

ANTI-RACISM IN EDUCATION PROGRAMME - CURRICULUM REFORM WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL STUDIES QUALIFICATIONS REMIT

Introduction

1. This document sets out the remit for a proposed new short-life Curriculum Reform Working Group (“the Group”), which will be jointly chaired by Scottish Government Curriculum Policy and SQA. (“the Chairs”). Education Scotland Curriculum leads will be closely involved in the planning and delivery of the meetings.
2. The Group will draw on expertise that exists in the [Anti-Racism in Education Programme \(AREP\) Curriculum Reform SubGroup](#), the wider AREP Board, and the contacts and networks of the Group members as appropriate.

Purpose and Scope

3. The purpose of this new working group is to develop advice and recommendations to support the shared aim and Programme for Government commitment to embed anti-racism within the Scottish curriculum. This includes supporting decolonisation of the social studies qualifications, as led by the SQA.
4. The Group will collaborate to co-produce robust recommendations on how best to ensure the inclusion of anti-racist practice and content in the development of current, new or adapted course specifications and relevant guidance, as overseen by the SQA.
5. To achieve this, the scope of the Group’s work will focus on providing advice to the Curriculum Reform SubGroup – of which the SG, ES and SQA are all members – on where the priority areas for change in relation to current qualifications exist, and capturing the detail of the change recommended to meaningfully embed and articulate anti-racism in line with the [principles](#) created by the Curriculum Reform SubGroup.
6. In the first instance the focus will be on history, reflecting the discussions and progress already underway, and then, subject to successful piloting of the Group and value of outputs, a similar approach will be taken to address wider social studies.
7. The conclusions that the Group reaches will be submitted to the SubGroup for consideration, discussion and refinement, before then being put to the AREP Board for formal endorsement and formal submission to the SQA for consideration and response.

Activities

8. Specific activities of the Group to deliver on its purpose will include:

- Consider the development of key principles or another way to capture high-level expectations that can guide the design and delivery of future development of qualifications;
- Consider feedback from a range of relevant stakeholders pertinent to the work, notably learners and young people, parents, educators, professional organisations and associations, local and national policy makers;
- Produce practical recommendations that have a broad consensus of support;
- Challenge assumptions and ask difficult questions to ensure that there is robust evidence and justification for any proposals to change the current system;
- Consider its work in the wider context of the Anti-Racism in Education programme of work, the UNCRC, Education Reform agenda including the Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment, “All Learners Matter: National Discussion on Education Final Report (2023), Programme for Government anti-racism commitment, *Breaking the Mould*, the Curriculum Improvement Cycle (as announced in the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills’ Parliamentary Statement from 12 December 2023) and any further commitments that may be made as part of wider strategic engagement and consultation activities led by the AREP Board

Membership

9. The Group will be drawn from the existing expertise contained within the Curriculum Reform SubGroup and will also include other relevant stakeholders to ensure a depth of expertise and experience within the Group and a clear anti-racist focus and understanding.

At a minimum this will include:

- SQA and Education Scotland subject leads
- Practicing history secondary educators
- Anti-racist educators with experience of the education sector
- Social studies and decolonisation expertise

10. Engagement with views from young people will be a requirement and a question for the Group to consider and address as a priority.
11. The key subject-specific professional associations will be kept up-to-date on the work of the Group.

Approach

12. The History Qualifications Working Group will:

- Meet on five occasions over Autumn 2024 to Winter 2025;
- Engage with feedback from the AREP Youth Ambassadors and other young people;
- Demonstrate a commitment to the integrity of the SQA processes that require careful information management and sharing;
- Prioritise accessible and respectful communication at all times.

Timescales

13. The Group will begin this work in Autumn 2024 and will provide draft recommendations for discussion at the Curriculum Reform SubGroup in early 2025.

Secretariat support

14. Secretariat support required by the Chairs and the Group will be provided through the Curriculum Unit in Scottish Government.

‘Critical Friends’

15. The Group will be supported by identified members of the SubGroup and wider network as appropriate, in relation to issues that arise that require additional expertise, insights and/or a ‘sounding board’.

Proposed meeting dates

4.00pm - 5.30pm on 30 October 2024
4.00pm - 5pm on 27 November 2024
4.00pm - 5pm on 11 December 2024
4.00pm - 5pm on 29 January 2025

More dates to be arranged as required

Working Group members

John Booth, Director of Communications, SQA **Co-chair**

[REDACTED], Scottish Government **Co-chair**

[REDACTED]*, [REDACTED], Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (CRER)

[REDACTED]*, education consultant

[REDACTED]*, [REDACTED], St Thomas of Aquin’s

[REDACTED], South Lanarkshire Council

[REDACTED], University of Glasgow

[REDACTED], Holyrood Secondary School

[REDACTED]*, [REDACTED], SQA

[REDACTED]*, [REDACTED], Education Scotland

Iain Morrison*, Head of Humanities, Care and Services Qualifications Development, SQA

[REDACTED]*, [REDACTED], Scottish Government **secretariat**

Other Scottish Government, Education Scotland and SQA colleagues will be involved at stages

*member of the Anti-Racism in Education Curriculum Reform SubGroup

Meeting schedule - draft for review

Meeting 1 – 30 October 2024

Establish purpose and process
Focus on initial priorities and aspirations
Agree work schedule and engagement with young people

Meeting 2 – 27 November 2024

Consider evidence
Discuss options for initial focus and agree priorities

Meeting 3 – 11 December 2024

Present options for change and discussion
Reflections from SQA and ES

Meeting 4 – 29 January 2025

Present refined options for change and discussion
Consider views from young people

Meeting 5 – February/March 2025 (tbc)

Workshop/in-person session to discuss and agree final changes and presentation of them (if required)

Next steps: discussion at the AREP Curriculum Reform SubGroup and Programme Board. Formal submission to SQA for review and change processes.