

## CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION

**DATE:** 3RD MARCH 2016

**SUBJECT:** NATIONAL CURRICULUM REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT -  
UPDATE

### **A BACKGROUND**

On 1st October 2012 the Minister for Education and Skills, announced a review of assessment and the National Curriculum in Wales. Professor Graham Donaldson was tasked with conducting this review of Key Stages 1 - 4. In February 2015 Professor Donaldson brought out his report and recommendations in the document *Successful Futures - Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales*.

In that report Recommendation 9 stated: *Religious education should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience, and should remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception.*

The Minister for Education and Skills has accepted this along with all of Professor Donaldson's recommendations

In October 2015 a further document was issued called '*A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life*' which is the plan for taking forward Professor Donaldson's recommendations

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 will be a high level Stakeholder in the review implementation process through the Pioneer Network. The first meeting took place in **December 2015** and some details from the minutes are below.

- First stage for Curriculum Pioneers would be a high level definition of an Area of Learning and Experience framework.
- Detail around content would follow on from this initial phase.
- New Deal Pioneers would focus on the pedagogy and leadership needed to deliver the requirements of the new curriculum as it develops.
- Members queried the best process for getting research and evidence to the Pioneer schools and agreed that the Strategic Stakeholder Group would be the most appropriate forum for this- a call for evidence would form a regular part of meetings and members could submit written evidence to the Secretariat between meetings. The next meeting of the Stakeholder group is March 2016.

At its Autumn 2015 meeting the National Advisory Panel for RE (NAPfRE) began the process of drawing up guidelines on *What makes good RE* for WASACRE representatives to submit to the pioneer network for consideration when working on the shape of the RE curriculum.

## **B RECOMMENDATION**

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

## **C SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- Appendix 1 'A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life' Welsh Government document 2015 – Timeline
- Appendix 2 List of Pioneer Schools