

## Review of the Nottinghamshire / City RE Syllabus.

### Proposals from RE Today

#### Nottingham City and County need to review their shared agreed syllabus after 5 years: in 2025.

Our sense is that we need a fairly light touch review, that responds to recent educational changes from DfE and OFSTED in particular and to movements and thinking within the RE community (multi-disciplinarity, worldviews approaches, lived religion, working with teachers with other specialisms) current perceived needs in our schools. The process should attend to:

- a. **Inspectorate’s recent commentary on RE**, including the Research Review (2022) and the OFSTED RE Subject report ‘Deep and Meaningful?’ (2024) which is critical of much current RE for lacking systematic rigour, sequenced progress and clarity in learning outcomes (our syllabus is not the object of this critique – but TBH we know many schools whose use of the syllabus is not exemplary)
- b. **The DFE’s support for the RE Council’s process** in developing a review of RE and proposing through its Commission on RE a reset of the subject to be focused on Religion and Worldviews – we are already partly in place for this, but more work is needed
- c. **Recognition of the weaknesses of RE in 4-7 and in 14-19 settings**, and provision of more guidance and support in the framework of a renewed syllabus for these age groups
- d. Alertness to the continuing crisis in the country and in education around **diversity, equality and inclusion** issues and the religious educational implications of teaching for tolerance and respect – we should consider if we need a more visibly anti-racist RE, for example.
- e. Alertness to the likelihood that the new government’s curriculum review will address the weaknesses in RE. It is heartening to see that the members of the review body include three at least whose alertness to RE is high.

This proposal includes running a stakeholder questionnaire for all our schools to see what they want from a renewed Agreed Syllabus, and some zoom consultation meetings. F2F meetings are also possible. We expect them to ask for increasing practical planning, teaching and assessment support such as we have been providing since the previous syllabus was launched.

A timetable for the review should set a launch date 12 months from commencement, and stick to it. We like that kind of way of working. Last time, COVID necessities put our launch online, but this did have the unexpected benefits of giving video access to the launch training and a ‘take it when it suits you’ basis. Launch costs were an additional £2600 last time – no VAT on training, of course. Some LAs more than recoup their costs for launch training from fees paid by schools – we can advise. We propose here some recorded webinars to introduce the syllabus as well as F2F launch events

Our proposal is for 12 months worth of work on this, with a proposed budget of £9600, to include:

Work plan	Estimated breakdown of costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation to joint SACRE of proposals for the review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare and deliver £600</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder survey for all teachers, SACRE members and other relevant parties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design, run and analyse £600</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details plan of review priorities, linked to government and OFSTED’s latest reporting and expectations on RE to be agreed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a paper for SACRE / Advisers to chart the work ahead, based on stakeholder involvements £600</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All this alert to the likely shape of the DfE curriculum review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep close eyes on the DfE’s review and all implications for RE</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All this alert to the practical classroom needs of the teaching force, which is still made up of more teachers with other specialisms than RE than for any other subject, in both primary and secondary settings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perspective to inform the planned revisions, provision of text to support teachers with other specialisms. £600</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determination to maintain the priorities we set last time for an RE that is inclusive, practical for teachers, setting high standards, both critical and creative and enjoyable as it enable progress for all, in line with the strategic priorities of the authorities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perspective to inform the planned revisions</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noting that your LA strategic priorities currently include leadership, teaching, learning and assessment and SEND+ pupils. Aware of the need to help teachers to be inspection-ready around RE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priorities to lead to new sections written for the syllabus £600</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drafting the new syllabus and related scheme of work materials, sharing with teachers and advisers via SACRE and online (zoom groups), redrafting and bringing final versions to both SACREs for approval</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the major part of the work for which we are allowing £5400 of the consultancy fees</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recorded webinars to introduce the syllabus for primary and secondary teachers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposing two webinars, primary and secondary, or possibly four shorter ones, recorded and delivered as the new syllabus is launched. £1200</li> </ul>

**Launch - an additional cost of £2000:**

- £100 per ticket for teachers, to include paper copy – digital copy free to all.
- Suitable for 100+ attendees – experience tells us that this is the one occasion in 5 years when some schools buy in to professional learning for RE. A previous launch attracted over 200 ticket sales and made a large surplus.
- Whole day of professional learning for teachers and SLT
- Emphasis on change and improvement evolving from the current syllabus
- Providing separate workshops by age group and keynote sessions introducing the syllabus for all

**Personnel:**

RE Today’s adviser team will undertake this work, led by Lat Blaylock and Julie Childs

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