

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 2ND NOVEMBER 2015

SUBJECT RE AND THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM – UPDATE

A THE REPORT

Phase 2 of the National Curriculum review has focused on curriculum design at each phase/stage of education to ensure that there is a broad and balanced curriculum which is fit for the twenty-first century. It included consideration of the Basic Curriculum which is where RE sits within the curriculum.

Huw Lewis, Education Minister had made comment over the summer period about proposed changes to RE in the curriculum. WASACRE wrote to the Minister asking for clarification and a response has been received. (See attached letter)

In September WASACRE Executive members were invited to attend regular meetings with officers from Welsh Government so that a productive working arrangement could be implemented. At this meeting the following was clarified.

1. Welsh Government colleagues were able to confirm during the meeting that RE will remain statutory as suggested in Successful Futures, due to the Minister for Education and Skills having accepted all of Professor Donaldson's recommendations (R9).
2. With regard to the Minister's recent proposal of a change of name for religious education colleagues assured WASACRE that full consultation on the name will be sought and stakeholders will have input, with the proposed name change to include Moral Education and Philosophy.
3. All legislation relating to RE and Collective Worship, and SACRE's place in legislation, will be reviewed by WG but not necessarily re written or amended.
4. There will be a non prescriptive framework for each Area of Learning and RE will sit in the Humanities area of Learning. Pioneer schools and stakeholders will have a say in the shape of the curriculum and they will set up a series of meetings to plan and discuss this. WASACRE is expected to be a high level Stakeholder in the review implementation process through the Pioneer Network. To ensure WASACRE's place in the Strategic Stakeholder Group Welsh Government have requested that WASACRE draw up a proposal which will be presented to the Independent Advisory Group which explains what and how WASACRE can contribute to the review process. Some subject areas have already begun their series of meetings (e.g. ICT and History)

B RECOMMENDATION

SACRE to note and discuss the developments relating to the position of RE in the curriculum.

C SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Response from the Minister for Education and Skills (attached at Appendix 1).