

**AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE  
10 NOVEMBER 2011  
6.00 - 6.35 PM**



**Present:**

Gordon Anderson, Church of England (Chairman)  
Paula Ridgway, The Free Churches  
John Baidam, The Free Churches  
Anne Gibbons, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth  
Carol Nicholls, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth  
Kusum Trikha, Hindu Faith  
Joel Roszykiewicz, Buddhist Faith  
Rabbi Zvi Solomons, Jewish Faith  
Arfan Rashid, Muslim Faith  
David Fawcett, Church of England  
Julie Mintern, Church of England  
Councillor Blatchford, Bracknell Forest Council (BFC)  
Councillor Mrs Hayes, BFC  
Councillor Heydon, BFC  
Madeline Diver, VOICE  
Colin Hickson, NUT  
Dr Kathy Hadfield, Co-opted Member  
Rev Michael Bentley, Co-opted Member

**In Attendance:**

Jo Fageant, Advisor to SACRE  
Martin Surrell, Children, Young People & Learning (BFC)  
Priya Patel, Democratic Services Officer

**Apologies for Absence were received from:**

Ranjit Bilkhu, Sikh Faith  
Councillor Dr Barnard, BFC  
Councillor Thompson, BFC  
Felicity Allen, NASUWT  
Samantha Hunt, ATL

**1. Confirmation of Nomination and Appointment of Members**

The clerk confirmed that letters had been sent to all nominating bodies to ask if they had any objection to SACRE members being appointed as members of the ASC. It was confirmed that no objections had been received. In addition, the Executive Member had agreed that elected members be appointed to the ASC.

**2. Election of Chairman**

It was agreed that Gordon Anderson chair the Agreed Syllabus Conference for 2011-12.

### **3. Coordinated Working Groups – Report on Progress**

Jo Fageant reported that the current syllabus was being used as a basis for revisions. The meetings to date had generated lots of good ideas and there had been great enthusiasm from all involved. The quality of discussions had been very good, however it was noted that Bracknell Forest had only been represented at Key Stage 2.

Jo Fageant reported that at the last syllabus review, key parts of the syllabus were turned into questions. These questions would remain unchanged and would essentially become the syllabus and all the remaining detail would be put into appendices to the syllabus. This would address the request from teachers that the syllabus be thinner and clearer, yet the appendices would still provide the detail and support for those that needed it.

Foundation Stage – the introduction and questions had been sharpened up. Requirements remained unchanged.

Key Stage 3 – had also been sharpened up.

Key Stage 4 – the requirement to sit an accredited exam had remained unchanged.

Jo Fageant reported that all changes to the syllabus had been around methodology and ways to make it clearer for teachers to plan RE. The content of the syllabus would be left unchanged, for faith groups to define.

Members thanked Jo for all the work she had undertaken to enthuse teachers and expressed disappointment that Bracknell Forest teachers were not represented except at Key Stage 2, despite being encouraged to attend and supply costs being reimbursed.

### **4. Confirmation of Approval Process and Timing**

There would need to be a meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference before the meeting of SACRE on 5 July 2012 to approve the revised syllabus being put forward for approval by the Executive Member at Bracknell Forest Council. It was hoped that this meeting could take place on 15 May 2012. The revised Agreed Syllabus would then go forward to be approved by the Executive Member in June 2012, allowing the Syllabus to be rolled out in schools in September 2012.

### **5. Date of Meeting for Final Approval of the New Agreed Syllabus**

Agreed Syllabus Conference, Tuesday 15 May 2012 at 5pm in the Council Chamber.

**CHAIRMAN**