

People and Health Overview Committee

29 October 2024

Dorset Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

For Recommendation to Cabinet

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

Cllr. C Sutton, Children's Services, Education & Skills

Local Councillor(s):

All

Executive Director:

P Dempsey, Executive Director of People - Children

Report Author: Dorset Standing Council on Religious Education
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Report Status: Public (the exemption paragraph is N/A)

Brief Summary:

Members of Dorset's Standing Council on Religious Education (SACRE) are delighted to present to Cabinet the Dorset Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. This working document will serve our school and academy settings for the next 5 years. This new syllabus will build upon the positive work taking place in all our schools and continues to emphasise the importance of Religious Education for all young people growing up and being educated in our wonderful county.

This document has been produced in consultation with teaching colleagues in Dorset that cover all phases of education. The Dorset Locally Agreed Syllabus provides the opportunity for young people to develop their understanding of people, cultures, faiths and relationships, and links so strongly with Dorset Council's wider *Belonging Strategy*. The aim of this being that all young people feel they belong and can thrive within our school/academy settings and their wider community.

This agreed syllabus sets out detailed and extensive programmes that enable Dorset young people to gain strong understanding of religious and non-religious worldviews, preparing them for life in modern day Britain and a global and ever-changing world. The syllabus provides teachers with clear guidance on how to approach and deliver engaging RE across all key stages.

This agreed syllabus has been ratified by Dorset SACRE members on the 18th September 2024 pending wider ratification of committee members moving forward.

A training event to support the delivery of the Locally Agreed Syllabus is planned for January 2025, enabling all teachers of RE to receive appropriate training and guidance of how to deliver this new syllabus.

Recommendation:

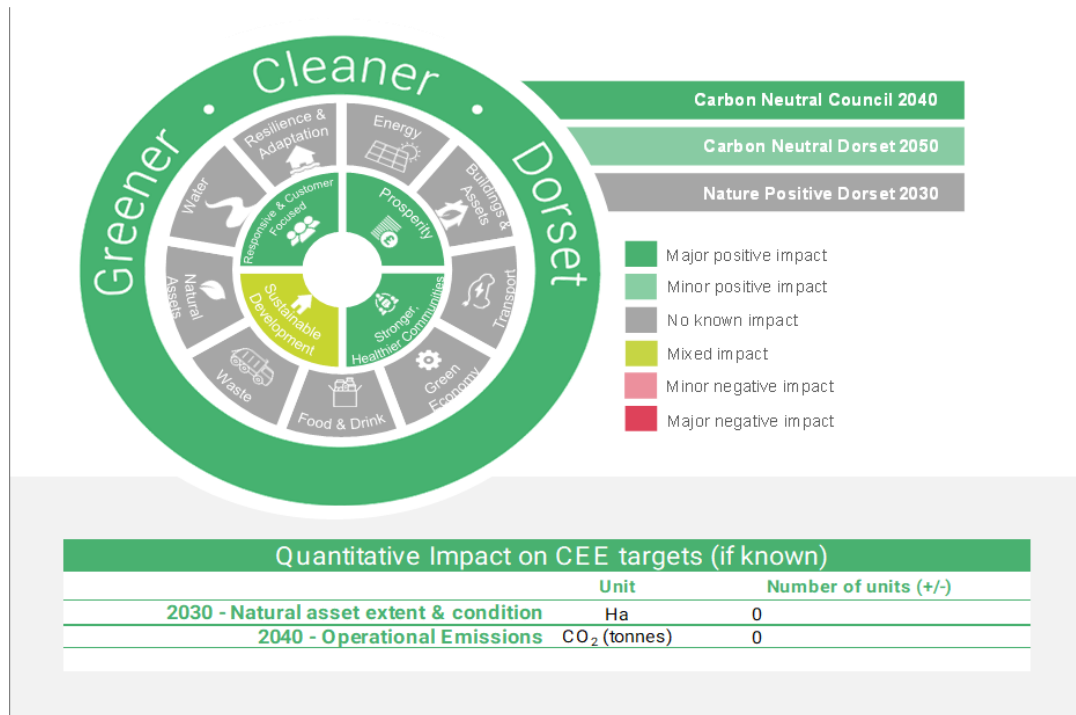
For committee to recommend to Cabinet to formally ratify the Dorset Locally Agreed Syllabus.

Reason for Recommendation:

In order for the syllabus to now be circulated and shared with all our school and academy settings.

Please note Appendix 1 is the SACRE document.

1. **Financial Implications** – Any associated costs with this work are accounted for in the funding that Dorset SACRE receives annually from Schools Forum, from the Dedicated School's Grant. Therefore, there is no impact on general funds.
2. **Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications**



As part of our work Dorset SACRE members have developed a new webpage that will host a PDF version of the Locally Agreed Syllabus. Thereby reducing the need for paper copies over time.

3. Well-being and Health Implications

- 3.1 This document will support the work of teachers across Dorset and as a result of clear guidance. It will provide clarity and reduce teacher workload.

4. Other Implications

None

5. Risk Assessment

- 5.1 HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: LOW

Residual Risk: LOW

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

6.1 Creating this document has been inclusive from the beginning of our consultation process to the working parties involved in testing and developing support materials. We are grateful to all SACRE members and the many Dorset teachers and members of Faith and Worldviews groups for their input. We thank Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education and SACRE's RE Adviser Dave Rees for support and advice throughout. As a result of including members of Faith and Worldwide views this agreed syllabus is an inclusive document reflecting the population of Dorset and beyond.

7. **Appendices**

7.1 Appendix 1 – Dorset Agreed Syllabus

8. **Background Papers**

None

9. **Report Sign Off**

9.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Legal and Democratic (Monitoring Officer), the Executive Director for Corporate Development (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)