

## Slough Borough Council

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>Date:</b>	17 March 25
<b>Subject:</b>	Approval of the Pan-Berkshire (Slough) Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2025-2030
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Councillor Puja Bedi, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services
<b>Chief Officer:</b>	Sukdave Ghuman, Director of Law & Governance
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Colin J Sweeney, Interim Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny
<b>Ward(s):</b>	All
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Decision Subject To Call In:</b>	Yes
<b>Appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – The Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2025-2030

### 1. **Purpose of Report**

This report seeks the approval of the Cabinet to the draft revised Slough Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (Appendix A to this report) as recommended by the Agreed Syllabus Conference at its meeting on 6 November 2024 for adoption as the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Slough schools, with effect from its' launch on 27 March 2025 for a period of five years.

### 2. **Recommendation**

The Cabinet is requested to resolve that the draft revised Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2025-2030, as now submitted be adopted as the Agreed Syllabus for use in Slough Community and Foundation schools for a period of five years from its' launch on 27 March 2025 for a period of five years.

### 3. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Corporate Plan**

#### 3b. **Outcomes**

The Agreed RE Syllabus primarily contributes to the following outcomes:

- Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful

## **Commissioner Review**

This report has been reviewed by Commissioners and there are no specific comments to add.

### **4. Implications**

#### **(a) Financial**

The cost of printing, publishing and circulating the revised Syllabus will be met from existing budgets. In addition, there will be costs in respect of launching the new Syllabus into schools. These costs will also be contained through existing budgets.

#### **(b) Risk Management**

There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

#### **(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

Section 375 and Schedule 31 of the Education Act 1996 requires a Local Authority to review its Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education every five years. For this purpose, the Local Authority is required to establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference which reviews the Syllabus and formally recommends a revised Syllabus to the Local Authority for adoption.

### **5. Supporting Information**

- 5.1 Religious Education in community schools and foundation schools not of a religious character should be taught in accordance with the Locally Agreed Syllabus recommended by the Agreed Syllabus Conference to the Local Authority.
- 5.2 The Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education must be reviewed every five years. The current Syllabus was reviewed during the 2018/2019 Academic Year.
- 5.3 Section 375 and Schedule 31 of the Education Act 1996 requires the establishment of an Agreed Syllabus Conference to oversee the Syllabus review. Membership of the Conference in Slough comprises the members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) which includes representatives of local faith groups, the Church of England, teacher representatives and elected Members. The review formally began at the first meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017. At this meeting, the Conference agreed that all six Berkshire Authorities should work together on the review.
- 5.4 The draft revised Syllabus has been agreed across the six Berkshire Authorities and teachers and representatives from faith groups have been fully involved in its composition. The revised Syllabus aims to help pupils studying RE learn about religion and learn from religion. It has been structured around the themes “Believing, Behaving and Belonging”, which correspond to a set of questions teachers and pupils will use to explore different faiths.
- 5.5 The final draft of the new Syllabus was submitted to the Agreed Syllabus Conference on 6 November 2024 when it was agreed to recommend the Syllabus to

the Cabinet for formal adoption. The new Syllabus will be formally launched at a joint training day with RE staff from Slough on 27 March 2025.

6. **Conclusion**

Cabinet is now asked to formally approve the draft revised Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education for use in Slough Community and Foundation schools for a period of five years from the launch in March 2025.

7. **Appendices**

Appendix A: The Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2025-2030.