

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

ANNUAL REPORT

2015-2016

Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report 2015-2016
DRAFT VERSION

**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

2015-2016

CONTENTS	PAGE
SECTION 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE	1
1.1 Duty To Establish SACRE	1
1.2 Composition of SACRE	1
1.3 Membership of SACRE	1
1.4 Functions of SACRE	1
1.5 Meetings	2
1.6 Development Plan	2
1.7 Circulation of Report	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ADVICE GIVEN BY SACRE	3
SECTION 2: ADVICE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	5
2.1 The Locally Agreed Syllabus	5
2.2 Standards in RE	5
2.3 Methods of Teaching, Teaching Materials and Teacher Training	7
SECTION 3: ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP	9
3.1 School Inspection Reports	9
3.2 Applications For Determinations	9
3.3 School Visits	9
SECTION 4: OTHER ISSUES	10
4.1 WASACRE	10
4.2 Holocaust Education	10
4.3 Welsh Government National Curriculum Review	10
4.4 Revised Criteria for GCSE and GCE Specifications	10
4.5 INCERTS Assessment Programme	11
4.6 Welsh Baccalaureate Survey	11
4.7 Training of SACRE Members	11
APPENDIX 1: SACRE MEMBERSHIP 2015-2016	13
APPENDIX 2: SCHEDULE AND AGENDA OF MEETINGS	14
APPENDIX 3: CAERPHILLY SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015-2018 (ACADEMIC YEAR)	15
APPENDIX 4: EXAMINATION RESULTS ANALYSIS 2015	19
APPENDIX 5: CIRCULATION OF REPORT	20

Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report 2015-2016
DRAFT VERSION

**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF CAERPHILLY STANDING
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

2015-2016

SECTION 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE

1.1 Duty to Establish SACRE

All Local Authorities are required to constitute a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) within their local area.

1.2 Composition of SACRE

Representation on SACRE is required as follows:-

- Such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the Local Authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area
- Associations representing teachers
- The Local Authority

The Local Authority determined that the SACRE should comprise of six elected members, five representatives of religious bodies and six representatives of teachers' associations. In addition, the Authority allowed for two other individuals to be co-opted. Both co-opted places are currently filled.

1.3 Membership of SACRE

The list of members of Caerphilly SACRE is set out in Appendix 1. Every effort has been made to seek representation from non-Christian communities but SACRE has experienced difficulties in finding such representation. SACRE commissioned the Clerk to SACRE to find out the composition of religions in Caerphilly County Borough Council and it was evident that statistically there are very few non-Christian religions represented in the area. The Clerk to SACRE contacted VALREC (Valleys Racial Equality Council) to see if a wider representation can be found. Mr Eddy Mushayanyama (Race Equality Wales) now serves as a co-opted member of SACRE to bring his experience of working with different communities to the work of SACRE.

1.4 Functions of SACRE

- To advise the Local Authority on worship and the religious education to be given in accordance with the agreed syllabus including methods of teaching, advice on materials and the provision of training for teachers
- To consider whether to recommend to the local authority that its current agreed syllabus should be reviewed by convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference.
- To consider whether the requirement that religious worship in a county school should be 'broadly Christian in nature' should be varied (determinations)
- To report to the Local Authority and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) on its activities on an annual basis.

Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report 2015-2016
DRAFT VERSION

1.5 Meetings

SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2015-16.

Monday 2nd November 2015
Thursday 3rd March 2016
Tuesday 14th June 2016

SACRE has resolved that, where possible, meetings will be held at alternative venues such as schools or places of worship. During the academic year 2015-2016 SACRE held two meetings at schools in the county borough and one at the council offices.

1.6 Development Plan

SACRE adopted a development plan as a basis for its activities for the period 2015-2018. A year on year progress report is included in the plan. The plan can be found in Appendix 3.

1.7 Circulation of Report

Copies of this report are circulated electronically to those organisations and establishments listed in Appendix 5. It is also available on the Local Authority and the WASACRE website.

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Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report 2015-2016
DRAFT VERSION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ADVICE GIVEN BY SACRE

Summary of the advice given to the local authority by SACRE.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Issue

To monitor provision and standards in RE.

Action

1. SACRE considers and analyses school inspection reports. If there are any issues regarding RE, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up. During 2015-2016 one school was not fulfilling statutory requirements for RE. SACRE requested the action plan and were satisfied that good progress had been made and that statutory requirements were met.
2. SACRE visit schools on an annual basis and receive a presentation on RE at the school so that strengths and weaknesses can be identified and issues can be addressed directly. One primary and one secondary school were visited in 2015-16.
3. SACRE analyses examination results over a three-year period and identifies trends in performance benchmarked against all Wales data. Schools are informed of the outcomes of this analysis and SACRE raises any issues schools should be addressing as a result of this analysis.
4. SACRE wrote to WJEC to raise the concerns of teachers over the new GCSE specification and request further guidance on the new specifications, including a timescale for the availability of the final new specifications, suggested support materials, and a grid outlining the commonality and differences between the old and the new specifications.

Issue

To fulfil the legal requirement to review the agreed syllabus for RE on a five yearly basis and ensure the agreed syllabus is being implemented in schools.

Action

1. In 2008 Standing Conference endorsed and adopted a new agreed syllabus for the Authority's schools, which was implemented from September 2008.
2. In June 2013 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education with an understanding that the syllabus would be reviewed once further information is received in relation to the assessment and national curriculum review.
3. SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments with the national Curriculum review. SACRE are awaiting further details from Welsh Government on the shape of RE in the curriculum, and advice from WASACRE, before beginning any RE agreed syllabus review.

TEACHING MATERIALS

Issue

To ensure that schools are informed of suitable resources.

Action

1. All schools were informed of the 2016 Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) theme of 'Don't Stand By' and that free Holocaust resources can be found on their website www.hmd.org.uk – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.
2. SACRE were informed of resources created by Mary Parry, Carmarthenshire LA, addressing the issue of raising the attainment of boys. The resource on "*Muslim Footballers in the Premier League*" covers aspects of the Five Pillars of Islam and raises issues regarding how the beliefs of Muslim footballers affect their lives. With permission from Mary Parry, SACRE agreed to circulate to each secondary school's RE department a copy of the resource materials and its accompanying CD ROM during the Autumn Term 2015.

TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

Issue

To ensure that teachers are able to access appropriate CPD (Continuing Professional Development).

Action

1. With the current Welsh Assembly Government's emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy no subject specific training is on offer.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Issue

To ensure that schools fulfil statutory requirements for collective worship and provide a worthwhile experience for pupils.

Action

1. SACRE monitors the sections of inspection reports that are concerned with collective worship and SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development) and the local authority (LA) follows up on any non- fulfilment of statutory requirements by requesting their action plan. The provision for collective worship had positive comments stating that schools were promoting pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development well but a key recommendation is made regarding non-fulfilment of statutory requirements for collective worship in one secondary school. SACRE followed this up with the school, requesting their action plan, and SACRE were pleased at the progress that has been made and that the LA was working closely with Estyn to monitor that statutory requirements were met.

Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report 2015-2016
DRAFT VERSION

2. Schools have been informed by SACRE of appropriate resources and websites that support collective worship in schools e.g. HMD 2016.
3. SACRE resolved to hold meetings at schools in the county borough and observe an act of collective worship where possible to monitor fulfilment of statutory requirements, provision and quality of collective worship.

OTHER ISSUES:

Aim: To ensure a more informed SACRE through providing regular updates on local and national issues.

1. SACRE has maintained its membership of WASACRE and receives termly feedback from the meetings of the Association.
2. Members have received presentations on a number of issues:
 - (1) "RE in the primary school"- Cwmaber Junior School
 - (2) "RE in the secondary school" - Lewis School Pengam.

SECTION 2: ADVICE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2.1 The Locally Agreed Syllabus

In 2008 the Standing Conference endorsed and adopted a new agreed syllabus for the Authority's schools to be implemented from September 2008. The agreed syllabus closely relates to the National Exemplar Framework for RE. A yearly programme of INSET on the agreed syllabus and support materials, including schemes of work and electronic *Progress in Learning* files for secondary schools, were issued to schools.

During the 2012/13 academic year SACRE was made aware of the announcement by the Minister of a pending review of assessment and the National Curriculum in Wales. This review would involve the introduction of the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework and the identification of revisions to the current assessment and curriculum arrangements. During the Summer Term 2013 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the current syllabus with an understanding that the syllabus would undergo review once the outcomes of the review of assessment, the National Curriculum and the Foundation Phase are made available.

During 2015-16, SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments with the NC review. SACRE are awaiting further details from Welsh Government on the shape of RE in the curriculum, and advice from WASACRE, before beginning any RE agreed syllabus review.

2.2 Standards In RE

SACRE has adopted a number of strategies for monitoring standards being achieved in religious education in the Authority's schools that include the following.

2.2a School Inspection Reports

The local authority and its SACRE scrutinised relevant sections of Estyn school inspection reports for the period academic year Autumn 2014-Summer 2015. If any issues emerge regarding RE, such as non fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the

Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report 2015-2016
DRAFT VERSION

LA follows this up. Thirteen schools were inspected consisting of 10 primary schools, and 3 secondary schools. Members were presented with a summary of findings from these inspections.

At primary and secondary level, comments were positive, stating that curriculum and statutory requirements were met and that schools studied other cultures, faiths and traditions and had a growing understanding of the diverse world in which they live. Schools had beneficial links with places of worship which enrich their experiences. There was good provision for global citizenship and education for sustainable development. One primary school had a key issue to ensure consistency in the provision for religious education and did not meet the statutory requirements for RE. SACRE requested the action plan for this school. The school reported that immediate steps were taken to address this recommendation including additional time for RE, portfolios of work being kept, SLT monitoring of RE and reports on progress to the Governing Body. SACRE discussed their progress and were satisfied that good progress was being made in satisfying statutory requirements.

2.2b Examination Results 2015

Examination results for GCSE and GCE AS/Advanced Level achieved by pupils at secondary schools within the Authority have been analysed and considered. A three-year analysis is conducted so that a comparison can be made and trends identified. Cohort entry numbers are also analysed and a comparison is made to All -Wales figures (where available).

In **GCSE Religious Studies** thirteen schools entered 679 pupils. Entry numbers are higher than previous numbers but number of schools entering candidates has decreased this year. 10 out of 13 schools have entries in double figures.

The overall % of **A*-A grades was 28.3%** which is the best result of the last three years but just below the All Wales figure of 30%.

The overall % of **A*-C grades was 71.4%** which is below 2014 performance but better than 2013 performance and below the All Wales figure of 75%

The overall % of **A*-G grades was 98.4%** and is comparable with the previous two years' results and the All-Wales figure of 98%

SACRE notes that results continue to be good and compare with or are just below All Wales figures at A*-A and A*-C. At A*-G they are slightly better than All Wales figures.

At GCSE Short Course in Religious Education numbers have significantly decreased again this year. Thirteen schools in the Authority continue to enter pupils for the short course. Three schools have entry numbers in triple figures and thus enter a significant percentage of the cohort and pupils of all ability levels. However a significant number are still being entered for Short Course and therefore receiving accreditation for their course of study. Some schools enter pupils for two short courses and their performance has been reflected in the full course results. It is important to bear in mind that those pupils entered for two short courses will be mainly the more able and this will reflect on the A*-A and A*-C results for Short Course.

The overall % of **A*-A grades of 18.6%** is much better than 2014 performance and better than the All Wales figure of 14%.

Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report 2015-2016
DRAFT VERSION

The overall % of **A*-C grades was 60.9%** and is the best result of the last three years and also better than the All Wales figure of 52%.

The overall % of **A*-G grades was 91.5%** and is below previous performance and the All Wales figure of 93%.

SACRE is pleased that a significant number of pupils continue to be entered for Short Course and that 95% of pupils receive some kind of accreditation for their studies at KS4, especially when this course is usually delivered as part of statutory requirements for RE rather than an option subject.

At **GCE Advanced Level** entry figures are much better than last year with 100 entries from 8 schools. 7 out of 8 schools have entries in double figures.

A*-A was achieved by **13%** of students and is below previous performance and the All Wales figure of 23%.

At A*-C candidates achieved a pass rate of **73%** which is below 2014 performance and slightly better than 2013. It is also below the All Wales figure of 81%.

The pass rate for grades A-E of **100%** is excellent and continues the excellent performance of previous years.

At **AS level** there was an increase in entry numbers this year with 22 candidates from 8 schools.

Grade A was achieved by 4.5% of students and is below previous performance.

36.4% of students achieved A*-C which is below previous performance.

72.7% pass rate for grades A-E

The data includes only those who have cashed in their results. For example if a pupil sat an AS Level during 2015, but have not yet cashed the result in, then they should be excluded from this year's data and included next year when the results have been cashed in, otherwise this will result in results being double counted.

It should be noted that definitive conclusions could not be drawn because the figures represent raw scores and do not necessarily reflect the selectivity of the entry and in some cases the numbers are too small to be statistically significant.

A detailed table of examination results is found in Appendix 4.

SACRE resolved to write to schools informing them of the examination analysis.

2.3 Methods of Teaching, Teaching Materials And Teacher Training

Continuing Professional Development

The local authority informed SACRE that the South East Wales Consortium advertises their courses through CPD online. With the current Welsh Assembly Government's emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy no subject specific training is on offer.

Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report 2015-2016
DRAFT VERSION

RE News

SACRE agreed to inform all schools of the RE News website and encourage schools to submit articles <http://www.religious-education-wales.org>

The website is now available free of charge to anyone who wishes to use it.

It is suitable for both primary and secondary schools and is fully bi-lingual.

Caerphilly schools have made contributions to RE News in 2015-2016 in order to share good practice.

Teaching Materials

1. Holocaust Memorial Day 2016 Resources

All schools were informed of the 2016 Holocaust Memorial Day theme of 'Don't Stand By'. The Holocaust and subsequent genocides took place because the local populations allowed insidious persecution to take root. Whilst some actively supported or facilitated state policies of persecution, the vast majority stood by silently - at best, afraid to speak out; at worst, indifferent. Bystanders enabled the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides.

Schools were informed by SACRE that further information about the theme and free educational Holocaust resources can be found on their website www.hmd.org.uk - these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.

2. Resources to Support Boys Attainment

SACRE had been informed of resources created by Mary Parry, Carmarthenshire LA, addressing the issue of raising the attainment of boys. The resource on "*Muslim Footballers in the Premier League*" covers aspects of the Five Pillars of Islam and raises issues regarding how the beliefs of Muslim footballers affect their lives. With permission from Mary Parry, in Autumn 2015 SACRE circulated to each secondary department a copy of the resource materials and its accompanying CD-ROM.

SECTION 3: ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

3.1 School Inspection Reports

The local authority and its SACRE scrutinised relevant sections of Estyn school inspection reports for the academic year Autumn 2014-Summer 2015. If any issues emerge regarding collective worship, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up requesting their action plan. Thirteen schools were inspected consisting of ten primary schools, and three secondary schools. Members were presented with a summary of findings from these inspections.

The provision for collective worship had positive comments stating that schools were promoting pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development well. Good features included comment that assemblies support pupils in developing respect for their own culture and for other cultures; that they celebrate pupils' progress and achievement well; that they provide suitable opportunities for pupils to reflect upon moral and spiritual issues and that they give pupils a very good understanding of right and wrong. Links with local faith communities - especially local churches and chapels - have a positive influence on pupils' spiritual development. At secondary level acts of collective worship were well planned and contribute well to SMSC. However, one secondary school did not meet fully the statutory requirements for collective worship.

The action plan of that secondary school was requested by SACRE and the school had produced an action plan demonstrating how they intended to meet the requirements. SACRE noted the progress made which included formal monitoring of a daily act of collective worship (DACW) by SMT and training of staff to increase confidence in the delivery of DACW. Pupil voice showed that the DACW in tutor periods was becoming more meaningful and that there were greater opportunities for reflection. SACRE discussed their progress and were satisfied that good progress was being made in satisfying statutory requirements.

SACRE resolved to continue to use inspection reports to monitor that statutory requirements are being met and to use whatever comments are applicable. They also resolved to continue to request the action plans of any schools identified as not fulfilling statutory requirements.

3.2 Applications for Determinations

No applications were received from schools for determinations to be made on the lifting of the requirements for collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

3.3 School Visits

SACRE appreciates the opportunities accorded to members to observe acts of collective worship in schools. Members had the opportunity to host their SACRE meeting at one primary school and one secondary school this year. They did attend an act of collective worship at the primary school.

SECTION 4: OTHER ISSUES

4.1 WASACRE

SACRE has continued to affiliate to WASACRE and representatives have attended its meetings. During the 2015-16 academic year issues considered at WASACRE meetings have been fully reported back to SACRE and full discussions have taken place. SACRE welcomes the pro-active work of WASACRE in taking up issues that have implications for RE and keeping member SACREs fully informed. SACRE is represented on the WASACRE Executive committee by their professional consultant Mrs Vicky Thomas and receive regular feedback from Mrs Thomas and those representing SACRE at WASACRE meetings.

4.2 Holocaust Education

Caerphilly SACRE was informed of the 2016 Holocaust Memorial Day theme of 'Don't Stand By' and that further information about the theme and free educational Holocaust Memorial Day resources can be found on their website www.hmd.org.uk.

SACRE resolved to inform schools about the availability of these resources and encourage them to commemorate HMD in some way. SACRE discussed how some schools were embracing the issues raised by HMD very seriously and reference was made to some primary and secondary schools who were conducting activities and acts of collective worship to commemorate the day.

Caerphilly Council marked HMD throughout the county with a range of artwork displays in libraries and a specially created exhibition featuring work from pupils of comprehensive schools in the local authority and artist David Garner's artwork piece *B for Defiance*, an exact replica of the sign at Auschwitz. A commemoration event took place on 27th January 2016 which included readings, the lighting of a symbolic candle and the display of David Garner's work.

4.3 Welsh Government National Curriculum Review

SACRE has received termly updates on the progress of the National Curriculum Review. Professor Donaldson had recommended that RE should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience and should remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception. News is still being awaited of which Pioneer Schools will be responsible for developing the Humanities curriculum and the implications of this for agreed syllabus development has been discussed. SACRE has agreed to wait until Welsh Government provide further details on the shape of RE in the curriculum, and also to receive advice from WASACRE, before beginning any RE agreed syllabus review.

4.4 Revised Criteria for GCSE and GCE Specifications

SACRE were informed of the proposed changes to specifications and assessment practices for GCSE and GCE with an implementation date of Autumn 2016. During the Spring Term 2016, Qualifications Wales and WJEC agreed to defer the implementation of GCSE Religious Studies until September 2017 because of the lateness in the specifications being approved. Schools have been informed. At its Summer Term meeting Caerphilly SACRE discussed that the new specifications were still not finalised and available on the WJEC website and agreed that a letter be sent on behalf of SACRE to the Subject Officer for RS at WJEC to raise the concerns of teachers and request further guidance on the new specifications, including a timescale for the

Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report 2015-2016
DRAFT VERSION

availability of the final new specifications, suggested support materials, and a grid outlining the commonality and differences between the old and the new specifications. SACRE eagerly await the final specifications so that schools can be informed of their availability.

4.5 INCERTS Assessment Programme

SACRE received a report outlining concerns raised by NAPfRE and WASACRE regarding the use of the online Incerts assessment programme which tracks pupils' progress in National Curriculum subjects and Religious Education. SACRE were advised that some schools were not using the correct option button when using the programme to track progress in RE.

SACRE agreed that a letter outlining the correct method to be used in respect of the Incerts programme, be circulated to all Caerphilly primary schools on behalf of the Chair.

4.6 Welsh Baccalaureate Survey

SACRE were informed of the survey conducted by WASACRE to examine the effects on RE/RS of the launch of the new Welsh Baccalaureate in September 2015. WASACRE was interested to know how schools have managed the implementation of the new qualification in their individual setting, and whether the Welsh Baccalaureate has had a positive or negative impact on religious education in schools across Wales. WASACRE produced a short survey which was circulated to secondary schools within their local authority by the SACREs for schools to complete and return.

The results of the survey found that since the implementation of the new Welsh Baccalaureate, the majority of respondents provide statutory Religious Education according to the Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE at KS4, and offer a RS GCSE qualification as a supporting qualification for Welsh Baccalaureate at KS4. The majority deliver this course as part of core RE time.

The survey queried if the new Welsh Baccalaureate has had a positive, negative or no impact on RE. The majority of respondents stated that the new Welsh Baccalaureate had no impact on RE. A summary of responses commenting on the positive/negative impact were detailed within the report. The positive comments included that it enabled new RE content, encouraged a thinking style approach to teaching and learning and in some cases increased time allocated for the teaching of RE. Negative comments highlighted reductions in core RE time and the requirement for some schools to deliver Welsh Baccalaureate instead of GCSE RS thereby removing Short Course courses in particular.

WASACRE and SACRE agreed to keep a watching brief on the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification and its impact on RE/RS at Key Stage 4.

4.7 Training of SACRE Members

As part of its training for members SACRE proposed the following:

To keep members updated on developments in RE through regular presentations to SACRE members. There were two presentations this year from primary and secondary schools on the delivery of RE at their schools.

Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report 2015-2016
DRAFT VERSION

SACRE, where possible, would hold meetings at places of worship in the county borough. This year no visits were made to places of worship.

SACRE, where possible, would hold meetings at schools in Caerphilly for members to familiarise themselves with RE and collective worship in schools. Meetings were held at a primary and a secondary school this year. The Spring Term meeting was held at Lewis School Pengam and members received a presentation on RE at the school from the Head of RE. The Summer Term meeting was held at Cwmaber Junior School and members observed an act of collective worship and received a presentation on RE at the school from the RE co-ordinator. SACRE wishes to extend their thanks to the two schools for hosting the meetings.

SACRE is very appreciative of these opportunities for training and visits and would like to extend their appreciation to all concerned. A special note of thanks is extended to the Clerk to SACRE (Rebecca Barrett) for all her hard work in making such arrangements this year.

DRAFT

Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report 2015-2016
DRAFT VERSION

APPENDIX 1: SACRE MEMBERSHIP 2015-2016

THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Councillor Mrs E.M. Aldworth
Councillor D.G. Carter
Councillor Mrs. G.D. Oliver
Councillor Mrs M.E. Sargent
Councillor J. Simmonds
Councillor J. Taylor (SACRE Chair – appointed 10.06.15)

TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS

Miss Helen Bartley (ATL)
Mrs Nicola L. Boardman (NUT)
Mrs Bethan Davies (UCAC)
Mrs Helen Marsh (ASCL)
Mr Chris Parry (NAHT)
Mrs Laura Strange (NASUWT)

CHRISTIAN AND OTHER RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS

Rev Eryl Williams (Baptist Union of Wales)
Mr Martyn Western (Roman Catholic Archdiocese)
Mrs Enfys Hawthorn (United Reformed Church)
Mrs Janet Jones (Church in Wales) (SACRE Vice-Chair – appointed 02.11.15)
Captain Carl Di-Palma (The Salvation Army)

CO OPTED MEMBERS

- (1) Race Equality Wales representative - Mr Eddy Mushayanyama
- (2) Primary school representative - Ms Rhianne Bradshaw (St James Primary School)

OFFICERS

Mrs Tanis Cunnick - replaced by Mrs Jacquelyn Elias (CCBC Service Manager - Additional Learning Needs) on 03.03.16
Mrs Vicky Thomas (Independent RE Consultant)

CLERK TO SACRE

Miss Rebecca Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

NOTE

SACRE has experienced difficulties in finding representatives from religious groups other than Christianity. SACRE had commissioned the clerk to SACRE to find out the composition of religions in Caerphilly County Borough Council and it was evident that statistically there are very few non-Christian religions represented in the area. The clerk to SACRE had contacted VALREC (Valleys Racial Equality Council) to see if a wider representation could be found. It was agreed that a co-opted place would be given to VALREC/ Race Equality Wales so that they could bring their experience of working with different communities to the work of SACRE.

**Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report 2015-2016
DRAFT VERSION**

APPENDIX 2: SCHEDULE AND AGENDA OF MEETINGS

Monday 2nd November 2015 at Penallta House Council Offices

Main Agenda Items

- To appoint a Vice-Chair to Caerphilly SACRE
- Minutes of last meeting and matters arising
- Schedule of Meetings
- Membership Update
- SACRE Annual Report 2014-2015
- SACRE Development Plan 2015 – 2018
- Caerphilly School Inspection Reports Analysis - Autumn 2014-Summer 2015
- RE and the National Curriculum- Update
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2016
- Request to issue the presentation made to WASACRE "Muslim Footballers in the Premier League" to all RE Secondary School departments in CCBC
- WASACRE Issues - including Report of WASACRE AGM at Mold and Representation at next meeting at Blaenau Gwent
- Correspondence

Thursday 3rd March 2016 at Lewis School Pengam

Main Agenda Items

- Minutes of last meeting and matters arising
- Presentation by RE Department on *RE at Lewis School Pengam*
- Analysis of Examination Performance 2015
- Revised Criteria for GCSE and GCE Specifications - Update
- National Curriculum Review and Assessment - Update
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2016 Feedback
- WASACRE Issues - including feedback from meeting at Blaenau Gwent, nominations to the WASACRE Executive and representation at next meeting of WASACRE at Haverfordwest
- Correspondence

Tuesday 14th June 2016 at Cwmaber Junior School, Abertridwr

The SACRE meeting was preceded by observing an act of collective worship

Main Agenda Items

- Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising
- Presentation by RE co-ordinator on *RE at Cwmaber Junior School*
- Revised criteria for GCSE and GCE specifications: Update
- National Curriculum Review and Assessment: Update
- Incerts Assessment Programme
- Schedule of Meetings 2016-2017
- WASACRE Issues - including report of WASACRE meeting at Haverfordwest, representation at next meeting at Rhyl, Executive Voting for the period 2016-2019, and survey on the impact of the Welsh Bacallaureate on RE in Schools
- Correspondence

APPENDIX 3: CAERPHILLY SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015-2018 (ACADEMIC YEAR)

CAERPHILLY SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 – 2018 (ACADEMIC YEAR)

Aim 1: To monitor standards in Religious Education and Religious Studies.

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
1.1 Monitor standards through regular review of inspection reports/ Estyn thematic reviews/ school self evaluation reports and recommend, where necessary, action by Local Authority.	Annual agenda item Autumn Term	Full SACRE Adviser	Agenda time Adviser time for analysis	Advice to LA on trends across the county borough; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools; follow up through school visits and review of action plan where necessary.	2015-2016 Considered 2.11.15. One school not fulfilling statutory requirements for RE. Action plan requested and considered. SACRE satisfied that progress has been made.
1.2 Receive information on results of: GCSE Religious Studies Full and Short Course; A/AS level Religious Studies.	Spring Term	Full SACRE Adviser	Agenda time Adviser time for analysis	Advice to LA on trends; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools.	2015-2016 Considered 3.3.16. Schools informed of outcomes.
1.3 Identify INSET needs, monitor and offer advice on training.	Autumn Term	Full SACRE	Agenda time	Training programme received along with figures on uptake; advice to LA.	2015-2016 No INSET provided by LA or EAS.

CAERPHILLY SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 – 2018 (ACADEMIC YEAR)

Aim 2: To review the agreed syllabus (as appropriate) and support its implementation.

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
2.1 To review the agreed syllabus for Religious Education.	Summer 2016 onwards (or as appropriate)	Full SACRE Adviser Working group NAPfRE	Advisory time to review the agreed syllabus. Establish a working group (if applicable). Convene a Standing Conference to adopt the syllabus Publication/ translation costs (as appropriate)	Agreed syllabus reviewed and adopted by Standing Conference. Agreed Syllabus training programme for schools (if required) Agreed syllabus to be implemented the Autumn term after adoption.	2015-2016 SACRE has termly updates on curriculum development. SACRE are awaiting further details from Welsh Government on the shape of RE in the curriculum, and advice from WASACRE, before beginning any RE agreed syllabus review.
2.2 Materials to support implementation of the agreed syllabus for RE.	Ongoing	Full SACRE Adviser	Advisory time	Support materials available to schools and accessed through Consortium website.	2015-2016 Schools sent materials from Carmarthenshire LA.

CAERPHILLY SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 – 2018 (ACADEMIC YEAR)

Aim 3: To monitor provision and provide support for collective worship.

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
3.1 Monitor provision for collective worship through regular review of inspection reports/ school self evaluation reports; recommend, where necessary, action by LA.	Annual agenda item Autumn term	Full SACRE and Adviser	Agenda time Adviser time for analysis	Advice to LA on trends across the county borough; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools; follow up through school visits and review of action plan where necessary.	2015-2016 Considered 2.11.15. One school not fulfilling statutory requirements for DACW. Action plan requested and considered. SACRE satisfied that progress has been made.
3.2 To support the implementation of statutory collective worship.	Ongoing	Advisory service	Advisory time	Provision of INSET (if applicable) Schools informed of resources and websites for collective worship. Schools informed of guidance materials available for collective worship.	2015-2016 Schools informed of resources to support HMD 2016 including resources for acts of collective worship.

CAERPHILLY SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 – 2018 (ACADEMIC YEAR)

Aim 4: To ensure a more informed SACRE through providing regular updates on local and national issues related to RE and collective worship in schools.

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
4.1 To update members on the role of SACRE and its implications; recent developments in RE and collective worship; guidance materials from relevant bodies; input from practising teachers and outside providers.	Termly/ Annually as required	SACRE members , Adviser, practising teachers, outside providers	Member time; Adviser / Officer time	SACRE members fully aware of their responsibilities. SACRE and schools updated and informed of recent developments and initiatives, both local and national.	2015-2016 SACRE visited two schools this year and received two presentations on RE at the schools.
4.2 Programme of school visits.	Termly/ Annually as required	SACRE members, Adviser/ Officers	Member time; Officer time to arrange visits	More informed SACRE on provision and practice regarding RE and collective worship in schools.	2015-2016 SACRE visited two schools this year, attended one act of collective worship and received two presentations.

APPENDIX 4: EXAMINATION RESULTS ANALYSIS 2015

GCSE Full Course Religious Studies 2015

	Caerphilly 2015	Caerphilly 2014	Caerphilly 2013	Wales 2015
A*-A	28.3%	25.6%	27%	30.0%
A*-C	71.4%	73.0%	64%	75.0%
A*-G	98.4%	98.8%	99%	98.0%
Entry Number	679 13 schools	656 14 schools	699 13 schools	11,167

GCSE Short Course Religious Studies 2015

	Caerphilly 2015	Caerphilly 2014	Caerphilly 2013	Wales 2015
A*-A	18.6%	10.8%	25%	14.0%
A*-C	60.9%	49.7%	59%	52.0%
A*-G	91.5%	95.0%	97%	93.0%
Entry Number	647 13 schools	866 13 schools	1317 13 schools	10,098

GCE A Level Religious Studies 2015

	Caerphilly 2015	Caerphilly 2014	Caerphilly 2013	Wales 2015
A*-A	13.0%	17.2%	20%	23.0%
A*-C	73.0%	89.1%	72%	81.0%
A*-E	100%	100%	100%	100%
Entry Number	100 8 schools	64 8 schools	67 8 schools	1441

GCE AS Level Religious Studies 2015

	Caerphilly 2015	Caerphilly 2014	Caerphilly 2013	Wales 2015
A	4.5%	21.1%	11.5%	N/A
A-C	36.4%	47.4%	53.8%	N/A
A-E	72.7%	100%	69.2%	N/A
Entry Number	22 8 schools	19 6 schools	26 7 schools	N/A

Please Note:

Data includes only those who have cached in their results. For example if a pupil sat an AS Level during 2015, but have not yet cached the result in, then they should be excluded from this year's data and included next year when the results have been cached in, otherwise this will result in results being double counted.

APPENDIX 5: CIRCULATION OF REPORT

Copies will be sent electronically to the relevant bodies. This report will be available on the Local Authority website and the WASACRE website for interested parties to download.

Members of Caerphilly County Borough Council

Chair of Education Scrutiny

Regional Director of SEWC

Department for Education and Skills (DfES)

Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all County Borough Schools

All members of SACRE

Principals and Governing Bodies of all Tertiary Colleges within the County Borough

Wales Association of SACRE's (WASACRE)

Minister for Education, Welsh Assembly Government

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