

**THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA**  
**AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE (ASC)**

Notes of the Agreed Syllabus Conference that took place on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 5pm at St Joseph's Catholic RC Primary School, Cadogan Street, London SW3 2QT.

**Representing Group A - Christian and other religious denominations**

Desmond Biddulph (arrived at 5.10pm in place of Darcy Biddulph)	Buddhist Faith Representative
Laurence Julius	Jewish Faith Representative
Karen Wyatt	Catholic Representative

**Representing Group B - the Church of England**

Kathryn Kane	London Diocesan Board for Schools
Katrina Quinton	London Diocesan Board for Schools

**Representing Group C - teachers**

Celia Garth Rodriguez	Teacher, Colville Primary School
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**Representing Group D – LA Councillors**

Cllr David Lindsay (arrived at 5.15pm)	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
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**Also in attendance**

Lesley Prior	Consultant RE Adviser
Jackie Saddington	LA - Head of Governor Services
Amanda Price	Clerk

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Susan Jaff, Javid Djalili and Ken Persaud.
- 1.2 In the absence of both the Chair and the Vice-Chair, Karen Wyatt chaired the meeting.

**2. Membership**

- 2.1 With the arrival of Cllr David Lindsay, the meeting was quorate, with members from each group in attendance.

**3. Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)**

- 3.1 **Update and Presentation of Hampshire Syllabus – Lesley Prior (LP)**

Written representations had been received from Darcy Biddulph (DaB) and Susan Jaff (SJ), which had been circulated with the agenda.

SJ had highlighted the factual error regarding the word Shirk in the syllabus. LP had spoken to Pat Hannam who was responsible for producing the Hampshire Syllabus. Pat confirmed that the meaning of the word Shirk was incorrect and would be removed entirely from the Syllabus. SJ had also highlighted typing errors in the document and queried the lack of reference to the Five Pillars of Islam. LP confirmed that the typing errors had been sent to Pat Hannam and would be corrected in the Syllabus. LP advised that teachers are aware of the importance of the Five Pillars and would start with this when teaching about Islam. Celia Garth Rodriguez (CGR) confirmed this. **The supporting resources for the Islamic faith would also refer to the Five Pillars.**

Referring to the issues in the paper that DaB had submitted, LP had raised these with Hampshire. It was recognised that the Buddhist unit in the Syllabus is not very extensive. This is also the case for Sikhism and Humanism, as they were not in the original Hampshire Syllabus and are not taught in primary schools in that authority. Desmond Biddulph (DeB) expressed concern at the number of omissions and lack of stories in the Buddhist text, which he felt was not acceptable. DaB had stated that there may be inaccuracies in the Syllabus on Buddhism but did not state what these inaccuracies were. LP confirmed that Hampshire has agreed to add the Buddhist Society to the Syllabus as a key resource, along with details of their website. Hampshire is very keen to develop a pack for these three areas and to work with the Buddhist Society to create a Buddhist pack of supplementary information and training materials. Hampshire is also happy to work with the Buddhist Society when it reviews the Syllabus in two years – the Syllabus is reviewed every five years and the latest Syllabus was produced in 2016. The work on this will start next year. In the meantime, resources from the Buddhist Society can be sent into schools to support the Agreed Syllabus.

LP advised that Hampshire had consulted with a wide range of nationally recognised Buddhist scholars when developing the Syllabus. Not all those consulted are listed in the Syllabus. DeB asked if it would be possible to have the names of those consulted.

LP explained that the Syllabus had been developed by Hampshire who offered it to other authorities to purchase. It was then further developed for London authorities but Hampshire retains the intellectual copyright and wants to retain the integrity of the Syllabus. This means that the main content cannot be altered but Hampshire is willing to change any factual errors, such as removing all reference to Shirk. They are also happy to add a reference to the Buddhist Society. A number of London authorities have adopted the Living Difference III Syllabus, including Westminster and Hammersmith and Fulham. If the SACRE does not approve this Syllabus, they will have to look elsewhere for an alternative and restart the process. There is no funding to commission a totally new Syllabus and it had been agreed that the current Kensington and Chelsea

Syllabus should be replaced by a more up-to-date one, eg, the current Syllabus does not include early years provision.

Laurence Julius (LJ) confirmed that despite some gaps in the Syllabus around GCSE Judaism, he and his colleagues were happy to adopt Syllabus.

LP explained the voting process, whereby each group has a single vote. However, LP suggested that a unanimous vote from all those present would be preferable to give greater weight and validity when promoting the Syllabus in schools. Cllr David Lindsey (DL) supported this.

LP confirmed that the Syllabus comes with supplementary material and training would be given to teachers, funded by the LA. In addition there is the RE Good Practice Network. Through these mechanisms, it can be ensured that teachers are aware of the Buddhist Society. LP also suggested that one of the network meetings could be held at the Buddhist Society. The Syllabus is important but it is not a standalone document. Its main component, which is different from the current Kensington and Chelsea Syllabus, is around pedagogy and how RE is taught.

DeB commented that the Hampshire Syllabus is OK but gives only part of the view on Buddhism. He asked if the Buddhist text in the Syllabus could be elaborated. LP repeated that Hampshire has the intellectual copyright to the document and would only be willing to change errors but would add the reference and link to the Buddhist Society.

The meeting discussed retaining the current Syllabus and waiting until the new Hampshire Syllabus is completed in two years. LP suggested that the Hampshire Syllabus Living Difference III be adopted. SACREs can call for a review at any time and members could therefore call for a review when the new Hampshire Syllabus is developed. Karen Wyatt (KW) pointed out that having two changes of syllabus would bring additional work for teachers. LP explained that the Hampshire Syllabus does not change dramatically when it is updated and the teaching principles remain the same, so it would have minimal impact on teachers. The main change for teachers will be the move from the current Kensington and Chelsea Syllabus to the Hampshire one, which is based around pedagogy.

CGR commented favourably on the approach to teaching in the Hampshire Syllabus, which follows a line of enquiry. The Syllabus does not have lesson plans and is not a teaching manual. Teachers develop their own lesson plans, eg, including the Five Pillars of Islam. At primary level, they would teach through stories. They will draw on various sources for information, in addition to the resources provided with the Syllabus, and will be directed towards the Buddhist Society for information. In addition, the LA will arrange training on the new Syllabus, **and organise a summer launch of the Syllabus**, and there is the

RE Good Practice Network where teachers can share information, recommend places of worship and sources of information. LP confirmed that due to the comments from this meeting, Hampshire will be producing additional information on Buddhism, as discussed earlier. In addition to LP putting Pat Hannam in touch with the Buddhist Society, it was suggested that Pat could contact the Central Gurdwara, Shepherds Bush.

LP pointed out the breadth of religions and non-religion taught in Kensington and Chelsea and other London authorities, which is wider than those taught in other areas of the country. The London Syllabus includes all six religions plus Humanism, which is to be commended. DeB pointed out that Kensington and Aldershot have the largest communities of Buddhists.

A vote was taken, with each group having one vote each. All members voted to adopt the Hampshire Syllabus. DeB's vote was on the proviso that schools will receive the Buddhist Society resource pack with the Syllabus.

**Resolutions:**

- a) **The meeting unanimously voted to adopt the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus Living Difference III as its Locally Agreed Syllabus.**
- b) **The Buddhist Society to provide a pack to go to schools with the new Kensington and Chelsea Locally Agreed Syllabus**
- c) **LP to put Pat Hannam in touch with the Buddhist Society to develop a Buddhist resource pack.**
- d) **Development of the Buddhist pack with Hampshire to be a standing item on the SACRE agenda.**
- e) **A copy of the minutes to be sent to Pat Hannam.**

**4. Any other business**

There was no other business.

**5. Dates of future SACRE meetings**

- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Members thanked St Joseph's for hosting the meeting and also the retiring Chair for his work on SACRE.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm

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