

# The Process of Coming to Agreement

## Introduction:

### Aim 1:

To maximise the contribution from all parties and to include everyone in the key decision-making process so that everyone will *own* the outcome.

### Aim 2:

To arrive at a substantive text which clearly articulates and expresses the wishes of the Conference as a whole and that conforms to the law and which makes educational and religious sense and, finally, which will serve the needs of the City and its young people.

As will quickly become evident to all, it will not be easy to devise a process which achieves both ends at once. Large groups of people with different interests and backgrounds seldom arrive at an agreed text that reads well without wasting a good deal of time. One person can most easily write the text but this is seldom done without excluding people from what may turn out to be critical decisions. The designing of the process is to square this circle.

## Process:

Ideas and material generated and mediated by:

[a] Individuals	[b] Committees of the conference	[c] Leading Practitioners
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will be sent to, collated and drafted by:

Drafting Secretary in conjunction with policies of Chair's Group
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for the purpose of policy and overview of texts to be presented for consideration by the:

Scrutiny Panel
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(and committees)

which will review the text and refer it as necessary to the various committees. It will also identify points for decision making by the conference:

The Agreed Syllabus  
Conference (meeting  
in committees and as  
a whole)

will debate and make the decisions and instruct the drafting secretary on the next phase beginning the cycle anew.

At the end of the process the Agreed Syllabus conference will present the Agreed Syllabus for approval by the LEA.

Local Education Authority

If the Syllabus is not agreed the LEA will report this to the Secretary of Education and the decision about the nature and content of the RE syllabus will be made by the Secretary for Education.

Secretary of State for Education

To inaugurate and establish the process for an agreement the City has appointed a drafting secretary and the conference has appointed a Scrutiny Panel as follows:

**Drafting Secretary:** Dr. Marius C. Felderhof

**Chair's Group**

Chairs of Committees A (Rabbi Shmuel Arkush), B (Betty Richmond), C (Raymond Rowe), and D (Guy Hordern), + Drafting Secretary (Marius Felderhof) and RE Advisor (Simone Whitehouse)

**Scrutiny Panel:**

The scrutiny committee should represent the interests of each of the main committees of the conference i.e. Committee A, B, C, & D

They have appointed as follows:

Committee A: 4 persons [and 2 alternates] Shmuel Arkush; Jay Jina; Sue Fearon; Malik Hussain [Gopinder Kaur; Sior Coleman]

Committee B: 2 persons [and 1 alternate] Chris Dunford; Jill Maybury [Rosie Bewley]

Committee C: 2 persons [and 1 alternate] Lucretia Fields; Rosemary Sargent [John Croghan]

Committee D: 2 persons [and 1 alternate] Margaret Byrne; Arjan Singh

The panel will be chaired by the chair of the conference who will be an *ex officio member*. Guy Hordern

The panel will be attended by the drafting secretary and the RE advisor to serve its wishes.

**Administration:**

Minutes will be taken, documents will be circulated, rooms booked and any other administrative tasks to ensure the smooth functioning of the conference will be undertaken by Simone Whitehouse and Chantell Balantine in the Education Department of the City.

**Drafting Secretary:**

“The Drafting Secretary will prepare texts, meet with individuals and committees to ensure that the Drafting Secretariat, Scrutiny panel and the Conference have a text to debate, and to alter as they see fit. His task is to ensure that the various interests are fairly represented, that a text emerges that conforms to the law and which makes educational and religious sense and, finally, which will serve the needs of the City and its young people.”

**Committees A, B, C, & D:**

While the Conference as a whole has responsibility for the final Agreed Syllabus to be presented to the LEA for approval, each of the committees has a special responsibility for that interest which by virtue of their nature is specifically theirs. Thus, Committee A must ensure that the syllabus is fair to the diversity of faith and that the Syllabus makes collective religious sense. Committee B must also ensure the religious sense of the Syllabus, that Christianity is fairly represented and that it meets the spiritual needs

of all young people and the nation as a whole. Committee C must ensure that the syllabus makes educational sense and is deliverable in the classroom given the constraints of schools and the classroom, of curriculum time and the professional expertise of teachers. Committee D must ensure that the individual and collective interests of the whole community are best served through the RE that is envisaged within the constraints of the resources that are available to the authority. In every instance, representatives are never there to pursue a private agenda but to serve the interests of the community they represent for the sake of all.

Marius Felderhof,  
Drafting Secretary