



**CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

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**2019-2020**

**A MESSAGE FROM CAERPHILLY SACRE MEMBERS**

The 2019-2020 academic year has been an unprecedented time for people due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The thoughts of SACRE members are with all those who have been affected by the virus, including those who have become ill and who may have lost loved ones. Members would also like to express gratitude to everyone in the education sector for the sterling work you are doing to provide children and young people in Wales with care, support, and education throughout this difficult time.

Members would like to remind practitioners engaged with Religious Education that SACRE is here to support you with advice on teaching, learning and resources for Religious Education, as well as advice on RE in the new Curriculum for Wales.

Additionally, support from SACRE is also available for the Daily Act of Collective Worship.

Caerphilly SACRE welcomes correspondence via the contacts below:

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

**2019 - 2020**

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

2019- 2020

## SECTION 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE

### 1.1 Duty to Establish SACRE

All Local Authorities are required to constitute 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, seven bodies representative of religion and belief and seven representatives of teachers' associations. In addition, the Authority allowed for two other individuals to be co-opted. Both co-opted places are currently vacant (see 1.3 regarding actions to fill vacant positions).

### 1.3 Membership of SACRE

The membership list showing the position for 2019 – 2020 is attached at Appendix 1.

Whilst every effort has been made to seek representation from religious organisations other than Christianity, SACRE has experienced difficulties in finding such representation. With regards to Committee A, advice has been sought from Cytun (Churches Together in Wales), the Onyx Link Foundation and the Inter Faith Council for Wales to seek representation. A representative from Wales Humanists joined SACRE for the first time in Autumn Term 2019. Caerphilly SACRE recruited two new members to sit on Committee B representing NASUWT. SACRE has contacted the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) on several occasions regarding the vacancy on Committee B but is yet to receive a response.

Caerphilly SACRE are in the process of co-opting youth representatives to SACRE to give learners a voice. Nominations will be sought from the Youth Forum. The Chair attended a Youth Forum in Autumn Term 2019 to speak to its members about the work of SACRE. It is disappointing that this work to recruit young people to the SACRE has been disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, Caerphilly SACRE look forward to young people possibly joining the advisory council in the 2020-2021 academic year.

### 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 to Welsh Government on its activities on an annual basis.

### **1.5 Meetings**

Due to the disruption brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, SACRE were only able to meet on one occasion during the 2019-2020 academic year. This meeting took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019. The scheduled Spring and Summer Term meetings were cancelled. SACRE officers and Members dealt with urgent correspondence and Welsh Government consultations via email and SACRE Officers held informal discussions via Microsoft Teams.

SACRE had resolved that, where possible, meetings will be held at alternative venues such as schools or places of worship. However, during the academic year 2020 – 2021 it is likely that meetings may need to take place on the Microsoft Teams virtual platform.

### **1.6 Circulation of Report**

Copies of this report are circulated electronically to those organisations and establishments listed in Appendix 4. It is also available on the Local Authority and the WASACRE website.

## **SECTION 2: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ADVICE GIVEN BY SACRE**

Inevitably the Covid-19 pandemic impacted the work carried out by Caerphilly SACRE during 2019-2020. The Local Authority and SACRE has been able to provide support to schools via email and through the partnership work with the South East Wales Education Service (EAS). The EAS Professional Learning Adviser to SACRE Ms Paula Webber has been available to provide advice and support to schools on Religious Education and Collective Worship throughout the national lockdown and has continued to work with both the Wales Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (WASACRE) and the National Advisory Panel on Religious Education (NAPfRE). Additionally, the SACRE Clerk has continued to distribute and receive relevant correspondence to schools.

### **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 2019-2020 there were no issues of non-fulfilment of statutory requirements for RE identified in the reports and follow up action was unnecessary. SACRE did write to the schools to congratulate them on their inspection results and to remind them of the advisory support offered by SACRE and the EAS.
2. SACRE usually visits schools on an annual basis to receive a presentation on RE at the school. However, an impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was that this planned visit did not take place.
3. It has been the practice of SACRE to analyse examination results over a three-year period to identify trends in performance benchmarked against all Wales data. Through this process schools were informed of the outcomes of this analysis and SACRE was able to raise issues schools should be addressing because of this analysis. This analysis did not take place in the academic year 2019 – 2020 due to meetings being cancelled. Additionally, there are new regulations surrounding data collection from schools. WASACRE are awaiting guidance from the Welsh Government as to what purposeful analysis of data might take place to monitor the quality of RE in schools in the future. SACRE will then consider how best to monitor the quality of religious education in Caerphilly schools.

##### **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. 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. In May 2019 an Agreed Syllabus Conference was constituted and the 2008 agreed syllabus was readopted.

2. SACRE has since received updates via email of developments with the Curriculum and the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience. During 2019-2020 SACRE responded to Welsh Government consultations on curriculum development.
3. SACRE are expecting Welsh Government to consult on the draft RVE supporting framework before it is put out to the public consultation. Following the publication of the framework SACRE will advise the local authority to convene an Agreed Syllabus conference where the adoption or adaptation of the framework as the Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus will be discussed.

## **TEACHING MATERIALS**

### **Issue**

To ensure that schools are informed of suitable resources for RE.

### **Action**

Schools were sent the following information and resources, with SACRE Members also sent a copy of the information

1. All schools were informed of the 2020 Holocaust Memorial Day theme and that free Holocaust resources could be found on the [Holocaust Memorial Day website](#) – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.
2. RE Learning Resources – Randolph's Spiritual Quest was sent to all primary schools.
3. Farmington Scholarships 2020/21 was sent to all schools.
4. Learning Network Schools and offer of support for RE was sent to all schools.
5. Information about a training event "Understanding Humanism" was sent to all primary schools.
6. Questionnaire from Qualifications Wales on reformed GCSE qualifications – sent to all secondary schools.

Information on visits and visitors in South Wales is available to schools upon request.

## **PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR TEACHERS**

### **Issue**

To ensure that teachers can access appropriate professional learning.

### **Action**

The EAS provided RE specific training to secondary school practitioners via Learning Network School leads and the Professional Learning Adviser for RE and SACREs. The focus of training was improving standards in GCSE Religious Studies. However, the practitioners attending also received training on the new curriculum and updates on the work of SACREs, WASACRE and other relevant bodies. There was also a focus on moderation of marking, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources for Religious Studies.

SACRE were sent details of free webinar sessions being held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020 by the Association of Religious Education Inspectors Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC).

The physical AREIAC Conference was postponed until next year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

## **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 and the LA follows up on any non-fulfilment of statutory requirements by requesting their action plan. SACRE monitored three schools during 2019 – 2020. The provision for collective worship had positive comments stating that schools were promoting pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development well. Estyn made no recommendations with regards to collective worship in the inspection report. SACRE has written to the schools to offer support and guidance with regards to collective worship. Members were presented with a summary of findings from these inspections.
2. Schools have been informed by SACRE of appropriate resources and websites that support collective worship in schools e.g. HMD 2019. Caerphilly SACRE sent schools the WASACRE document entitled *Advice for Schools in Wales During the Covid-19 Pandemic* during the national lockdown.
3. SACRE resolved to hold meetings at schools in the Borough and observe an act of collective worship where possible to monitor fulfilment of statutory requirements, provision and quality of collective worship. Due to the cancellation of meetings during the Covid-19 pandemic SACRE were unable to observe collective worship during this academic year.

### **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. The RE Adviser to SACRE is a member of NAPfRE and regularly attends meetings on SACRE's behalf.
3. SACRE members receive regular training to keep up to date with legislative and educational changes and to understand the role and function of SACREs.
4. SACRE takes seriously Holocaust Education and advises the LA and its schools on this.
5. SACRE has received updates on the development and implementation of the Curriculum for Wales 2022 and the implications for religious education. Updates were also given by email due to the Covid-19 pandemic. SACRE has responded to Welsh Government consultations on Curriculum for Wales. SACRE members consulted on a draft of the national RVE Framework.
6. SACRE, where possible, would hold meetings at schools in Caerphilly for members to familiarise themselves with RE and collective worship in schools. This year it was not possible to hold a meeting within a school due to the cancellation of meetings.

## **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. 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. 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.

On 20th May 2019, a Standing Conference was held to review the 2008 Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. At the meeting, it was agreed to re-adopt the existing Agreed Syllabus until the implementation of the new curriculum in 2022.

A copy of the current Agreed Syllabus was sent to schools in 2019. Schools were advised to that they should continue to follow this syllabus until further notice.

SACRE have received updates from Welsh Government on the development of the supporting framework to support RE/RVE in the Curriculum for Wales 2022. SACRE gave feedback on a draft that will support the Curriculum for Wales 2022 during the Autumn Term. SACRE are waiting consultation on the framework before it goes for public consultation. It is hoped that SACRE will be able to adopt or adapt this document as the new agreed syllabus for Caerphilly schools.

### **2.2 Standards In RE**

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

#### **School Inspection Reports**

During the Autumn term SACRE meeting the local authority and its SACRE scrutinised relevant sections of Estyn school inspection reports for July March 2019- July 2019. Three Caerphilly schools were inspected consisting of one primary school, one secondary school and one special school. If any issues emerge regarding religious education, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up requesting their action plan. Estyn made no recommendations with regards to Spiritual Development, Collective Worship or Religious Education within these schools. SACRE were very pleased to note the positive comments derived from the inspection reports and requested that congratulatory letters be sent to all three schools on behalf of SACRE. Members were particularly pleased to note that Trinity Fields School received the status of 'Excellent' across each of its inspection areas, and were of the opinion that the school is an example of best practice in their provision of RE.

Congratulatory letters on behalf of SACRE had been sent out to the three schools following the results of their Estyn inspections.

#### **Examination Results 2019**

In previous years, examination results for GCSE and GCE AS /Advanced Level achieved by pupils at secondary schools within the Authority have been analysed and were considered during SACRE meetings. A three-year analysis would be conducted so that a comparison could be made, and trends identified. Cohort entry numbers were also analysed, and a comparison made to Consortia and All -Wales figures (where available). The 2019 examination results data were not analysed for two reasons. Firstly, there has been a change in national guidance surrounding how results are reported and how data is used. WASACRE is currently awaiting information from Welsh Government about how any analysis of data will be gathered and reported going forward. Secondly, analysis of data usually takes place during the Spring Term SACRE meeting. This was cancelled due to the national lockdown during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Schools were updated on the changes to 2020 GCSE and GCE examinations for Religious Studies by the Education Achievement Service. The EAS Adviser for RE raised issues concerning the examinations for Religious Studies and her views were shared with the WJEC via senior leaders within the EAS.

Caerphilly SACRE distributed a questionnaire from Qualifications Wales on reformed GCSE qualifications to all secondary schools.

During 2020-2021 SACRE will discuss ways in which the LA will be able to provide meaningful information to SACRE about the quality of Religious Education and Religious Studies at Ks4 within its schools.

## **2.3 Methods of Teaching, Teaching Materials and Teacher Training**

### **Professional Learning**

South East Wales Education Achievement Service (EAS) advertises their courses through CPD online. The Education Achievement Service appointed Ms Paula Webber as a full time Professional Learning Adviser for RE and SACRE from September 2018. Ms Webber offered bespoke support for Religious Education within the region during 2019-2020.

The EAS had appointed two Learning Network Schools leads for RE during 2019-2020. Three Learning Network meetings for secondary HODs of RE were held during the academic year. The focus of the network meetings was improving standards in GCSE Religious Studies. However, the practitioners attending also received training on the new curriculum and updates on the work of SACREs, WASACRE and other relevant bodies. There was also a focus on moderation of marking, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources for Religious Studies.

### **Learning Network Schools for Religious Education**

During the Autumn Term SACRE meeting the Professional Learning Adviser for RE and SACRE presented a report which highlighted details of the Learning Network Schools (LNS) RE meetings for 2019-2020.

SACRE were advised that the EAS has invested in building the capacity of schools and educational settings within the region to enable more collaborative ways of working. This approach enables teachers and leaders to learn from each other, and there are several well-established networks of professional practice across the region. The approach has recently been refined through investment in a cluster model approach, which will enable

schools to build capacity and increase collective ownership for the development of effective teaching, learning and leadership. This model will become the main driver to ensure the realisation of the new curriculum and the delivery of professional learning and will support the national changes in accountability and self-evaluation.

Ysgol Gwynllyw (Torfaen) and Bassaleg Comprehensive School (Newport) were appointed as the two EAS lead schools for LNS RE for 2019-20. They provided Professional Learning and support to secondary schools across the region. The main focus of the LNS for RE during 2019-2020 was GCSE Religious Studies and which also included a need to raise standards at Key Stage 3. SACRE were advised that several Learning Network School events were organised by the EAS during 2019-2020 and would be hosted by the two lead schools. SACRE were informed that places for practitioners and HODs were advertised and could be booked via the EAS CPD online portal.

In addition to the support from LNS schools the PL Adviser is also able to offer support to both primary and secondary schools. Ms Webber had written to EAS Challenge Advisors to highlight findings derived from the raw data of GCSE results for 2019.

During the Autumn Term meeting following discussion on the details of the LNS events and discussed how they could raise the profile of SACRE and the support that they offer to schools. It was noted that some SACREs promote themselves through their local authority website and Ms Webber suggested that this option could be explored for Caerphilly SACRE. SACRE representatives of religion and belief are available to visit schools to support the teaching of RE or the delivery of collective worship. Caerphilly SACRE are committed to providing effective support to schools.

Agenda for LNS PL Sessions held during 2019 – 2020 are as follows:

**Session 1 (Gwynllyw): Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2-4pm – GCSE Review of Unit 1&2 –**

- A review of the 2017/18 GCSE examination papers Unit 1&2 – common pitfalls/evaluation questions/where pupils did well/where pupils went wrong/Item Level Data.
- Sharing good practice resources for the new GCSE specification – Unit ½
- DDPs – EAS presentation.
- Update on Curriculum development
- 'Looking Forward' – English and Welsh materials to be shared with everyone / sharing resource ideas.

**Session 2 (Gwynllyw): Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2-3pm – A Level Review (Unit 2/4/5) –**

- A review of the 2017/18 AS/A Level examination papers Unit 2/4/5 – common pitfalls/evaluation questions/where pupils did well/where pupils went wrong/Item Level Data.
- Sharing good practice resources.
- 'English and Welsh materials to be shared with everyone / sharing resource ideas.
- Schemes of work.
- Use of video clips.

**Session 3 (Bassaleg): Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2-4pm – Revision Hints, Tips and Techniques –**

- What makes good teaching and learning in RE?

- Sharing resources, materials and good practice – to be provided in both English and Welsh.
- Pedagogy.
- How do we deal with the heavy content – Flipped learning/assessment for learning/Skills based learning.
- The Curriculum for Wales 2022 and the RE Framework
- Sharing good practice – Revision hints and tips.
- Sharing revision resources.

Session 4, which was due to be held in March 2020, was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Teaching Materials

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the ability for SACREs to provide the advice they would normally give to schools has been affected. However, the following advice had been offered:

#### Farmington Scholarships

SACRE provided Caerphilly schools with information about Farmington Scholarships 2020 - 2021 which are free to Teachers of religious education in the UK. Practitioners can study any aspect of religious education they wish but preference will be given to applicants whose work can be seen to be of direct value to the teaching of RE in schools. The Scholarship will cover the cost of tuition, board and lodging where appropriate, essential local travel and, by negotiation with the school, the salary of a replacement teacher up to point 6 of the main pay scale. School/home-based Scholarships may be taken in the form of day release, for instance for one day a week over a term or over the year or for continuous periods up to a maximum of 30 days. University-based Scholarships may be taken as a block of up to eight weeks or in the form of day release up to 30 days. More information for schools can be found at the [Farmington Institute website](#) or E-mail: farmington@hmc.ox.ac.uk

### NEW RESOURCES FOR THE CURRICULUM FOR WALES 2022

Caerphilly SACRE distributed a new religious education series of resources for the Curriculum for Wales 2022 to primary schools. The resources have been published online and are available as a free download. *Randolph's Spiritual Quest and Search for Meaning Series* for 8- to 11-year-old learners is a *Welsh Government sponsored resource* created to support learning in Religious Education in the Curriculum for Wales 2022. The series reflects an enquiry-based, inter-disciplinary approach to Religious Education, which is set within a Humanities' learning context. The flexible and non-prescriptive character of *Randolph's Spiritual Quest and Search for Meaning Series* makes it an ideal bridging resource, being equally relevant to the current Curriculum for Wales 2008 and the coming Curriculum for Wales 2022.

Themes explored in the series include:

- Bringing Health and Healing
- Caring for the Future
- Living with Nature
- Making Spiritual Journeys
- Remembering the Past
- Serving Others

The storybooks, films, music, and teachers' guide are available as FREE downloads on the following links for the Welsh Government Hwb website and the St Mary's Centre, Wales website:

[Welsh Government Hwb website](#)

[St Mary's Centre, Wales website](#)

A new version of the Teachers' Guide will be published as soon as the final version of the Humanities' Area of Learning and Experience guidance is available early in 2020. The current Teachers' Guide quotes from the Welsh Government draft document and some adjustment in language is anticipated.

The hope of the authors is that *Randolph's Spiritual Quest and Search for Meaning Series* helps to stimulate meaningful and exciting new Welsh pathways in Religious Education, which start new journeys shaped to individual school learning contexts.

### **Training Event for Primary School Teachers – Understanding Humanism**

Information about a training event for primary school teachers, arranged by Humanists UK, to be held in London on Thursday 26th March 2020 was distributed to all primary schools by Caerphilly SACRE as an opportunity to further their professional learning. Further information can be found at the [Humanists UK website](#).

The training included:

- Who are the non-religious and what is a non-religious worldview?
- What is humanism? What do students need to know?
- How can I best teach about humanism in the classroom?

Breaking humanism up into five core blocks of knowledge, the course aimed to help practitioners to deliver outstanding, accurate teaching about the humanist worldview, and suggest and model resources and activities that would support learning.

There are online courses available from Understanding Humanism on their website.

**SACRE RE News Bulletin:** a SACRE RE News Bulletin is usually composed by the Adviser to SACRE to share with schools. Due to translation considerations, staff long-term absence and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, bulletins were not shared with schools during the 2019-2020 academic year. During the 2020-2021 academic year the PL Adviser will explore efficient ways of communicating important information with teachers of RE, including a playlist format where up to date information can be accessed at any time. In the Autumn Term meeting 2019 SACRE members also suggested an online presence might be useful. This can be explored further.

A list of **free resources** for schools is available upon request. This includes suggested useful websites as was information on **visits and visitors** in South Wales was distributed to schools.

## **SECTION 3: ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **3.1 School Inspection Reports**

During the Autumn Term SACRE meeting the local authority and its SACRE scrutinised relevant sections of Estyn school inspection reports for March 2019 and July 2019. One primary school, one secondary and one special school within Caerphilly were inspected during that period. If any issues emerge regarding collective worship, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up requesting their action plan. SACRE noted that all three schools inspected met statutory requirements in relation to collective worship. There was reference to the quality of collective worship in two inspection reports and good features were highlighted. Estyn made no recommendations with regards to Spiritual Development, Collective Worship or Religious Education.

The provision for collective worship had positive comments stating that schools were promoting pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development well. Comments in relation to spiritual development are evident in the inspection reports. SACRE have been advised that NAPfRE and WASACRE had been in communication with Estyn and that in future all inspection reports should contain reference to spiritual development.

There is reference to the quality of collective worship in seven inspection report and good features are highlighted. Acts of collective worship:

- promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- celebrate pupils' achievements and success
- enables pupils to make effective use of the reflection wall to respond to key moral messages
- Focus on the rights of the child allowing many pupils to discuss important values well

SACRE have resolved to continue to use inspection reports to monitor that statutory requirements are being met and to use whatever comments are applicable.

### **Advice on Collective Worship During the Covid-19 Pandemic**

During the Covid-19 lockdown some schools through the South East Wales region requested support from the EAS on collective worship as schools were closed and learning taking place digitally. The EAS Adviser to SACREs formed a working party with colleagues in WASACRE. A guidance document, 'Advice for Schools in Wales on Collective Worship during the Covid-19 Pandemic' was produced. Caerphilly SACRE distributed this document to all schools within the borough. It is also available on the WASACRE website. This document contains practical help with digital platforms. It also has a strong focus on how collective worship might help during this difficult time for learners and their families.

### **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 did not have the opportunity to host a SACRE meeting at a school this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

## **SECTION 4: OTHER ISSUES**

### **4.1 WASACRE**

SACRE has continued to affiliate to WASACRE and representatives have attended its meetings. During the 2019-20 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 SACRE's fully informed. SACRE is represented on the WASACRE Executive committee by their professional adviser Ms Paula Webber who held a position on the Executive Committee. Caerphilly SACRE has received regular feedback from Ms Webber and those representing SACRE at WASACRE meetings. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic WASACRE meetings in the spring and summer term were cancelled. The WASACRE AGM will take place virtually early in the 2020 Autumn Term.

At the Autumn Term WASACRE meeting Caerphilly SACRE members were updated on discussions held between WASACRE and Welsh Government. WASACRE Officers met with WG representative Dr Kevin Palmer to discuss professional learning support needed in light of RE and the new curriculum. There has now been funding agreed for a suite of resources specifically for RE, plus training for all those involved in teaching RE and training of ITT students. The need for training for non-maintained settings specifically was also recognised.

SACRE were emailed by WASACRE on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to ask Members to submit nominations to WASACRE Executive Committee. There were none received from Caerphilly SACRE and WASACRE were advised accordingly.

SACRE were sent the list of WASACRE nominations on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and asked to submit their individual vote by email to Chair and RE Advisor. SACRE conducted the voting via email due to the disruption by the Covid-19 lockdown. The votes were tallied and SACRE's preference was submitted to the WASACRE Chair on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020. Caerphilly SACRE's preference was for Dr Louise Brown (Vice-Chair) with John Meredith and Tania ap Sion on the Executive Committee. The outcome of the WASACRE Executive Elections on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020 was also circulated to SACRE Members.

### **4.2 HOLOCAUST EDUCATION**

#### **Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 Resources**

A letter was sent from SACRE to all schools were informed of the 2020 Holocaust Memorial Day and that Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27 January each year and is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Schools were reminded that Holocaust Memorial Day is a time to learn the lessons of the past and recognise that genocide does not just take

place on its own - it's a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust produces materials specific to the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme for 2020 was **“Stand Together”** and explored how genocidal regimes throughout history have deliberately fractured societies by marginalizing certain groups, and how these tactics can be challenged by individuals standing together with their neighbours and speaking out against oppression.

HMD 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, which is a significant milestone and is made particularly poignant by the dwindling number of survivors who are able to share their testimony. It also marks the 25th anniversary of the Genocide in Bosnia.

Schools were informed by SACRE that further information about the theme and free educational Holocaust resources can be found on the [Holocaust Memorial Day website](#) – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.

### **4.3 CURRICULUM FOR WALES 2022**

In July 2019, Caerphilly SACRE worked collaboratively with other SACREs throughout the South East Wales region to provide feedback on the draft Curriculum for Wales 2022 consultation. SACRE members were informed that curriculum pioneers were considering the feedback received from the public and would make appropriate amendments to the curriculum. During the 2019 Autumn Term meeting of SACRE Ms Webber presented a report, which updated SACRE on the development of the Curriculum for Wales 2022 in relation to RE. The report also asked SACRE to consider the latest Welsh Government consultation *Ensuring Access to the Full Curriculum* on the right to withdraw from RE and a proposed name change for Religious Education.

SACRE responded to the Welsh Government consultation *Ensuring Access to the Full Curriculum* before the deadline on 28th November 2019. The key discussion points from Caerphilly SACRE are outlined below:

#### **Proposal to remove parental right to withdraw from RE**

SACRE were advised that Welsh Government envisage a fully inclusive education system where all learners have the equality of access to a broad, balanced curriculum and make progress towards the “4 Purposes” recommended in the Donaldson Review. As part of this equality of access, Welsh Government proposed that there would be no parental right of withdrawal from RE and RSE under the new curriculum. SACRE remit purely encompasses RE, and Caerphilly SACRE decided that they would comment only on RE within the consultation and that it would have been more conducive to have held separate consultations on each of the two subjects, in order to avoid confusion and in view of the complexity of the issues surrounding withdrawal.

SACRE were updated on the significant changes in society and the law since the introduction of the current curriculum, together with the increasing complexity of the world and the need to equip pupils for the modern world through the provision of objective critical and pluralistic religious and non-religious worldviews. It is the view of Welsh Government that the state has a moral obligation to ensure that children in schools receive neutral and accurate information in these issues which pervade throughout society, and that not including the right to withdraw would also support the interdisciplinary approach being adopted in the new curriculum.

SACREs considered Welsh Government's view that children and young people should be enabled to navigate information and disinformation safely and be able to make informed judgements, and as such all school learners should be guaranteed access to RE and to have a right to receive consistent, factual and developmentally-appropriate learning about the issues covered. This is important as part of the development of a more inclusive and tolerant society. SACRE were informed that the White Paper consultation responses suggested there would be practical difficulties in operating withdrawals in this much more integrated curriculum. The emphasis on engagement with communities and recognising and responding to the background of learners in discussing these subjects, would provide appropriate safeguards for parents without the need for withdrawal. Welsh Government recommended that not including the right to withdraw best meets overall policy objectives, namely allowing all learners to be able to access a curriculum which enables them to progress in relation to the Four Purposes, for the education system to play its part in creating a more inclusive and tolerant society and maximise its contribution to the well-being goals in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, to recognise the role of parents and families in guiding these children in relation to these issues, to recognise, and respond to the interests of all groups and promote equality, and not increase the burden on schools or the workload of teachers.

Welsh Government have emphasised this does not mean that this proposal will replace parents' vital role in educating their children. The learning provided to children and young people through RSE and RE in maintained schools will be provided sensitively and inclusively to complement it. The guidance for RE will make it clear that the information covered must be conveyed in an objective, critical and pluralistic manner.

In the Autumn Term meeting SACRE discussed the proposal and expressed support for the vision of an inclusive education system and the integrated approach and broadening of the curriculum and agreed that RE for all learners will allow for a more holistic approach and enable them to better achieve the 4 Purposes. SACRE raised questions about whether there would be appeal rights for parents against the removal of the right to withdrawal and if this could present legal challenges in the European Court of Human Rights, and if so, where the responsibility would lie for dealing with such challenges.

SACRE were of the view that there is a need to put mechanisms in place to safeguard schools, local authorities and WG from legal challenges. This could include an extensive Professional Learning package to all those who have a responsibility for RE, together with the raising of public awareness and engagement in dialogue with learners and parents. Emphasis was put on the need to minimise the burden on schools and for WG to provide guidance and training to headteachers for managing situations for where learners would normally be withdrawn. It was also suggested that if the proposal to remove the right of withdrawal is implemented, WG will need to provide advice to schools on how to manage any cases of existing withdrawals.

SACRE split into their three respective committee groups to vote on the proposal, and following discussion, unanimously agreed with the proposal that the parental right of withdrawal from RE lessons be removed, and that this view be conveyed to WG.

## **Proposed name change for Religious Education**

SACRE were given an overview of this proposal that WG believe the subject name should reflect what learners will be taught through RE and were therefore proposing to change the name of Religious Education to “Religions and World Views”. Welsh Government suggested that this name change would appropriately reflect teaching practice within the new curriculum and allows for the exploration of all religious and philosophical beliefs, as well as other beliefs and world views, including nonreligious world views.

SACRE discussed the proposal and were of the opinion that referring to religion in plural reflects a misconception about the nature of religions as separate entities and begs the question ‘which religions should we teach?’ which could potentially cause division and exclusion and implications for community cohesion. It was advocated by the majority of SACRE Members that “Religion and Worldviews” would be a more appropriate name and would allow for all religions to be encompassed and would reflect objective, critical and pluralistic RE. This is also the name put forward by the group of expert commissioners who worked on the Final Report of the Commission on Religious Education in England report. One SACRE Member expressed an alternative opinion in that the term “Religions and Worldviews” would sufficiently cover all religions/non-religious groups.

SACRE were also asked to note that an alternative name had also been suggested by WG, which was “Religions, Values and Ethics”. As outlined in the Four Purposes, it is the responsibility of all subjects in the curriculum to enable learners to develop values and ethics and not solely the role of teachers of religious education. RE is an umbrella term for several different disciplines, and RE has always been a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary area of learning. Values and ethics are only two of many aspects of RE, and to name it Religion, Values and Ethics might diminish the subject. This also runs the risk of not including non-religious worldviews which seems to be a clear aim of the proposal. Having discussed the proposal Caerphilly SACRE agreed that the name “Religion and Worldviews” be submitted to WG as their preferred name change for Religious Education in the new curriculum.

Ms Webber prepared a draft response to WG based on the discussions, which was sent to Caerphilly SACRE members for comment and final approval ahead of submission to WG by the closing date of 28th November 2019.

## **WG Consultation on Religion Values and Ethics**

As part of the broader reforms contained within the Curriculum for Wales, the Welsh Government consulted on making changes to the legislative framework that surrounds RVE. The Welsh Government, based on current case law, intend that the teaching of RVE must be pluralistic in nature. These changes make explicit what the law already requires – the pluralistic teaching of RE in accordance with the European Convention on Human Rights. In addition, Welsh Government propose making new provision requiring the local authority, SACRE and ASC to have regard to guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers in relation to the curriculum in developing and adopting an agreed syllabus. The consultation also set out the legislative changes in relation to different types of schools within Wales and how they should use the locally agreed syllabi in the new curriculum arrangements. Within the consultation document Welsh Government stated that *“schools will continue to need to assure themselves that their RVE provision satisfies the pluralistic requirement created by human rights legislation and SACRES, ASCs and Local Authorities will continue to need to assure that any agreed syllabus their develop and then adopt also meets these requirements.”*

SACRE were advised by email of the consultation on Religion Values and Ethics on the new Curriculum for Wales 2022 on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic SACRE members were consulted via email. An initial draft response was sent to SACRE for comment on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020. A further draft response was sent to SACRE for comment 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020 following consultation with Chair and Vice Chair and the final response was submitted to WG by 27<sup>th</sup> July deadline on behalf of the Chair. A final copy of the response was forwarded to SACRE for information.

### **Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament Consultation on the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill**

SACRE was advised by email of the Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament Consultation on the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill on 18th August 2020. This consultation was being carried out by the Children, Young People and Education Committee. SACRE members were sent the consultation documents and discussion on this was planned for Autumn Term 2020. The deadline for the consultation response is 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

### **The Framework for Religious Education**

In the Autumn Term, SACRE members were advised that the work of the RE Framework Group was ongoing, with Paula Webber (EAS PL Adviser RE and SACRE) and Libby Jones (RE Adviser Wrexham) continuing to lead its development. When completed the framework will provide further detail about the relationship between Religious Education, the Agreed Syllabus, and the Areas of Learning and Experience. It was the Welsh Government plan to publish the RE Framework in draft format for consultation in January 2020. This was in order that it would coincide with the publication of the final version of the Curriculum for Wales 2022. Changes to the RE Framework were needed following the redrafting of the Curriculum.

Welsh Government consulted with SACREs on the supporting framework for Religion Values and Ethics during January 2020. Information regarding the consultation and the WASACRE feedback was circulated to SACRE. A response to the consultation was sent from Caerphilly SACRE to Welsh Government on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020. SACRE were sent updates from WASACRE on 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020 on the Welsh Government position in relation to the Supporting Framework and were advised that this consultation has been delayed due to Covid-19.

### **Consultation on the Relocation of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon**

Caerphilly County Borough Council's consultation on Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon was sent to Caerphilly SACRE on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 as statutory consultees. Members were invited to respond as individuals.

## **4.4 TRAINING OF SACRE MEMBERS**

SACRE members receive training on the Roles and Responsibilities of SACRE at the beginning of each academic year.

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

- Updates on developments in RE and collective worship through regular presentations to SACRE members. Ms. P. Webber gave updates on the significant developments in the introduction of the Curriculum for Wales 2022 and its implications for RE.

- SACRE, where possible, hold meetings at schools in the Borough for members to familiarise themselves with RE and collective worship in schools. This was not possible during the academic year 2019-2020 due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

SACRE is very appreciative of the opportunities offered through visits and presentations to become more informed on RE and Collective worship issues in schools 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.

#### **4.5 MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE**

The current membership list showing the position as of May 2019 is attached at Appendix 1.

At its Autumn term meeting there was an update on the membership of SACRE.

**Co-opted places** – Members were reminded that they had previously agreed to explore the co-option of youth representatives onto the Committee. Arising from this, Councillor John Taylor (SACRE Chair) explained that he had recently attended the Council's Youth Cabinet to talk about the work of SACRE and gather initial expressions of interest from the young people in attendance. The opportunity to participate in SACRE through co-option was positively received by the Youth Cabinet, and moving forward, they will highlight the co-opted places to its members studying RE at GCSE or A Level in order to seek expressions of interest and provide nominations to SACRE. Unfortunately, due to the situation with the Covid-19 pandemic Caerphilly SACRE were unable to co-opt young people to the committee during 2019-2020.

**Committee A** – Mr Michael Gray (The Methodist Church) was appointed in June 2019 to fill the Free Church vacancy, Major Paula Hubbard was appointed in June 2019 to fill the Salvation Army vacancy, and Mr Ken Chamberlain (Wales Humanists) was appointed in August 2019 to fill the non-religious group vacancy. Work is ongoing to fill the one remaining vacancy for the non-Christian faith representative. The new members were invited to attend the Autumn Term meeting in 2019.

**Committee B** – At the Autumn meeting of SACRE, members noted the work ongoing with the relevant unions to fill the four teacher representative vacancies. Caerphilly SACRE filled two of these vacancies in February 2020. Ms Katherine McCullough (NASUWT) replaced Mrs Laura Strange, and Mrs Claire McLaughlan filled the second NASUWT vacancy.

**Committee C** - Councillor A. Collis replace Councillor J. Ridgewell on SACRE in September 2020.

**Co-opted Members** – Caerphilly SACRE is continuing to work with the Youth Forum to co-opt young people to SACRE.

#### **SACRE Officers**

Mr. P. Warren continued to act as LA Officer and Ms. P. Webber the EAS RE Adviser to SACRE continues to provide professional support to Caerphilly SACRE Professional Learning within the EAS region. SACRE members are grateful to Miss R. Barrett who continues to act as Clerk to SACRE. Miss Barrett's work is vital to the effective and efficient functioning of Caerphilly SACRE.

Welcome letters on behalf of SACRE were sent to new representatives on SACRE during 2019-2020.

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## **Appendix 1: CAERPHILLY SACRE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE 2019/2020**

### **CHRISTIAN AND OTHER RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS - COMMITTEE A**

Mr Martyn Western (Roman Catholic Archdiocese)  
Mrs Enfys Hawthorn (United Reformed Church)  
Mrs Janet Jones (Church in Wales) (SACRE Vice-Chair)  
Major Paula Hubbard (The Salvation Army)  
Mr Michael Gray (The Methodist Church)  
Mr Ken Chamberlain (Wales Humanists)

Vacancy - non-Christian faith group/religion

### **TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS - COMMITTEE B**

#### **Primary Schools**

Mrs Tara Lloyd (NAHT)  
Ms Meinir Jones (UCAC)

#### **Secondary Schools**

Miss Helen Bartley (ATL)  
Ms Katherine McCullough (NASUWT) – appointed Feb 2020 – replaced Mrs Laura Strange  
Mrs Claire McLaughlan (NASUWT) – appointed Feb 2020 – filled second NASUWT vacancy

Vacancy - NUT Representative  
Vacancy - ASCL Representative

### **THE LOCAL AUTHORITY - COMMITTEE C**

Councillor Mrs E.M. Aldworth  
Councillor A. Collis – replaced Councillor J. Ridgewell on SACRE September 2020  
Councillor Mrs G.D. Oliver  
Councillor Mrs T. Parry  
Councillor J. Simmonds  
Councillor J. Taylor (SACRE Chair)

### **CO OPTED MEMBERS**

Two vacancies - held for youth representation on SACRE

### **OFFICERS**

Mr Paul Warren (CCBC Strategic Lead for School Improvement)  
Ms Paula Webber (EAS - RE Advisor to Caerphilly SACRE)

### **CLERK TO SACRE**

Miss Rebecca Barrett (Committee Services Officer)  
Email barrerm@caerphilly.gov.uk

## **APPENDIX 2: SCHEDULE AND AGENDA OF MEETINGS**

**23rd October 2019, 2.00pm at Ty Penallta Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach**

### **Main Agenda Items**

- Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday, 6th March 2019 and matters arising
- SACRE Membership
- SACRE Annual Report
- Curriculum development update and the Welsh Government consultation on removing the right to withdraw from RE and change of name for RE
- Monitoring Provision and Standards - Caerphilly School Inspection Reports.
- Learning Network Schools for Religious Education
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2020
- SACRE News Bulletin
- WASACRE business
- Dates of future WASACRE meetings and confirm representation - Autumn - Ceredigion (21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 at the Council Chambers Aberaeron). Spring – Merthyr Tydfil TBC. Summer – Gwynedd TBC
- Correspondence

**Please note that the scheduled Spring and Summer Term meetings of Caerphilly SACRE were cancelled due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.**

### **APPENDIX 3: 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

Welsh Government Education Officer responsible for Religious Education

Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all County Borough Schools

All members of SACRE

Principals and Governing Bodies of all Colleges within the County Borough

Wales Association of SACRE's (WASACRE)

Minister for Education, Welsh Assembly Government

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