

# Public Document Pack



## NOTICE OF MEETING

<b>Meeting</b>	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education Agreed Syllabus Conference
<b>Date and Time</b>	Tuesday, 3rd March, 2020 at 2.00 pm
<b>Place</b>	Ashburton Hall, Hampshire County Council, Winchester
<b>Enquiries to</b>	members.services@hants.gov.uk

John Coughlan CBE  
Chief Executive  
The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UJ

## FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

This meeting may be recorded and broadcast live on the County Council's website. The meeting may also be recorded and broadcast by the press and members of the public – please see the Filming Protocol available on the County Council's website.

## AGENDA

### 1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore all Members with a Personal Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting should consider, having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, consider whether it is appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

### 3. MINUTES (Pages 3 - 6)

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting on 15 November 2016.

### 4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any Chairman's announcements.

**5. DEPUTATIONS**

To receive any deputations.

**6. REVIEW OF THE AGREED SYLLABUS (Pages 7 - 10)**

To consider a report of the Director of Children's Services requesting the Agreed Syllabus Conference to agree to review Living Difference III.

**ABOUT THIS AGENDA:**

**On request, this agenda can be provided in alternative versions (such as large print, Braille or audio) and in alternative languages.**

**ABOUT THIS MEETING:**

**The press and public are welcome to attend the public sessions of the meeting. If you have any particular requirements, for example if you require wheelchair access, please contact [members.services@hants.gov.uk](mailto:members.services@hants.gov.uk) for assistance.**

County Councillors attending as appointed members of this Committee or by virtue of Standing Order 18.5; or with the concurrence of the Chairman in connection with their duties as members of the Council or as a local County Councillor qualify for travelling expenses.

**AT A MEETING of the  
HAMPSHIRE AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE  
held in the Ashburton Hall, Elizabeth II Court, Winchester  
on 15 November 2016**

**PRESENT**

**Chairman**

p Councillor R Chadd ( Hampshire County Council)

**Vice-Chairman**

p Councillor C Choudhary (Hampshire County Council)

- |   |                              |   |   |
|---|------------------------------|---|---|
| a | Councillor Mrs Fiona Mather  | - | Hampshire County Council                        |
| p | Councillor David Simpson     | - | Hampshire County Council                        |
| p | Councillor Anna McNair Scott | - | Hampshire County Council (substitute)           |
|   | Mr Mohammed Ansar            | - | Muslim  |
| p | Miss Margaret Boyne          | - | United Reformed Church                          |
|   | Mr Harmeet Singh Brar        | - | Sikh  |
| p | Ms Amanda Cawood             | - | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints |
| p | Rev Seishin Darren Clark     | - | Buddhist  |
| a | Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato      | - | Muslim  |
| p | Mr Colin How                 | - | Methodist                                       |
| p | Mr Chris Hughes              | - | Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches  |
| p | Mrs Elizabeth Jenkerson      | - | Baha'i  |
| a | Mrs Jo May                   | - | Baptist Union                                   |
| a | Mr Richard Moss              | - | Buddhist  |
| p | Ms Sushma Sahajpal           | - | Hindu   |
| p | Mr Danny Sullivan            | - | Roman Catholic                                  |
| p | Mrs Lisa-Marie Taylor        | - | Buddhist (deputy)                               |
| p | Mrs Heather Thorpe-Tracey    | - | Society of Friends                              |
| a | Mr. Michael Zeffertt         | - | Jewish  |
| p | Mrs Sue Bowen                | - | Church of England                               |
| p | Ms Caroline Welch            | - | Church of England                               |
| a | Mr Richard Wharton           | - | Church of England                               |
| p | Rev Jeff Williams            | - | Church of England                               |
| p | Rev Howard Wright            | - | Church of England                               |
| p | Mrs Maureen Barnes           | - | Teachers' Association                           |
| p | Mr Paul Bristow              | - | Teachers' Association                           |
| p | Mr James Dye                 | - | Teachers' Association                           |
| a | Mrs Patrizia Timms Blanch    | - | Teachers' association                           |

	Mrs Su Banwell	-	Secondary School – Co-opted
a	Mrs Pam Brown	-	Special School – Co-opted
p	Mrs Gill Heron	-	Academy – Co-opted
p	Miss Chris Robinson	-	Humanist – Co-opted
a	Mrs Rhiannon Love	-	Higher Education Rep – Co-opted
	Dr Alasdair Richardson	-	Higher Education Rep – Co-opted
p	Ms Karen Stubbings	-	Primary School - Co-opted
	Miss Antigone Storey	-	Private School – Co-opted
p	Dr Patricia Hannam	-	Support Officer
p	Mrs Justine Ball	-	Support Officer

Mrs U Topp

Also present was Ms Jane Whittington from the Guildford Diocese.

Owing to personal circumstances and the potential need to leave the meeting at short notice, Councillor Chadd proposed, and members agreed, that the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Choudhary should chair the meeting on this occasion.

<Councillor Choudhary in the Chair>

## **8. BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

## **9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from:

Rhiannon Love, Michael Zeffertt, Alasdair Richardson, Pam Brown, Patrizia Timms Blanch, Richard Moss, Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoo, Cllr Fiona Mather, Richard Wharton, Jo May.

## **10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

There were no declarations of interest made by Members under this item.

## **11. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 9 March 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **12. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman welcomed new SACRE members Amanda Cawood, Danny Sullivan and Sue Bowen and Jane Whittington from the Guildford Diocese.

## **13. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations made under this item.

## **14. THE REVISION OF LIVING DIFFERENCE**

The Agreed Syllabus Conference considered the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 6 in the Minute Book) which summarised the background to the Agreed Syllabus review and recommended amendments for approval in order to produce a revised syllabus to distribute to schools in December 2016.

Members were given a brief synopsis of the work done towards this revision where the aim had been to amend and develop the current Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference revised 2011 in the light of current educational thinking, not to rewrite it. Pat Hannam and Justine Ball, the Inspectors for Religious Education, gave a powerpoint presentation (slides attached) which explained the similarities and changes.

It was emphasized that bringing more clarity to the process of enquiry and in its explanation and advice had been a key element in the review. Teachers had been fully involved, throughout the period of the review. It was highlighted that the revised syllabus now links with the language of other National Curriculum subjects, including the age-related expectations that must inform planning and progress. It was shown that Ofsted values the enquiry approach which is at the heart of the Hampshire syllabus. It was explained that the syllabus would only be available as a download with free access to all.

The four key changes – the re-emphasis that enquiry begins from a child's experience, the recognition of the distinctions between Abrahamic and Dharmic religious traditions, the more straightforward planning of a sequence of enquiries into concepts, and the close link between the current age-related expectations for progress and the progression model recommended in Living Difference III – were detailed.

During discussion and questions it was stressed that there was no intention in the RE syllabus to persuade young people to adopt a religious belief or to change their beliefs. Members commented that they valued the way the syllabus respected the integrity of the pupil in the way it presented both

religious and non-religious views, providing pupils with a framework and skill set to be able to evaluate these. They felt that the concepts were valuable and meaningful whether a pupil comes from a religious or non-religious background or not. Attention was drawn to the final, 'evaluate' step in the cycle which made children consider why the 'concept' they have been studying is important for a particular religion and whether it could make a difference to their own life.

In answer to a question regarding the involvement of academy schools in the process, it was stated that it was difficult for teachers to get time off, but they had been kept informed, and the Dioceses had involved all their schools.

After group discussions a vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to adopt the revised Agreed Syllabus.

The Vice-Chairman, on behalf of all the members of SACRE, gave thanks to all those who had put in a lot of hard work on the revisions to produce a well-written document, giving special mention to Pat Hannam and Justine Ball.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Agreed Syllabus Conference approved the revised Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference III and that it is launched on 8 December 2016 and made available to schools from this point.

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Report

<b>Committee/Panel:</b>	SACRE Agreed Syllabus Conference
<b>Date:</b>	3 March 2020
<b>Title:</b>	The Revision of Living Difference III
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

**Contact name:** Patricia Hannam

**Tel:** 02392 441442

**Email:** patricia.hannam@hants.gov.uk

### Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to request the Agreed Syllabus Conference to agree to review Living Difference III.

### Recommendation(s)

1. That the Agreed Syllabus Conference approves the report and agrees to review Living Difference III.

### Executive Summary

2. It is a statutory requirement of every local authority to review and if necessary, revise its Agreed Syllabus every five years. Beginning the review process now is timely, giving a year to undertake a careful review, ensuring a revised syllabus is put before the Agreed Syllabus Conference for adoption in November 2021.

### Contextual information

3. Living Difference III was adopted by the Agreed Syllabus Conference for use in schools in November 2016. The review process will be undertaken in conjunction with the other authorities who share this syllabus: Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight. Arrangements are being made to ensure the Agreed Syllabus Conferences of these authorities are also agreeing to review at the same time.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	yes

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- (a) SACRE's core business is to ensure high quality religious education in Hampshire which, it is intended, will make a positive difference to the way young people 'think speak and act in the world' (See purpose statement of Living Difference III 2016, the agreed syllabus for religious education in Hampshire).

This page is intentionally left blank