

To The Headteachers of all Infant, Junior, Primary and Special schools

November 16<sup>th</sup> 2016

Dear Headteacher

### **Statutory Requirements for Religious Education**

Conwy Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) has asked me to bring to your attention the statutory requirements for Religious Education in state maintained schools. As the curriculum review is getting under way it is believed that some schools are confused as to the status of agreed syllabuses in schools.

As I am sure you are aware Religious Education is part of the basic curriculum and therefore sits outside the National Curriculum. The RE curriculum is locally determined by the LA and its SACRE. This means that there is a statutory requirement for LA's to provide Religious Education according to an agreed syllabus. With regard to the position of the Conwy agreed syllabus it was re adopted in 2013 and therefore the current syllabus stays in place with an understanding that the syllabus will be reviewed once the shape of the new Donaldson curriculum is defined. There would need to be a change in legislation for the delivery of RE according to an agreed syllabus to be rescinded.

Professor Donaldson report *Successful Futures - Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales* recommended that *Religious education should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience, and should remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception.*

SACRE is aware that the Pioneer schools are now meeting in order to shape the new curriculum. Until such time as the detail of the AOLE are shaped and a review of the agreed syllabus takes place then SACRE wish to ensure that schools understand that **coverage of the programmes of study of the locally agreed syllabus is the main statutory requirement.**

I attach a copy of the current agreed syllabus for RE and the programmes of study for KS2 can be found on pages 18-19 of the agreed syllabus.

As regards the **Foundation Phase** three broad areas of People, Beliefs and Questions are studied. Please see pages 14-17 of the agreed syllabus.

SACRE would like schools to confirm receipt of this information by completing the attached pro forma below and returning to me, [philiplord@gwegogledd.cymru](mailto:philiplord@gwegogledd.cymru)

I hope that this information is useful to you.

Regards and best wishes

Phil Lord