

**ROTHERHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)- AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE
MONDAY 1 JUNE 2026 AT 4:00PM**

Present:-

Group 1

T. Williams

Group 2

H. Lambert (Chair)

Group 3

S. Yasseen

Group 4

N. Devlin

Council Officers in attendance:

Kristianne Thorogood - Governance Advisor

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from L. Melvin, A. Vishwanath and T. Griffin

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest declared.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no issues raised on the minutes of the previous meetings held on 18th November 2025 and 2nd March 2026 and it was resolved that the minutes be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

4. UPDATE ON THE CURRENT REVIEW OF THE LOCAL AGREED RE SYLLABUS

The purpose of the ASC meetings was to plan and prepare for the launch of the new Local RE Agreed Syllabus (Syllabus) for Rotherham. This was the fourth meeting of the ASC for the 2025-2026 academic year.

The Chair talked Members through the further amendments that they had made to the draft Syllabus and in the ensuing discussion, the following points were raised:-

- The Chair confirmed that all suggested amendments discussed in

previous meetings had been incorporated and that the Syllabus had been given a thorough edit.

- The Chair explained that a Contents page had been created with links to pages but that page numbers would need to be inserted and all links checked. This would be the last job to check once all content was finalised.
- Members pointed out that some fonts and line-spacing were different in new parts of the Syllabus that had been inserted and the Chair confirmed that they would amend this and standardise the document throughout.
- Tricia Williams, who had provided the up-to-date census information, confirmed that she would be able to insert the exact rather than rounded-up figures in the census table.
- The Chair commented that they would like to check with secondary school staff who sat on the sub-group that they had no further input on the KS3, 4 & 5 pages of the Syllabus. These pages had not been altered much but the Chair had removed sections which they knew were out of date or reflected practice that was no longer current.
- Salma Yasseen commented that the expanded section on “Inclusion in RE” was much more comprehensive than previously and read very well.
- In response to a question around the inclusion of more up-to-date artwork, the Chair confirmed that the artwork currently in the Syllabus would be left in as it was too large a piece of work to try and obtain new samples for this version of the Syllabus. It was agreed that the inclusion of the children’s artwork worked well and broke up the text.
- There was discussion around the inclusion of an acknowledgement to RE Today, as they had been engaged to work on the previous version of the Syllabus. It was agreed that as the Syllabus had been substantially altered in this edit, the Chair would include an acknowledgement of the previous work of RE Today and explain that the new Syllabus had built on and adapted that work. The Chair confirmed that they would update the details on the front and back pages of the Syllabus confirming that copyright would sit with RMBC/SACRE and would update the date on both to 2026.
- Members agreed that they had no further comments on the content of the Syllabus and confirmed that it was now at proof-reading stage. Tricia Williams offered to undertake a thorough proof-read of the document, with help from Tony Griffin if required, who had previously offered assistance.

- Niall Devlin, the Service Director for Education & Inclusion, commented that the Syllabus represented a very robust piece of work and thanked the Chair for their efforts in pulling it together. Other Members of the sub-group also thanked the Chair for their work on the Syllabus.

5. NEXT STEPS FOR THE DRAFT LOCAL AGREED RE SYLLABUS

The next steps to progress to the final stages of the review of the Syllabus for onward approval by Rotherham SACRE were discussed as follows:–

- Tricia Williams would update the census figures for England & Wales to the exact figures.
- The Chair would attempt to make contact with Members who were secondary school teachers to check that they had no further amendments to the KS3, 4 & 5 sections of the Syllabus.
- The Chair would send a version of the Syllabus to Tricia Williams and Tony Griffin for a final sense-check and proof-read.

The Governance Advisor confirmed that another meeting of the ASC had been arranged for 7th September 2026. The plan would be to bring the final version of the Syllabus to that meeting for ASC approval, then on to the full meeting of Rotherham SACRE on 17th September for approval from all Members to move to publish and distribute the new syllabus in time for the winter term of the 2026-27 academic year.

The Governance Advisor enquired how distribution of the Syllabus amongst schools within the borough would take place. The Service Director for Education & Inclusion confirmed that the Syllabus would be published on the council website, and a link would then be emailed to all schools.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no additional items of business requiring consideration at the meeting.

The date and time of the next meeting of the ASC would be Monday 7th September 2026 at 4:00pm, via Microsoft Teams.