

**Agreed Syllabus Revision Paper for
the LB of Camden SACRE Meeting
22nd March 2022**

1. Every maintained school in England must provide Religious Education (RE). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school (including those in the Sixth Form), except for those withdrawn by their parents (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over) in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
2. The key document in determining the teaching of RE is the locally agreed syllabus within the LA concerned. Schools designated as having a religious character are free to make their own decisions in preparing their syllabuses. LAs must ensure that the agreed syllabus for their area is consistent with Section 375(3) of the Education Act 1996, which requires the syllabus to reflect that the religious traditions of Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.
3. Schools are not obliged to provide RE to pupils who are under compulsory school age (Section 80(2)(a) of the Education Act 2002), although there are many instances of good practice where RE is taught to these pupils. Separate legislative provision for RE is made for maintained special schools. Regulations covering maintained special schools require them to ensure that, as far as practicable, a pupil receives RE.
4. Each LA must establish a permanent body called a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). LAs must appoint representatives to each of four committees, representing respectively:
 - Group A: Christian denominations and such other religions and religious denominations as, in the authority's opinion, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area
 - Group B: the Church of England
 - Group C: Teacher Associations
 - Group D: the LA.
5. Each LA must establish an occasional body called an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) to review the agreed syllabus for RE adopted by the LA. This may have common membership with the SACRE but is a separate entity and must therefore be separately convened. The LA should:
 - institute a review of its locally agreed syllabus within five years of the last review, and subsequently every five years after the completion of each further review
 - appoint members of the committees represented on the ASC.

The ASC must produce and recommend to the LA an agreed syllabus for RE which is educationally sound and meets legal requirements.

6. An LA should fund and support a SACRE and an ASC satisfactorily in line with the duty to constitute or convene each of these bodies and to enable

them effectively to carry out their functions.

7. The current version of the locally agreed syllabus **Living Difference** was purchased from Hampshire County Council and is a 'London' version of the Hampshire syllabus produced with professional advice and support from Advisers for RE in Hampshire and the SACRE Consultant for the LB of Camden.
8. In accordance with statutory requirements, in 2022, SACRE members are required to once again consider a review and possible revision of the agreed syllabus. As a result of the review, a SACRE can decide to:
 - retain the existing syllabus – if Hampshire is willing to allow this.

If this is not the case, then an ASC is convened and can decide to:

- review and revise the existing syllabus – though this may be problematic as the existing syllabus was purchased from another LA
 - adopt an existing syllabus from another LA, such as the latest 'London' version of **Living Difference** or any other LA it chooses
 - purchase a syllabus from a commercial company
 - create an entirely new syllabus, perhaps making use of national guidance, particularly the published material from the RE Council.
9. Any review and/or revision will need to take account of:
 - the local and national context for RE
 - RE and current government initiatives, such as British Values in Schools, Prevent etc
 - RE and personal, social and health education (PSHE)
 - Religious Education and the promotion of children and young people's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development; preparing children to living in the modern world
 - wider educational initiatives and developments since the last syllabus was authorised
 - and, surely most importantly, the views of teachers and pupils in LB Camden schools.

Lesley Prior, Adviser to LB Camden SACRE, March 2022