. Making the agreed syllabus a sophisticated and professional document.
- f. Work on a website that dedicated to the agreed syllabus and associated materials that is shared by all the LA’s.
- g. Organise a professional launch of the agreed syllabus that celebrates the syllabus and supports schools in CPD.

## Appendix 1 – cost breakdown.

The cost will cover:

Cost element	Calculations	Cost	Income
Clerking time and costs – The clerk is needed for every meeting and to administer minutes and correspondence.	10 mts x 3hrs + admin hours x10 = 40hrs @£25ph	£1,000	
Extra adviser time and costs – to attend meetings, Assessment, curriculum mapping and lesson resources.	10 mtgs x 4hrs at £100ph and 6 days working with teachers on curriculum @ £480 per day	£6,880	
Teaching cover – to attend meetings, writing materials and working with teachers and advising on the syllabus.	2 teachers x 6 days @ £250	£3,000	
LAS document styling and website and SACRE member costs		£1,000	
<b>Sub Total</b> <b>The actual cost to the LA's will be shared between three LA's with <u>no launch event</u>.</b>		<b>£11,880</b>	
CPD launch event, guest speakers, workshop and launch.	150 guests x £60	£9,000	
CPD launch event gets schools to adopt and provides immediate training/CPD for teachers.	150 guests x £90		£13,500
<b>Total</b> <b>With a launch event the actual cost can be reduced to £7,380 again shared between 3 LA's.</b>		<b>£20,880</b>	<b>£13,500</b>

## Appendix 2 – schools mix.

LA	LA Schools	Academies	Special Schools	Free Schools	Total (percentage of total)
Cambridgeshire	129	130	11	3	<b>273 (73%)</b>
Peterborough	28	46	6	0	<b>80 (21%)</b>
Rutland	2	18	1	0	<b>21 (6%)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>374 (100%)</b>

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