Dear Brothers & Sisters Assalamu'Alaikum

I hope everybody is in the best of health and Imaan insha'Allah. I have a few points to brief on.

Firstly a small sub-committee was assigned the task of research and then put forward one or more recommended set/s of Islamic Studies Text Books for Islamic Schools in Australia at the last ISAA AGM. I would like to request all schools to please forward the series of the current Islamic Studies books/Curriculum you have at your school along with the local supplier's details by return email. I would also appreciate if you could send a set of Islamic Studies textbooks (addressed to Abdullah Khan Executive Principal AIC PO Box 252 Cloverdale WA 6985). I along with the other members will look into all of these books and then move the proposal in due course of time, insha'Allah.

Secondly one of the Islamic Schools has raised a concern about some strands of the Arts Learning Area of the National Curriculum which is in draft form at the moment and the consultation period on this draft has just lapsed on 25th September 2012. The five strands include: Dance, Drama, Media Arts, Music and Visual Arts. Under State Curriculum, the Islamic Schools had some flexibility in terms of music and dance. I quote the exemption procedures from any outcomes/strands from the existing WA Curriculum on religious or cultural grounds. I assume the other states would have similar processes in this regard. Music and Dance are not the strands in the current WA Curriculum. Once the National Arts Curriculum becomes mandatory, would this flexibility and adoptability stay for us. One of the AIS response was that there will be no flexibility even if these strands contradict with your religious belief and values. Do you think we should raise our concern with ACARA or leave this issue for the time being. The Information Sheet for The Arts Australian National Curriculum is attached.

"Exemptions Procedures in Existing WA Curriculum
In rare circumstances an education provider may be unable to implement particular learning outcomes set out in the Curriculum Framework. Exemptions will be granted when education providers can demonstrate that they are unable to engage students in learning opportunities that will enable them to achieve particular outcomes in the Framework for religious, cultural, moral or other similar reasons.

Please note:
••• Exemptions will not be granted for whole learning areas, only for individual outcomes.
••• Exemptions will not be granted due to lack of resources to provide suitable learning programs at a particular phase of development."

Thirdly many schools are considering to have a formal Social Media Policy for Staff and Students due to the serious implication they have faced. Some schools have terminated their staff members and students for posting irresponsible and derogatory comments about the school on the social media including facebook. The affected staff members sued the school and were unsuccessful in getting re-instated. If the school does not have a policy or has not provided proper induction on the policy, the staff and students are not obliged to comply. We have recently updated our staff and students' social media policies and I am quite happy to share these with everybody as examples. Both copies of the policies are attached.

Wassalam,

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