



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) - 5TH MARCH 2014

SUBJECT: NATIONAL CURRICULUM REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report informs SACRE of the forthcoming review and assessment of the National Curriculum in Wales.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 In October 1st 2012 the Minister for Education and Skills, announced a review of assessment and the National Curriculum in Wales. The report outlines the two phases of the review and requests that SACRE consider any implications for the Caerphilly agreed syllabus.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The assessment and review of the National Curriculum links directly to SACRE's duty to monitor and develop the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools and the CCBC Strategic Equality Plan 2012.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 **Phase 1** - will focus on strengthening the teaching of literacy, numeracy and wider skills, ensuring continuity and progression from Foundation Phase to key stage 4.
- 4.2 **Phase 2** - will focus on curriculum design at each phase/stage of education to ensure that we have a broad and balanced curriculum which is fit for the twenty-first century.

It will consider:

- the suggestion that Key Stage 2 is overcrowded.
- redefining the purpose of Key Stage 3, including looking at the possibility of giving learners time to develop their own particular areas of interest around a particular theme or topic, possibly in conjunction with and supported by organisations beyond the school 3.
- developing the concept of 'graduation' at the end of Key Stage 3 to mark the transition to Key Stage 4.
- ensuring that the curriculum reflects the needs of business, including the critical role of science.

- the place of languages in the curriculum.
- specific subject and cross-curricular content.
- the Basic Curriculum.

4.3 **Phase 1 Consultation - Main proposals in Phase 1:**

- a) **revise existing Areas of Learning programmes of study** for Language, Literacy and Communication Skills and Mathematical Development (at Foundation Phase) and English, Welsh and mathematics (post-Foundation Phase). These revised documents will set out year-on-year expectations to complement the approach taken in the Literacy and Numeracy Framework.
- b) **introduce a statutory wider skills framework** from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 4. These are skills considered to be essential for learning, for work and for life, and include:-
 - critical thinking and problem solving
 - planning and organising
 - creativity and innovation
 - personal effectiveness
 - digital literacy.
- c) **refocus assessment arrangements** to include literacy and numeracy. The proposal is to include a summative assessment of literacy and numeracy report to the Welsh Government at the end of each phase/ stage.
- d) **introduction of cross curricular 'rich learning tasks'** at the end of key stage 2 to strengthen teacher assessment data.
- e) report on end of key stage 3 summative assessment in English, Welsh and mathematics (including literacy and numeracy), science and Welsh second language and remove the statutory requirement to report progress in the remaining statutory subjects to Welsh Government at the end of this key.

Consultation on the proposals will run from 22nd October 2013 until 17th January 2014.

5. **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report is for information purposes only, so the Council's Equalities Impact Assessment process has not been applied, however Religion and Belief is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 and locally is covered by section 6 (xi) of the CCBC Strategic Equality Plan 2012.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications attached to this report.

7. **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications attached to this report.

8. **CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no consultation responses that have not reflected in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 SACRE discuss the proposals and consider any future implication for the Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To inform SACRE of the review and assessment of the National Curriculum in Wales

Author: Vicky Thomas, RE Consultant to SACRE
Consultees: Keri Cole, Manager (Learning Education and Inclusion)
Councillor D.M. Gray, SACRE Chair