

Preparing Your School for the New Coventry & Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus September 2024

Coventry and Warwickshire schools will have a new local agreed syllabus to use from September 2024. The development of this syllabus is supported by both local authority SACREs and Coventry Diocesan Board of Education.

This new agreed syllabus will move the teaching of RE from a world religions paradigm to a worldviews approach to teaching religion and worldviews. This is in keeping with the recommendations of the main RE national bodies, such as NATRE and Culham St Gabriel's. The syllabus is also being developed alongside the Religion & Education Council (REC) Worldviews Project, with the syllabus writing team also producing a framework and exemplary units in response to the draft statement of entitlement for RE as one of three project teams. As such, our new syllabus will be innovative and pioneering.

We intend on doing a 'soft launch' of the new syllabus over three terms next academic year. Each term there will be a series of CPD opportunities for RE subject leaders which will ensure the underlying principles and working approaches of the new syllabus are well-understood and there is plenty of time for cascading to wider staff before the intended implementation of the syllabus in schools from September 2024.

RE subject leaders should ensure the following:

- They are booked on to all available CPD (see email updates and bulletins for details, booking via Event Brite)
- They have spoken to senior leaders about this significant curriculum change
- They have an action plan for cascading key messaging about the new agreed syllabus to other relevant staff
- They have arranged for some management time to allow for planning a smooth transition to the new agreed syllabus

RE Subject leaders may find the free CPD provided by Culham St Gabriel's to be of benefit to their subject knowledge regarding religion and worldviews: <https://courses.cstg.org.uk/>

RE subject leaders may find the table below useful when planning how to get ready for change and implement the new RE agreed syllabus effectively.

Term	CPD Opportunity	Intended to...	Allowing for...	Action to be taken by RE subject leaders
Autumn 2023	RE Curriculum Symposium	<p>Introduce RE subject leaders to the underlying principles of the new agreed syllabus, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A worldviews approach • Theology • Philosophy • Human & Social sciences • Personal knowledge and pupils as worldviews explorers • Metacognition & assessment in RE • Reconciliation and the local context for RE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective knowledge of RE subject leaders regarding the approaches taken in the new agreed syllabus • Supporting other members of staff in becoming familiar with the underpinning principles and pedagogies of the new RE agreed syllabus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend RE Curriculum Symposium • Make an action plan for cascading key learning (slides will be made available) • Ensure all staff who will be teaching from the new agreed syllabus are familiar with the underpinning principles and pedagogies prior to implementation • Keep senior leaders and governors informed of pending changes • Consider MAT- level approaches to implementing the new agreed syllabus • Consider updating curriculum intent/implementation statements in response to pending changes
Spring 2024	Modelling of new units from the new agreed syllabus at each phase of education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show units from the new agreed syllabus in action so the approach can be exemplified and RE teacher/leaders can ask questions • Show what the syllabus will look like and how it will work at each phase of education • Show a worldviews approach in action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RE subject leaders to consider their own context and available resources • To cascade exemplification of the worldviews approach to staff who will be teaching the new RE agreed syllabus • Any queries or concerns about the new syllabus to be addressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend any of the 5 available sessions modelling units (EYFS, KS1, Lower KS2, Upper KS2, KS3) • Share recordings of sessions with appropriate staff • Explore approach with staff further and clarify what a worldviews approach requires • Conduct a resource audit in terms of physical resources, geographical resources (visits/places of worship) and the 'living library' (visitors)

<p>Summer 2024 (April/May)</p>	<p>Launch of full syllabus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share an introduction to the new syllabus • Share enquiry questions and units for each phase of education • Share unit pathways and sequencing for the teaching of the new syllabus • Share resources to complement each unit of work • Share additional materials for implementing the new syllabus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RE subject leaders to access all the materials needed for teachers in their school to teach the new RE agreed syllabus • RE subject leaders to ask questions of the syllabus writing group • Any misconceptions or missing elements to be addressed prior to launch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend the syllabus launch (likely to be online) • Create an action for introducing staff to the new syllabus • Share all new syllabus materials with staff (probably via a staff meeting format) • Decide if and when to use 'layover' units for each of the major religious worldviews and add these to the unit pathways for your school • Create a school RE curriculum map (CE schools will need to decide how to implement the new AS alongside <i>Understanding Christianity</i> units) • Purchase resources that will help with implementing a worldviews approach in school • Support teachers in making use of your own context in terms of visits (communal worldviews/local faith communities and places of worship) and visitors (individual worldviews in the form of SACRE visitors or others inhabiting worldviews that align with organised worldviews such as religions; communal worldviews such as families in the school community, staff and pupils) to support the RE curriculum
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Autumn 2024	Embedding the new syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share the syllabus in action • Address any issues arising from implementation of the new syllabus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See how the units are being used and taught in different contexts • Share new and additional resources for teaching the new syllabus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend any CPD available following the syllabus launch • Share resources and exemplification with RE Facilitator to allow for sharing of resources across schools • Plan for regular reviews with staff to see how the implementation of the new syllabus is going and feedback to SACRE