

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 18TH OCTOBER 2016

SUBJECT RE AND THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM: UPDATE

A BACKGROUND

Professor Donaldson's report and recommendations can be found in the document *Successful Futures - Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales*.

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

In October 2015 'A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life' document was released which outlines the plan for taking forward Professor Donaldson's recommendations.

Pioneer schools and stakeholders will have a say in the shape of the curriculum.

The 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.

1. Update from WG meeting with WASACRE Officers 13th September 2016

Manon Jones (Curriculum Division of Welsh Government) is responsible for the pioneer schools and two areas of learning and experience (AOLE), Humanities and Language and Literacy. There are 3 strands:-

Strand 1: Representatives from the pioneer schools have already attended a few induction events.

Strand 2 (High Level AOLE design): This will be established in **October 2016** through till Christmas 2016. Representatives from the pioneer schools will work within areas of learning and experience (AOLE) in order to consider the 'big questions' of curriculum development, e.g. what is the scope of each AOLE? What are the connections between AOLES?

Strand 3 (Subject specific design): Representatives from the pioneer schools will consider the strands within each area of learning and experience. This is where the in depth subject specific knowledge will be required.

WASACRE have been asked to support WG by advising on:

- Reading material
- Attendance at meetings North and South
- Identification of schools exemplifying good practice in RE

The timeline (and other documents/presentations) can be found on the following websites.

English: : <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/curriculum-for-wales-curriculum-for-life/?lang=en>

Cymraeg: <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/curriculum-for-wales-curriculum-for-life/?skip=1&lang=cy>

2. Policy Forum for Wales Keynote Seminar - The New National Curriculum for Wales - developing the Content of the Areas of Learning and Experience

This takes place on 13th October 2016 in Cardiff. This has been organised independently from WG. The Chair of WASACRE (Phil Lord) has been invited to speak at the seminar.

3. NAPfRE Guidance

The National Advisory Panel for RE (NAPfRE) has begun the process of drawing up a guidance document called *What makes good RE* for submission to the pioneer network for consideration when working on the shape of the RE curriculum. It is still ongoing and will provide some guidelines on RE in schools.

B RECOMMENDATION

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