

Update on the Revision of the Norfolk Agreed Syllabus

You will be aware that the revision of the syllabus is now taking place. This is a statutory requirement which must take place every five years. We are writing to convey the key messages relating to this revision to assist with any planning that you may be considering for next academic year.

The most important change to be taking place is one of ethos and emphasis, rather than content. The Agreed Syllabus Conference is focusing primarily on effective teaching and learning in RE, and this forms the heart of the revision.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference has identified, through consultation with teachers, children, young people and faith communities, six areas that will be the focus of the review. These are:-

- **the text of the agreed syllabus:** to include clarification of what is meant by learning about and learning from religion, explanation of enquiry-based learning in an RE context, inclusion of Humanism and development of the section on spirituality. **Note: There are no plans to change the religions taught at each key stage, or the areas of study.**
- **enquiry-based learning:** a recommended framework to be created, with reference to other preferred pedagogies (e.g. the TASC wheel) and exemplars in guidance material.
- **curriculum frameworks:** examples of long and medium term planning for primary and secondary phases.
- **spiritual development:** rewording of phrases in the agreed syllabus, and the provision of further guidance.
- **assessment:** with possible national changes to level criteria in the future, it was felt that, at this stage, exemplar material would be the most effective way forward.
- **guidance material in relation to some religions and humanism:** the wording of the sections on Christianity, Islam and Judaism to be revisited, and a section on Humanism to be added.

It is hoped the revised agreed syllabus will be available in March 2012, **with an implementation date of 1st September 2012**. During the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms 2011-12 there will be opportunities for professional development. If you have any questions about the revision, please contact Julia Idiens (julia.idiens@norfolk.gov.uk) in the first instance.

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