



## **CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY 28TH MARCH 2022 AT 3.00 P.M**

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Taylor - Chair  
Mrs J. Jones (Church in Wales) - Vice Chair

Representatives of Faith and Belief: Mr M. Gray (The Methodist Church)

Teacher Union Representatives: Mrs K. McCullough (NASUWT)

Together with:

Ms H. Jones (EAS Curriculum Partner - SACs and RVE), V. Bodenham (School Improvement Officer), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer), S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer)

### **RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS**

SACRE were reminded that the meeting was being filmed and would be made available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here to View](#). It was noted that voting on decisions would take place by way of Hands Up and roll call.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E.M. Aldworth, A. Collis, Mrs G. Oliver, T. Parry and J. Simmonds, together with Miss H. Bartley (ATL), Mrs M. Jones (UCAC), Mrs T. Lloyd (NAHT), Mrs C. McLaughlan (NASUWT), Mr K. Chamberlain (Humanists Wales), Mrs E. Hawthorn (United Reformed Church) and Major P. Hubbard (The Salvation Army)

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

#### **3. MINUTES OF CAERPHILLY SACRE – 25TH NOVEMBER 2021**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2021 be approved as a correct record and by a show of Hands Up this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Caerphilly SACRE meeting held on 25th November 2021 (minute nos. 1-17) be approved as a correct record.

It was noted that there were no matters arising on this occasion.

#### **4. UPDATE FROM THE RE ADVISOR**

Ms Hayley Jones (EAS Curriculum Partner - SACs and RVE) delivered a Powerpoint presentation which updated Members on developments across Religious Education matters since the last meeting of SACRE.

##### **Curriculum for Wales**

SACRE received an update on the cross-regional curriculum design, which has included cross-regional training with Lucy Crehan across the consortia project to come together and look at the design of the new curriculum. Numerous schools across the local authority have participated in this training, and work has been carried out in the Areas of Learning and Experience and subject-specific groups to identify and map out higher order concepts and knowledge within the RVE section. The second phase is for Ms Crehan to take all of the strands and concepts that have emerged and put them into a curriculum design and map that the schools to help support them when they design the new curriculum. It is anticipated that more schools will join in the second round of training, which has been embraced by Caerphilly schools to date and has provided a real insight into how curriculum design happens from the top down.

It was noted that Curriculum for Wales Development Groups within the EAS are still ongoing, with teaching and learning and progression assessment groups running in the background. Anyone requiring further advice on these areas can visit the EAS website, which includes a new website designed to help teachers navigate the new curriculum. It is important to note that this website is not only for teachers and has been designed for use by any stakeholders who have a role within the new curriculum, so this could include support staff or parents who have an interest in the Curriculum for Wales and want to see what the latest developments are.

The EAS are also continuing the Teams space and their middle leadership programme, which slowed down during the pandemic but is now picking up pace again. All the resources are available asynchronously so that teachers can dip in and out when their time constraints permit.

##### **Locally Agreed Syllabus and RVE Framework**

Ms Jones referred to the development of the new Caerphilly Locally Agreed Syllabus for RVE, which would be discussed in further detail at the Standing Conference (Agreed Syllabus) meeting immediately following the main SACRE meeting. Ms Jones expressed her gratitude to all those representatives across Caerphilly SACRE who had contributed towards the work in preparing the document and bringing all the threads together in a short space of time.

##### **RVE Professional Learning**

SACRE were advised that EAS have been rolling out professional learning to senior leaders around the legislation changes for RVE. To date, Ms Jones has delivered three sessions which have been welcomed by schools and senior leaders, especially with all the changes and how these will be implemented in their schools. These sessions have provided an opportunity for teachers to feed back on the current status of RVE in their

schools. Many teachers have raised concerns around how those higher-level teaching assistants in primary schools who teach RVE will cope with the changes in the curriculum, and expressed a need for them to have further training and guidance in this regard. EAS will help schools as much as possible and have carried out work around the lack of right for parents to withdraw their children from RVE and how schools could possibly think about informing parents regarding this new legislation. The EAS will be creating a video explaining the changes around the new legislation regarding RVE withdrawal which schools can post on their websites if they wish to do so.

During the professional learning sessions, teachers also discussed planning and curriculum time and the pressures in planning the new curriculum, and how they would welcome the new Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus as soon as possible so that this planning can proceed. In the sessions, Ms Jones also highlighted the work of Caerphilly SACRE and national boards such as NAPfRE and WASACRE, and the support they can offer to schools, which was positively received by the teachers.

### **Holocaust Memorial Day 2022**

Ms Jones provided an update on the activities across the county borough to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, which was held on 27th January 2022. SACRE were shown photographs of Blackwood Miners Institute and Llancaiach Fawr which were illuminated on the day to commemorate this occasion and remember the victims and survivors of the Holocaust.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2022 was “One Day” and a number of schools participated in activities around this theme, which has a particular significance and poignancy given the current events unfolding around the situation in Ukraine. SACRE were shown examples of letters written by Blackwood Primary School pupils, which explored their own experiences during the pandemic and related these in a diary extract to Anne Frank describing lockdown, which displayed some good examples of empathy and compassion amongst the pupils. SACRE were also shown examples of social media posts by Caerphilly Council which aimed to raise awareness of Holocaust Memorial Day and the theme of “One Day”.

### **Monitoring of RVE and Collective Worship and Estyn Inspections**

Ms Jones drew SACREs attention to collective worship, which is monitored by Caerphilly SACRE and derived from Estyn inspection reports which reference collective worship in each school. Some schools have expressed concerns and confusion around the changes in RVE guidance in regards to whether these changes will have an impact on collective worship. Ms Jones reminded SACRE that RVE and collective worship are two distinct elements and that the provision of collective worship in schools remains mandatory and should be mainly of a broadly Christian nature.

Historically, SACRE visited schools to observe acts of collective worship as part of their monitoring duties and to raise the profile of SACREs in schools, and it is hoped that this practice will resume in the near future once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

Ms Jones also explained that WASACRE met with Estyn on 9th March 2022 and that following feedback from this meeting, she will reinstate the practice of looking at Estyn inspection reports and extracting the findings around the provision of RVE and collective worship so that SACRE can start examining these again and offer support where needed or issue letters of congratulations on occasions where schools have performed exceptionally well.

## **Examination Updates**

SACRE were advised that a podcast has been released by Lynda Maddock (WJEC) explaining any adaptations to the summer GCSE examinations 2022, which can be accessed through the following link: [Advance Information - GCSE Religious Studies - WJEC Podcast | Acast](#). The advice in the GCSE Handbook has also been published on the WJEC website and the majority of schools have already received this information: [WJEC GCSE Religious Studies Summer 2022 – Advance Information](#)

## **SACRE Members Training and Professional Learning**

SACRE Members were reminded that they normally receive training on their roles and responsibilities at the beginning of each academic year, but this has been delayed due to the pandemic and the changeover in the Professional RVE Advisor to SACRE, and the other changes to RVE which have taken priority. It is intended that some professional learning for SACRE should take place in the next few months and so Ms Jones is intending to develop this training for Members and update the SACRE membership pack to take into account any changes around the curriculum and the change in name to RVE, and to allow Members to familiarise themselves with the delivery of RVE in schools.

It was noted that the presentation slides from Ms Jones contained a number of useful links to the respective areas included in the update and that these slides would be circulated to all SACRE Members following the meeting.

Having noted the details of the update, there were no questions received, and SACRE thanked Ms Jones for her presentation.

## **SACRE Membership – Resignation of Mr Martyn Western**

Following the update from Ms Jones, the Chair also provided an update on membership and advised Members that Mr Martyn Western (Roman Catholic Archdiocese) had stepped down from his role on Caerphilly SACRE after many years of service. The Chair thanked Mr Western for his service to SACRE and expressed his appreciation to Mr Western for his valuable input and contributions over the years.

Other Members echoed the sentiments of the Chair and wished Mr Western all the very best for the future. It was noted that the Clerk to SACRE would write to Mr Western following the meeting to express the thanks of SACRE for his long service and dedication to the work of the committee.

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE**

Caerphilly SACRE were referred to the report prepared by the Clerk to SACRE, which provided an update on the correspondence received by Caerphilly SACRE and/or circulated on behalf of Caerphilly SACRE since the last meeting.

The correspondence included a letter to all schools across the local authority from WASACRE regarding a professional learning opportunity for Religion, Values and Ethics in the Curriculum for Wales (RVE Professional Learning Development Team). All schools were sent details of the Farmington Institute Scholarships for 2022/23.

All SACRE Members as statutory consultees had been sent correspondence from the 21st Century Schools Team relating to proposals to amalgamate Llancaeath Junior

School and Llanfabon Infants School to create a new Primary School provision. In December 2021, all SACRE Members were sent embargoed WG Guidance on the new Curriculum for Wales RVE Guidance.

Additionally, a copy of the Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report for 2020/21 had been sent to Welsh Government, WASACRE, SACRE Members, all CCBC Councillors, all CCBC schools and other relevant bodies.

There were no questions received and SACRE noted the details of the correspondence update.

## **6. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2022**

Caerphilly SACRE noted the details of the proposed Summer Term meeting as set out in the meeting papers, and were advised that efforts are being made to set the dates in advance for the academic year 2022/23. Members will be advised of these dates in due course.

## **7. FEEDBACK FROM THE VIRTUAL WASACRE AUTUMN MEETING HOSTED BY TORFAEN ON 23RD NOVEMBER 2021**

Ms Jones provided an update on this meeting and explained that this included a presentation from each of the regional RE Advisors across the four consortia. The presentations mainly looked at curriculum design and how each consortium strengthens the role of SACREs and raises engagement with SACREs.

It was also noted during this meeting that Hodder Publishing have been creating resources to support the curriculum; however it was felt by WASACRE that these were unsuitable for use at this current stage. At the meeting, the Catholic Education Service also spoke about offering online support about the new curriculum and briefing its Catholic members of SACREs if required. More support and information around the new curriculum will be given as it emerges.

WASACRE also discussed professional learning and asked for ten members or ten experts or teachers or anyone with an interest in RVE to become part of a task group to create professional learning resources for teachers, which will be linked to the new RVE guidance. A working group was created out of these ten individuals, who are experts across primary and secondary education, and they will create resources and advice on how to implement the RVE guidance. These resources will be shared through Hwb and all SACREs will be encouraged to share this information when received. It is anticipated that further developments will be available during the next WASACRE meeting on 6th April 2022.

WASACRE were also updated on an email from Gill Vaisey in which she advised members that she has relinquished her role on WASACRE. WASACRE expressed their heartfelt thanks to Ms Vaisey for her expertise and her years of commitment to RE, to WASACRE and the SACREs within Wales, and wished her well in her future work.

There were no questions received and Caerphilly SACRE noted the details of the feedback from the WASACRE Autumn Term meeting.

**8. EXECUTIVE VOTING 2022 - NOMINATIONS TO THE WASACRE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Ms Hayley Jones presented the report which informed SACRE of the correspondence received from WASACRE in relation to nominations for new Members to the WASACRE Executive Committee.

SACRE were asked to consider the attached information and discuss any nominations that they wish to make to the Executive Committee, in order for these to be forwarded to WASACRE by Friday 8th April 2022.

Having noted the information in relation to the WASACRE Executive Committee, there were no questions or nominations received from SACRE Members. It was confirmed that the Clerk to SACRE would provide an update to WASACRE following the meeting.

**9. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE WASACRE CONSTITUTION**

Ms Hayley Jones presented the report which sought Caerphilly SACRE's comments on proposed changes to the WASACRE constitution.

It was noted that the WASACRE Executive has recently reviewed the WASACRE Constitution as a number of points require further clarification. A final draft of the proposed revised Constitution was attached to the report and was also circulated to all SACRE Members in advance of the Spring Term meeting. Caerphilly SACRE were invited to comment on the proposed revised Constitution prior to approval at the WASACRE AGM, with the closing date for comments being 13th May 2022.

Having noted the details of the proposed changes to the WASACRE Constitution, there were no comments or questions received from Caerphilly SACRE, and it was observed that the Clerk would update WASACRE following the meeting.

**10. REPRESENTATION AT FORTHCOMING WASACRE MEETINGS**

Caerphilly SACRE noted the date of the next WASACRE meeting on 6th April 2022 at 10.30 a.m. and expressions of interest were sought from those Members who wished to attend on behalf of Caerphilly SACRE. Mr Michael Gray confirmed that he would attend, together with Councillor John Taylor who was hoping to attend at this stage. It was confirmed that the Clerk would pass contact details to WASACRE so that the meeting link and agenda papers could be circulated to these Members in advance of the meeting.

The Chair thanked all attendees for their participation and reminded Members of the meeting of Standing Conference (Agreed Syllabus) immediately following this meeting of SACRE.

The meeting closed at 3.28 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2022.

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CHAIR