

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION –
AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH JANUARY, 2021 AT 11.00 AM
VENUE: REMOTE MEETING (MICORSOFT TEAMS)**

Present: -

Local Councillors

Councillor Farthing

Christian and Other Denominations

Andrew Barron
Ann Smith

Church of England

Caroline Weir
Stuart Bain
Lisa Quinn-Briton

Teachers Association

Natalie Fountain

In Attendance

Cathryn Forbes, Specialist Officer
Richard Cullen, School Improvement & Early Years Strategic Service
Manager
Paul Wood, Principal Governance Services Officer

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors
Marshall and Matt Moore

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 22
January 2020**

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2020 be
approved as a correct record.

Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Sunderland following presentations on 15th December 2020

The Chairman welcomed Cathryn Forbes, Specialist RE officer, who advised the Conference that based on the presentations given at the Agreed Syllabus Working Group there had been two options to give consideration to.

Mrs Forbes then took Members through the aspects of the RE Today Syllabus and the Durham Syllabus on offer.

Having discussed the merits of both options, it was agreed that the Syllabus provided by RE Today was a better fit for Sunderland and therefore consideration to be given on whether the Thematic option or Systematic option should be procured.

It was considered by the group that whilst the Thematic option would offer a level of familiarity to teachers, the Systematic Syllabus would be really helpful in terms of preparing for GCSE and in each of the Key Stages there was the opportunity for Thematic Units to choose from so the Thematic approach would not be lost by going with the Systematic option.

It was commented that religious literacy could be driven better by going into depth and being in a position to provide comparisons.

It was also commented that knowing more and remembering more had been an OFSTED focus that this option would help deliver upon.

The Chair proposed that the Systematic agreed syllabus provided by RE Today be put forward as the preferred recommendation. All Committees that made up the Agreed Syllabus Conference agreed to adopt the Systematic syllabus provided by RE Today and to recommend to Cabinet that the syllabus be formally approved for introduction into Sunderland schools.

RESOLVED - That Cabinet be asked to formally adopt the Systematic Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education provided by RE Today for introduction into Sunderland schools.

(Signed) Cllr. L. Farthing,
Chairman.