

Agreed Syllabus Group meeting – 11 May 2023 to be discussed at the next SACRE meeting on the 23 June 2023

Present:

Ed Pawson
Jeremy Roberts
Belinda Twiggs
Keith Denby
Cllr Dan Thomas
Sheila Gewolb
Maia Miller

The following points were discussed at a sub group convened to discuss the agreed syllabus to be implemented in schools from September 2024

- The current syllabus works well and is understood.
- Teachers have commented 'don't make radical changes'.
- Any changes should be a 'light touch'.
- If the syllabus was to be delayed, justification would need to be made as to the reasons why (covid 19 is an obvious reason)
- If the syllabus is delayed this could leave Devon behind the curve
- There are three national working groups looking at the syllabus
- Gathering information from schools that tend not to provide feedback would be interesting
- The landscape post covid, presents different pressures so there is a greater importance of stronger elements regarding worldviews and appropriate language
- There is an importance of reflecting throughout the entire school years and ensuring level of knowledge of students is consistent through the school and at transition from primary to secondary school
- Training of teachers should include two way feedback from them regarding what knowledge is missing
- From the 35 responses from the recent survey, RE teaching is usually from class teacher or HLTA; all schools use the agreed syllabus but are not necessarily confident in its use.
- More lesson ready powerpoint presentations would be useful
- Emphasis/publicity on sharing information through the LTLRE hubs which would also be an ongoing training/sharing opportunity
- Hard copies in addition to downloadable options were considered important
- Cllr Dan Thomas to lobby DCC to underwrite £7k production costs
- Syllabus to include a balance of religions. There was criticism that there was a lean towards Christianity (CofE schools should be 50% Christianity units) and more optionality would be useful.
- Units to be more diverse , ie 'sacred places' to be included as a unit.
- Connect to all students studying whether they are religious or not.
- More specific guidance in the training on how to plan a module
- More reference to local examples ie 'what does it mean to be a Muslim in Devon'
- Key stage 1 stories more appropriate possibly to include iconic figures

Actions/Final thoughts:

- If there is a delay in the syllabus, publication at the earliest is considered the best option to have a light touch change.
- A physical folder and pdf documents to be made available
- Launch event of 3 or 4 sessions
- Timeline to conclude at June 2024 for new syllabus implantation following approval by LA.