

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>RE Revised Syllabus</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Council on 19 July 2018
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific;
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Acting Director, Children's Services – Lisa Humphreys

**OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

The children in Wokingham schools would be taught the most up-to-date and relevant RE syllabus as required by the government.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council adopt the revised RE Syllabus.

**SUMMARY OF REPORT**

It is a government statutory requirement for locally agreed RE syllabus' to be reviewed by SACREs (Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education) every 5/6 years. The current Berkshire syllabus covers the period 2012-2017, and therefore needed to be reviewed and a revised syllabus produced for September 2018. The review has been conducted through the pan-Berkshire SACREs hub, and led by a specialist RE advisor who the hub has commissioned to lead this process. Teachers and representatives of faith groups have been consulted and their input fed into the revisions. The syllabus has been drafted and discussed at SACRE meetings, with the involvement of the RE advisor and LA officer on each SACRE. The final version of the revised syllabus now needs to be submitted to the Council of each of the Berkshire SACREs for approval, ready for phased implementation by schools from September.

Based on feedback from consultations and discussions with all stakeholders, the decision was taken to produce a shorter syllabus for 2018-2023, consisting mainly of the syllabus' statutory requirements, with supplementary guidance made available to schools on line.

## Background

Religious Education, unlike other subjects, has no national curriculum, but has a locally-agreed syllabus. By statutory requirement, the RE syllabus, which is used across Berkshire in all 6 unitary authorities, must be revised every 5/6 years (1993 Education Act: DfE Circular 1/94, para 29) to reflect the religious education needs of pupils and the principal faith communities in the area. The new revised syllabus must be approved by each LA's SACRE and thereafter each SACRE's Council.

The Wokingham SACRE will provide support to schools to implement the new syllabus through an introductory event, termly RE network meetings, and an annual subject leader training course.

## Analysis of Issues

There are no issues associated with the syllabus.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

***The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	0	Yes – all costs associated with the syllabus review and the implementation of the new syllabus are covered by the SACRE's standard annual budget	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	0	Yes – see above	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	0	Yes – see above	N/A

### Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

N/A

### Cross-Council Implications

N/A

### Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

### List of Background Papers

- Berkshire RE syllabus 2018-20123
- Further information on legal requirements relating to the syllabus and the teaching of Religious Education

<b>Contact</b> Anne Coffey	<b>Service</b> Children's Services - Education
<b>Telephone No</b> Tel: 0118 974 6875	<b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:anne.coffey@wokingham.gov.uk">anne.coffey@wokingham.gov.uk</a>

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