

Primary RE network 15 October 2020

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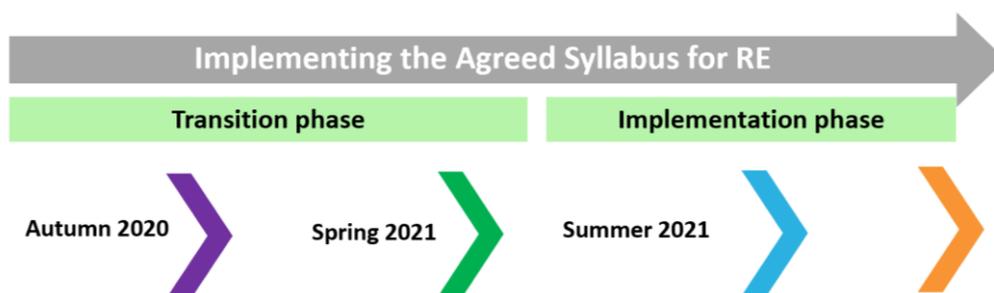
Number of attendees: 13

Record of the meeting

Theme: The new Agreed Syllabus for RE 2020/25

Discussions focused on:

- Some of the colleagues are new in the role and a brief introduction on **legal requirements for RE** was necessary.
- Colleagues were familiar with the **expectations set out in the new Agreed Syllabus 2020/25**. There was a common feeling amongst all participants that the new curriculum is the best Ealing has had so far.
- **Implementation of the new curriculum** seemed to be the main concern and a lot of the discussions focused on strategies for implementation.
- From the conversations during this meeting it was clear that schools are at different points of implementation. Most schools have begun to work with the new curriculum.
- At this stage schools are concerned with mapping out the time required for teaching the new programme, availability of materials, strategies to be adopted, planning the implementation of the new curriculum to address changes to be made. Also, ensuring engagement of school leaders (including GB), staff, pupils and parents, therefore, raising the profile of RE in schools.
- **Timeline for implementing the new RE curriculum**



Phases of implementation

- Autumn 2020 – Spring 2021 will involve **a slow change** with minor adjustments taking place: schools getting familiar with the new curriculum, trailing the new units, reviewing, adopting or creating new lesson plans, auditing resources (including textbooks), and carrying out a CPD audit for all staff to identify CPD needs.
- Summer 2021 will involve **a much quicker change** as a result of new knowledge, better understanding of the new RE syllabus, new resources and lesson plans being used. This will enable the schools to implement the Re syllabus in the way and manner that has been designed to be delivered. In this phase, most of the schools would have taught 2 – 4 units per each year group and utilise their learning to plan further advancements with the new curriculum.

What good teaching of RE looks like?

- Discussions focused on importance of pedagogy, subject knowledge, monitoring and evaluation of RE that should take place in schools.
- To ensure high quality of RE education, schools should be actively involved in curriculum development and implementation which includes:
 - (1) *Identifying the learning needs of the pupils*
 - (2) *Searching and retrieving resources*
 - (3) *Curriculum mapping based on the new RE syllabus to ensure the entitlement*
 - (4) *Implementing the new syllabus*
 - (5) *Evaluating the effectiveness of RE in their schools*
 - (6) *Making adaptations when and if necessary.*
 - (7) *Celebration of good practice*
- Colleagues shared ideas and good practice regarding teaching and learning and assessments.
- **Impact of Covid-19 on RE** (especially visiting places of worship) was also discussed. ELP Adviser has shared some advice from NATRE on pursuing educational visits.

Support available

- The ability and effectiveness of schools to carry out curriculum implementation depends to a large extent on subject knowledge, experience, qualifications, availability of resources and motivational issues amongst others.
- All participants expressed an interest on future CPD on RE.
- Support has been planned for schools to aid them with the curriculum implementation. This includes: Termly RE network Meetings, signposting to resources, RE events and support available, CPD sessions provided by RE experts, membership with relevant professional associations.
- This work is in progress, but at present schools can access resources for at least 4 themes for each year group via Google Drive.
- **Communication** is important in influencing the curriculum implementation stage.
 - o The ELP Adviser will make sure that the communication with schools is frequent and comprehensive, utilising all avenues for sending messages at all levels of the curriculum implementation process.
 - o Participants agreed to share emails of the group so the networking continues beyond scheduled meetings.

Resources shared with participants

A pack comprising a wide range of resources, which is also made available at Google Drive.

Focus for the next meeting on 11th March 2021:

- Assessment in RE (colleagues to bring/ share pupil work samples, planning, assessment policy, etc) – opportunities for sharing good practice.
- Implementation of the new AS (colleagues will share the work done up to March) – opportunities for sharing good practice.

Future RE network meetings: 11th March 2021 and 10th June 2021

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