

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)
Date:	5 November 2019
Title:	Review of Hampshire agreed syllabus Living Difference III 2020-2021
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Patricia Hannam

Tel: 02392 441442

Email: patricia.hannam@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to prepare SACRE for the process entailed in the forthcoming review of Hampshire agreed syllabus, Living Difference III during 2020-2021

Recommendation(s)

2. That SACRE notes the report and agrees to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) before its meeting in March 2020

Executive Summary

3. This report updates and informs SACRE on the requirement to review the locally agreed syllabus every five years and sets out a programme in order to achieve that.

Contextual information

4. It is a legal requirement for an agreed syllabus to be reviewed every five years. Living Difference III was launched in December 2016; therefore, a review is necessary and a reviewed agreed syllabus should be in place by the end of 2021.

5. Living Difference III is an agreed syllabus shared by Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight. A plan for the review is in hand that enables all four authorities to work alongside each other to review and, if necessary, revise together.
6. In addition to SACRE's regular monitoring of the effectiveness of Living Difference III, research is being undertaken into the impact that Living Difference III may have already had in Hampshire schools since its adoption in December 2016. This is being undertaken through an online survey sent to all schools as well as an analysis of attendance at professional development courses and through face to face conversations in forthcoming primary and secondary network meetings. A combined meeting of primary and secondary RE steering groups will take place in January 2020 to discuss the findings and consider whether there are any educational or other theoretical as well practical gaps in the existing syllabus. This will then be presented to the first review meeting of combined SACRE members in June 2020.
7. The first step in this process is for SACRE is to agree to convene the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) with the purpose of agreeing to review Living Difference III, and that this be held before the next SACRE meeting in March 2020.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation).
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- (a) SACRE's core business is to ensure high quality religious education in Hampshire which, it is intended, will make a positive difference to the way young people 'think speak and act in the world' (See purpose statement of Living Difference III 2016, the agreed syllabus for religious education in Hampshire).