

The Birmingham Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2022

Appendix Two.

CVs of Drafting Secretaries

Current: Dr Simone Whitehouse

Dr Whitehouse is the current drafting secretary of the Birmingham Agreed Syllabus 2022. Her recent PhD is based on the Birmingham Agreed Syllabus. Simone examined whether the dispositions facilitate the engagement of pupils in Religious Education, concluding that they do.

Simone qualified with a PGCE in Religious Education following an Honours degree and Masters degree in Theology. She went onto lead Religious Education in two demographically different schools in Birmingham before working for the City's advisory service. She has extensive classroom experience on both academic and pastoral fronts.

As an adviser she worked in school improvement and led on implementing national projects. Simone currently works for Services for Education, and independent provider of services supporting schools in Birmingham and beyond. In addition to her advisory services for Religious Education, Dr Whitehouse works on behalf of the City Council as the Appropriate Body for Early Career Teachers (ECTs). This involves working with ECTs in the classroom, whilst supporting and challenging induction tutors and headteachers.

Throughout her career Religious Education has been a constant, whether that be teaching or training teachers. As an adviser this has involved working on both local and national levels. Locally, Simone advises, trains and delivers consultancy with Birmingham schools. Simone has recently carried out work at the University of Birmingham as a visiting lecturer on their Post Graduate Diploma course in Teaching Religious Education; lecturing and carrying out school visits. She has been the adviser to Birmingham Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) for a number of years; liaising with faith groups, teachers, headteachers and Governing Bodies. She has worked with others to design lesson plans and films for a website to support schools to implement the Birmingham Agreed Syllabus.

Former: Rev Dr Marius Felderhof (Resigned 2018)

Rev Dr Felderhof is Executive Director of the Museum of World Religions, UK, and Honorary Senior Research Fellow and former Senior Lecturer in Systematic and Philosophical Theology in the Department of Theology and Religion at The University of Birmingham.

He has published many articles concerning various aspects of Religious Education and was the drafting secretary of the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, adopted unanimously by Birmingham City Council in 2007. This was the first syllabus to adopt 24 dispositions as the vehicle for learning and teaching in Birmingham's schools. Marius also participated in authoring and evidence collection for 'The Monitoring and Evaluation of Religious Education and Collective Worship' in Birmingham in 2016 in response to 'Trojan Horse'. The survey evidenced how well received the 2007 syllabus had been.

Marius is a well-known national and international figure in the RE world, he presented evidence to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Religious Education in 2018. He is the author of several highly regarded books including Religious Education in a Pluralistic Society (1985) and Inspiring Faith in Schools (2007).