

# Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton Agreed Syllabus Questionnaire

## Introduction from SACRE

The three SACREs are working together on a new RE syllabus for 2018. All schools and stakeholders in the three local authority areas are invited to respond to this key consultation opportunity about RE in our schools, SACRE's work and about the future review of the RE Agreed Syllabus. We would like to thank colleagues for their contributions.

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## Your Background

\* 1. Name of person completing questionnaire:

Title

First name

Last name

\* 2. Name, address and contact number for your school:

School name

Address line 1

Address line 2

County

Post code

School contact number

Email address

\* 3. Please select the local authority area of your school

\* 4. Your position with regard to teaching RE (select one)

- Class Teacher (Primary)
- RE Co-ordinator (Primary)
- RE Teacher (Secondary)
- Head of RE (Secondary)
- Head teacher
- HLTA
- Governor
- Other

\* 5. Has RE in your school the benefit of subject specialist training and experience? Are you, or do you have at school:

- An RE subject specialist
- An experienced teacher of RE with several years of practice
- Training in RE as a second subject
- A teacher with another specialism, doing RE
- Other (e.g. Governor)

The Syllabus

\* 6. The current agreed syllabus for RE is the legal basis for RE in all local authority schools (last reviewed in 2011).

Is the syllabus:

- Very useful and practical
- Sufficiently useful and practical
- Quite useful and practical
- Not at all useful or practical
- Don't know

7. Please provide any comments you have on the current RE syllabus - strengths / weaknesses / areas where improvement is needed.

Please be specific about your key stages and your school type (e.g. is the EYFS work detailed enough? Does the primary curriculum allow for creative planning? Is the balance of religions to be studied appropriate for your setting? Do the two attainment targets work well? Should we give more guidance on planning and enquiry?)

\* 8. A review of the RE agreed syllabus provides the opportunity for new thinking and guidance and support. Which of the following areas do you need more help with in your school's RE work (tick as many as you wish)?

- Long term planning of RE
- Developing parity for RE with the new National Curriculum subject orders
- Investigative and enquiry based methods in RE
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development and RE
- Making time for RE in a crowded curriculum
- Linking RE with other subjects of the curriculum
- Teachers' knowledge and understanding of particular religions and world views
- Leading a team of non-specialist teachers in RE effectively
- Supporting a contribution from RE to British Values
- Making RE local
- Relating to local places of worship and communities of faith and belief
- Progression in pupils' learning
- Developing RE for attitudes of cohesion and respect, exploring British values and RE
- Learning outside the classroom and RE
- Pupils' achievement in RE
- Assessing pupils progress in the 'life after levels'
- Outcomes and success criteria for RE

9. Please add your comments about the top priorities

10. The Church of England Schools in our local authorities (and some other schools) have begun to use the new project materials called 'Understanding Christianity'. These materials provide a focused programme of learning for pupils 4-14 based on key concepts in Christianity. The three SACREs are considering making the new syllabus compatible with this Programme, and using a conceptual approach in relation to other religions and beliefs as well. Please comment on this: would a thorough conceptual approach to planning in relation to both Christianity and other religions and beliefs be welcome?

11. Please make clear the age groups / Key Stage(s) to which your comments refer

\* 12. Attainment and Assessment: A good syllabus will give clear guidance on progression, achievement and assessment. What would be most useful to you?

- A model assessment policy for primary RE
- A model assessment policy for secondary RE
- Updating of guidance on using outcomes at 7, 11 and 14 in RE
- Increased provision and use of 'I can...' statements for pupils
- Guidance on assessing the skills of reasoning and enquiry
- Assessing Pupils Progress applied to RE
- Linking assessment outcomes with the planned units of the syllabus for each age group
- Training opportunities for teachers on RE, achievement and assessment
- Other (please specify)

13. Additional comments on the priorities for a 2017-18 review of our syllabus

The future

**14. Scheme of work materials.**

The Local Authority has a legal responsibility to provide a syllabus. SACRE would also like to know if schools would value exemplary curriculum plans for RE. Please tell us how you plan RE presently and what would be most helpful in the future.

- Our school has purchased curriculum planning support from a commercial source
- Our school has planned its own RE scheme of work
- Other (please specify)

**15. Would your school welcome exemplary plans for teaching RE from SACRE?**

- If they were free of charge
- If they were provided at a shared cost
- We do not need SACRE to provide detailed scheme of work plans

**16. Would you welcome it if SACRE specified which units should be planned for each year group, and described outcomes year by year? (The current syllabus gives units of work for Year 1-2, Year 3-4, Year 5-6 and Year 7-9). Please provide your comments.**



17. SACRE would like to consider gathering examples of work by pupils at different levels from across the local authority for web based publication. What is your response?

- We would value children's work that exemplifies RE outcomes, but cannot contribute to it
- We would value children's work that exemplifies RE outcomes in pupils work and our school would be willing to contribute examples for a project
- We do not need a project that gives examples of pupils work

Please provide any comments you have:

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### Your school & RE

This will be treated anonymously and confidentially to inform the work of the SACRE

18. Who teaches RE? (This information will be very helpful as SACRE plans support for teachers)

How is RE mostly taught in your school?:

- Specialist qualified teachers of RE
- Teachers with other specialisms, supported by a specialist subject leader
- Teachers with other specialisms, but without the support of an RE specialist
- Others (including HLTAs)

19. Comments (including how HLTAs are involved in RE provision, and use of PPA cover for RE):

20. Additional comments on other aspects of improving RE and writing a revised syllabus.

21. How much curriculum time is allocated to teaching RE per week, on average, in your school?

- Less than 30 minutes
- 30–60 minutes
- 60–90 minutes
- Over 90 minutes

22. How many pupils do you have on roll?

23. How much expenditure for resources for the RE curriculum is allocated this year?

- Under £100
- £101–£400
- £401–£700
- £701–£1000
- £1001–£1300
- £1301–1600
- Over £1600

24. How is RE taught in your school? What is the balance of weekly lessons, themed RE topics, termly or half termly RE Days and other provision? Is the subject linked to topics or themes, or integrated learning, or taught as a discrete subject?

25. If you could recommend up to five resources (including venues for faith community visits or visitors) for RE to other colleagues which would be your top five?

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

26. What, in your school, are the key issues facing RE? SACRE seeks to support RE in all schools, so your perspective will be very useful.

Current issue (1)

Current issue (1) - what would help you improve your RE?

Current issue (2)

Current issue (2) - what would help you improve your RE?

Current issue (3)

Current issue (3) - what would help you improve your RE?

Current issue (4)

Current issue (4) - what would help you improve your RE?

27. What other points should SACRE consider in planning its work and in a possible Syllabus Review?

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Thank you!

Thank you!

SACRE would like to thank all teachers and others for their time in responding to this consultation. Your views are valued, and will assist us in making an excellent new RE syllabus.