



**Wales Association of SACREs meeting,
Virtual via Microsoft Teams
6th April 2022
10.45a.m. – 1.00p.m.**

Attendance

<p>Ynys Môn / Anglesey Rheinallt Thomas (RT)</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent Kathy Riddick (KR) Chris Abbas (CA)</p> <p>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend Alice Parry (AP)</p> <p>Caerffili/ Caerphilly John Taylor (JT) Janet Jones (JJ)</p> <p>Caerdydd / Cardiff</p> <p>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire Gwyneth Thomas (GT) Aled Jones (AJ)</p> <p>Ceredigion Mary Davies (MD) Maldwyn Pryse (MP)</p> <p>Conwy Phil Lord (PL) Jennie Downes (JD) Collete Owen (CO) Roger Boon (RB)</p>	<p>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire Phil Lord (PL) Collete Owen (CO)</p> <p>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire Dave Mackie (DM) Jane Borthwick</p> <p>Gwynedd Paul Rowlinson (PR)</p> <p>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil</p> <p>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire Louise Brown (LB) Suzanne Gooding (SG)</p> <p>Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot Rachel Samuel (RS) Lee Workman (LW)</p> <p>Casnewydd / Newport Neeta Baicher (NB) Huw Stephens (HS) Peter Rees (PR) Mike Daley (MD)</p> <p>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire</p>	<p>Powys John Mitson (JM) Mary Strong (MS)</p> <p>Rhondda Cynon Taf Donna Graves (DG) Matthew Maidment (MM)</p> <p>Abertawe / Swansea Jennifer Harding-Richards (JHR)</p> <p>Torfaen Anna Britten (AB)</p> <p>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan</p> <p>Wrecsam / Wrexham Libby Jones (LJ) Tania ap Siôn (TS)</p>	<p>NAPFRE</p> <p>Observers: REMW</p> <p>WJEC Andrew Pearce (AP)</p> <p>ESTYN</p> <p>Welsh Government</p> <p>REC Kathy Riddick (KR)</p> <p>Church in Wales Elizabeth Thomas (ET)</p> <p>Catholic Education Service Angela Keller (AK)</p> <p>Qualification Wales</p> <p>Interfaith Network</p> <p>ADEW University Of Wales Elin Stock (ES)</p> <p>Presenters Hayley Jones (HJ)</p> <p>Minutes (from recording) Jo Nicholls (JN)</p>
--	--	--	---

Minutes of the meeting

1. Introduction and welcome

RS welcomed everyone (bilingually) to the spring meeting.

Mike Daley, Lead Educational Support Officer, Neath and Port Talbot, on behalf of Andrew Thomas, Director of Education, welcomed everyone as the hosting SACRE.

MD mentioned the challenges of the last two years for both learners and schools and the current emerging cost of living crisis. Schools and teachers have had to deal with big questions from the learners and to adapt almost overnight to a different way of working.

Those working in schools are remarkable, resilient, and inspiring. The Local Authority puts a great emphasis on pupil well-being, and we need remember to consider and support those working in the schools as well as the learners.

MD took the opportunity to thank all those working in schools and to WASACRE for supporting the schools during this difficult time.

With the introduction of the curriculum for Wales for children up to age of 11 in September this year and the challenge of schools having to consider the design and the delivery of mandatory religious values and ethics, the role of WASACRE has never been more important. WASACRE's involvement in the many projects to support and promote religious education and collective worship in Wales is invaluable. The importance and relevance of such meetings and how we respond to these significant issues has rarely been as important as it is now. The need to work together, to share best practice to engage with the process of this reform and speak on behalf of all the SACREs is vital.

RS thanked MD for his introduction.

2. Quiet reflection

RS acknowledged that at this time year for religion it is a time of reflection and confirmation of faith. Christianity with Easter, Judaism with Passover, Islam with Ramadan and Bahai celebrating the new year. These events of positivity are central to each faith even though the world we live in is in turmoil. RS led members through a reflection on those people suffering due to the actions of others.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from John Meredith (Blaenau Gwent) Edward Evans, (Executive Committee), Vicky Barlow (Flintshire SACRE), Angela Keller (Catholic Education Service), Rachel Bendall (ADEW) and Councillor Huw James.

4. Minutes of the last meeting Microsoft Teams held on 23rd November 2021.

LB requested an amendment to page 4, 'principal religions', which should read 'Christianity and other principal religions'

CO confirmed her attendance at the last meeting and explained that her name on the Teams attendance list will appear as 'Primary School' for future minutes. With these two amendments, the minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting held on 23rd November 2021. HS proposed to accept the minutes and RT seconded.

5. Matters arising from minutes of the last WASACRE meeting

RS explained that the matters arising from the last meeting are contained within the agenda items for today's meeting.

RB, Chair of Conway SACRE, stated that he was not present at the last meeting and wished to offer a clarification to the concern that was expressed about the relationship of GWE and Conway SACRE. RB confirmed that the LA had withdrawn financial support for SACRE. As a result, RB produced a three-year development plan for the work of the SACREs and sent it to the Director of Education (DOE). The DOE was very supportive and has now become integrated within the development of the new curriculum. A new partnership has been set up with the LA, the SACREs and the teachers. PL has been bought back as an advisor on a part time basis and he now attends the planning meetings of the authority when relevant to RVE. PL is also responsible for leading a team of teachers in developing the resources for the new curriculum.

The authorities were not permanently established with the work of SACRE; however, the Director of Education now attends meetings, and we now have a successful working party, but it would be beneficial to have more of PL's time.

RS welcomed this positive progress in Gwynedd and thanked RB for sharing.

6. Agreed Syllabus Conferences 2022

RS presented an update in terms of the LA organised agreed syllabus conferences. Presentation includes key guidance and responses from the Welsh Government to the questions that the SACREs have been asking WASACRE. An English version of the copy of will be sent by email after the meeting. The Welsh translation will be available at the end of week.

RS' s presentation focused on aspects of:

Legislation Summary – aims of the agreed syllabus

The agreed syllabus and the Curriculum for Wales

Local Determination

Key messages when constructing an agreed syllabus

WG responses to WASACRE questions

- Examples of how different settings/LA's have responded

- The first example is from Libby Jones, Wrexham SACRE

Wrexham LA constituted an initial ASC meeting in January 2022 which opened the discussion and introduced colleagues to the RVE guidance. From that meeting a working party was set up to work on behalf of the ASC. This working group was made up of invited representatives from the ASC, from the Wrexham Primary Heads' Federation, the Wrexham Secondary Heads' Association, also other teachers and other people who were considered to be helpful in preparing the draft agreed syllabus. The Working party met fortnightly to look at the RVE guidance in detail.

At the agreed syllabus conference in January there were very few questions about the content of the RVE guidance and legislation because this had been previously shared regularly throughout the development of the guidance. The members were happy with the content. The questions that arose were concerning process and protocol, which were taken to Welsh Government, have been addressed in RS's presentation today.

Rather than copy the text from Hwb and place it in a document, it was decided that a link from the agreed syllabus direct to the RVE guidance would be given within the draft agreed syllabus and that there would be embedded links to different sections to the guidance. Welsh Government have been asked to provide these embedded links on Hwb so different sections can be linked easily.

Although there is extra information in the Wrexham draft agreed syllabus, it is not new information but covers specific areas which Wrexham would like to be highlighted from the guidance and legislation.

The purpose and intention of the guidance is that it should be read online. It is important to make it straightforward for schools and practitioners. Practitioners especially should be able to go to different sections easily and access the embedded links to access the framework e.g., links to the 'Four Purposes' and the 'What Matters statement'.

There are appendixes attached and the draft agreed syllabus is a maximum of n=10 pages. Hopefully the draft will be approved on 28th April 2022 and formally recommended to the LA on this day.

RS thanked LJ.

- The second example is from Elizabeth Thomas, Direction of Education, Church in Wales.

Schools of a religious character have traditionally had a denominational syllabus which has been specific to the tenants of the Church.

We made the decision in our re-write of the denominational advice for schools that we should adopt in practice the national guidance. Any denominational advice for schools should build on statutory framework and the national guidance on Hwb.

The work was started about a year ago and has been practitioner led, mirroring and having regard for the national guidance. It is a 'living' document, meant to be read online with links to Hwb. For example, the legal advice is simply a link to the legal section on Hwb, with a clear steer for our head teachers/ school leader that they should engage purposely and understand the legal guidance.

We were mindful that we didn't want to deliver a curriculum which was significantly different to practitioners in LA schools. We require parity of experience for our learners and practitioners in developing their curriculum.

Any additionality that has been included in the document is provided as advice and not worded to appear as compulsion. Certain detail is included to support schools in fulfilling their requirements to their Trustees which is one additionality for schools of a religious character.

We are fortunate to include exemplification in our document. It is separate to the guidance and found at the end of the document. Building on learning journeys as they are in the national guidance, and it exemplifies ways that will support schools in approaching RVE from an objective critical and pluralistic way.

Advice has been given about possible time allocations but are not prescriptive. As a school of religious character, RVE in its widest sense needs to be utmost and foremost and needs to be a lead subject in our schools.

Taken on board the aspects of Professor Charlotte Williams's report and recent discussions with regard to the importance of RVE in furthering equality and diversity within the curriculum, we have included supporting advice for our schools around this.

The website will be available bilingually and freely available to all once the Welsh translation has been completed.

RS thanked ET.

- Next Steps

Action: All - share this information with the SACRE's in your next meeting and within your ASC.

Action: All - if questions arise from this information or during the ASC meetings, please email RS, AP or LJ over the next few weeks. WASACRE will provide support.

RS recommends the following two training opportunities. RS will be attending:

- 'A children's rights approach to Religion, Values and Ethics' by the Children's commissioner for Wales on Tuesday 26th of April 2022

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cyfle-hyfforddi-sesiwn-saesneg-training-opportunity-english-session-tickets-310439000407>

- Policy insight event hosted by Welsh Government showcasing the national online Professional Learning recourses for RVE being supported by WASACRE on Tuesday 26th of April 2022.

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=Ug4_TzS3ZEGUCRtgHRR5k-o3QIzEdh5Eu5nA5bErWa5UNzdUWU1BSDg5RUZaN0ZETVFDNzY5QjRGMC4u

RS hopes that the presentation will benefit this group and help with the process of co-working with the LA on each SACRE's locally determined agreed syllabi.

RT: At a forum meeting with the Welsh Government the term 'Cytun' is no longer used e.g., in 'Cynadleddau Meusydd llafur Cytun 2022', 'Cytun should be replaced with 'cytunedig', Can you check?

RS: I have checked the Welsh Government document and confirm the terminology to be used is 'cytunedig'.

LB: Monmouthshire is making small additions to take in account the inaccuracies in the legislative summary

Action: LB to email RS the inaccuracies in the Welsh Government's legislative summary.

JHR: Swansea. After receiving legal advice, we are conducting a teachers audit to all practitioners with regard to the agreed syllabus in order to receive feedback. We also contacted the Children's Commissioner's office and are in the process of receiving pupil feedback. We are behind a lot of other authorities as we co construct with practitioners and pupils.

RS thanked Jennifer and agreed that the Teachers and students need to be central to the development of the curriculum.

7. Welsh Government matters

- *Meetings (Rachel Samuel)*

An update from the one meeting held has already been fed back to this group. No new updates. The notes from the meeting with Estyn held on 9th March 2022 were supplied as part of this meeting's papers.

- *Religion Values and Ethics Guidance (Libby Jones)*

Last time WASACRE met the RVE guidance hadn't been published. It was published on 10th January 2022 for schools, practitioner, SACREs and ASCs to use.

LJ demonstrated how to access the Religion Values and Ethics Guidance on the Hwb website and showed the embedded links. See links below:

- ⇒ <https://Hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/humanities/designing-your-curriculum/#religion,-values-and-ethics-guidance>
- ⇒ <https://Hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/summary-of-legislation/#religion,-values-and-ethics>

MM: Are the terms 'mandatory' and 'statutory' interchangeable?

LJ: Yes, both are used interchangeably. Important that schools understand that RVE is one of the 4 mandatory elements of the curriculum.

MD: We have made enquiries about these two terms and was told to view 'statutory as 'should' and mandatory as 'must'.

RB: Do we have any guidance on the term 'have regard'?

KR: 'Have regard' means you need a good reason not to comply with it. There is scope to not comply but is to be discussed with Welsh Government.

8. WASACRE Presentation – Professional Learning (Libby Jones, Tania ap Sion)

TS shared a presentation explaining the WASACRE and Welsh Government collaboration project that has been set up to produce a suite of professional learning modules which will be freely available bilingually online on Hwb.

In December 2021, WASCRES selected ten expert practitioners via an advertising recruitment process. The team recruited includes expertise across Wales from early years, primary secondary and additional learning, also senior leaders and Welsh first language speakers.

The Project team from WASCRES include LJ, KR, RB and TS and from Welsh Government include Rachel Hicks and Lisa Clark.

The training day was held on 18th January to introduce the aims, agree modules and to set timelines. A large proportion of the day was looking at RVE in the curriculum for Wales from both a legislative stance as well as pedagogical stance.

A Welsh Government colleague from Hwb demonstrated how to create playlists. These new professional learning modules will take the form of playlists and sit alongside the existing Hwb playlists.

What has been achieved by the project team so far in a very short time has been impressive. The group have been working on chosen modules, a couple of modules are very near completion with others at different stages.

Quality assurance is an important part of the process. The project team is reasonably large but small enough to be functional. The group provides continuity across different stages of the project and peer reviews take place across the groups.

At a later stage a much larger reference group will comment on the draft sample of modules and Hwb will have its own review process.

The project team has faced challenges due to the huge pressure in schools as a result of COVID 19 but remain committed to producing these high-quality resources.

LJ presented the draft content of the playlists via an online link. The current draft modules include:

- 
- ⇒ What's new for Head teachers
 - ⇒ What's new for Early Years
 - ⇒ What's new for Primary
 - ⇒ What's new for secondary
 - ⇒ What's new for ALN
 - ⇒ RVE and the Humanities
 - ⇒ RVE and Progression
 - ⇒ RVE and Numeracy
 - ⇒ RVE and Digital Competency
 - ⇒ RVE and Literacy
 - ⇒ RVE: an approach to pedagogy (for Head teachers)

The development is ongoing and other modules will be added.

Aims for each module:

- ⇒ To provide a baseline for all schools across Wales.
- ⇒ Practitioners are encouraged to critically engage. Examples are included from some schools, but these illustrative examples are ideas for planning and not necessarily

deemed as prescriptive best practice for each school. These modules enable effective development of RVE in each school setting.

- ⇒ Develop a collection of resources – there will be other resources not just these modules.
- ⇒ Ongoing conversations between WASCRE and Welsh Government as to the content.

An example of a playlist was shared, the formats for each playlist will be similar.

1. Title Page
2. Welcome page
3. Contents page
4. Critical engagement
5. Aims
6. Main changes – What changes? What stays the same? Includes quizzes.
7. Implications
8. Case studies
9. Summary of Things to Consider and reflection

The publication dates have been delayed as previously mentioned due to the pressures of absences in schools from COVID 19.

The playlist will go to the reference group during the Easter holidays and the initial five modules will be published in the first part of the summer term.

LJ: The playlists will be demonstrated at the policy insight event hosted by Welsh Government on Tuesday 26th of April 2022 as previously mentioned by RS.

LB: Are the faith schools included in the reference group and can the content of the playlist be added to as new examples are created?

LJ: Adding new examples is a good idea and will include this in future discussions with Welsh Government.

TaS: This professional learning resource is experimental to discover what works and will be reviewed and adapted over time. Keeping a critical perspective is important throughout.

KR: The reference group includes those without RVE expertise to understand their experience when using the modules as well as RVE experts. Experts from faith schools were included in the expert group that drafted the resources.

RS formally thanked the teachers on behalf of WASACRE for the work conducted by this group during this challenging time.

9.Up-dates:

○ REC (Kathy Riddick)

A new Executive Officer has been appointed and will be announced at the next AGM on 5th May 2022 and recommends that they are invited to the Autumn term WASACRE meeting.

REC are now developing the framework for the World Views project. Expressions of interest have been received and will be published once they have been written next year. Interesting project but doesn't fit directly with the curriculum with Wales.

○ **EFTRE (Phil Lord)**

RS congratulated PL on taking the role of WASACRE's representative on EFTRE.

EFTRE met recently online. There is a new website - www.eftre.net. The most valuable aspect of the website is the country report section. As it is a new website, EFTRE country members are encouraged to provide updates.

Action: PL will create a short report of the meeting to include in these minutes.

Wales is part of the EFTRE project 'What does Covid 19 reveal to RE specialists?' This was a pan-European survey of religious practitioners. PW completed the survey on behalf of WASACRE. PL to notify the group when the results are published.

The upcoming conference in Rome was discussed, the Theme "Bridge over Troubled Waters - RE in changing times' The changing times refer to climate change, pandemic, war and Brexit.

Research papers will be developed as a result of the conference. It is also open to teachers and syllabus curators. Digital resources such as seminars recordings will be made available online after the conference. Some of the virtual materials will be relevant for Wales.

PL recommends that WASACRE members inform their SACREs of EFTRE's work, its website and the notes from the meeting.

EFTRE are looking for a 2025 host nation. PL wondered whether Wales would like to be the host nation. PL mentioned that in 2025, Wales would be in Year 10 of the roll out of the new curriculum and will 'hit' our examination year group. Wales could provide key-note speakers.

EFTRE's conducted an online workshop titled 'Longing for peace – strategies for the RE classroom'. It was provided by Norman Richardson.

PL will publicise any future workshops and recommends this group to pass on to teachers.

CA: Concerned that in education the causes of war and how they are prevented is not being addressed? How do we look at international politics and looking at the world as one? Needs to be central to education.

MS: To reassure CA, in Powys, the primary curriculum, especially, have projects on conflicts, how conflict can be addressed, understanding empathy, different religions, and resolution without conflict. Emphasis on understanding our role as respectful and that everyone has a viewpoint.

JHR: As the name has changed to RVE, curriculum designers will be expected to deliver values and ethnics. The opportunity to empathise and to share values will be integral within our subject. We will move forward on this area more than other subjects.

LB: In the Legislative summary it does mention philosophical convictions which includes manmade climate change and also includes passivism which is related to the earlier discussion around peace.

- **REMW (Paul Morgan)**

In PM 's absence, Treasure of REMW, RT, stated there was nothing to report

- **IFN (Libby Jones)**

LJ was Invited by IFN on behalf of WASACRE to present at the most recent national meeting, 'Working in partnership for the common good'.

With the support of the WASACRE Executive Members, a presentation was included within one of the workshops. The IFN were interested to know how SACREs in Wales engage with schools and facilitate connections between schools and faith and belief groups.

It went well, there were questions about the name of RVE. Their concern wasn't to do with the scope of the subject but to do with the impact of the name of SACRE and WASACRE. IFN were concerned that SACREs will be change to SACs.

As a group WASACRE hasn't discussed the change of name but assume it will be changed as we now have the SACs to support.

LJ will put links to Twitter and Facebook in the Zoom chat which shows the discussion from LJ's presentation.

RS: The name of WASACRE is to be discussed and possibly be considered at the next Executive meeting. Any suggestions greatly received.

Action: All: Any suggestions for the change of name of WASACRE to RS.

- **NAPfRE Update (Paula Webber)**

Due to PW being unwell, the official NAPfRE meeting was cancelled. A few NAPfRE members met to discuss the questions regarding the ASCs.

- **Report from the Executive Committee held on 7 February 2022 (Rachel Samuel)**

RS will share a detailed update by email.

The main discussion was the proposed amendment to the WASACRE constitution. This is the version of the constitution that was sent to this group and SACREs approx. 2 months ago.

RS thanks the SCAREs that have responded. All responses have been considered and incorporated where appropriate into the latest version of the proposed constitution.

Action: Any further SACRE comments to be received as soon as possible by Friday 13th May.

The next Executive Meeting is on Tuesday 17th May. The amended version will be sent out and will be considered at the AGM at the end of June.

RS thanked JM, from the Executive Committee, for taking responsibility for the day to day running of the website.

A disclaimer has been produced for use when sharing third party resources. The disclaimer explains that these resources would be beneficial, but WASACRE are not necessarily endorsing these resources.

A decision was made regarding version control of the minutes of the WASACRE and the Executive Committee meetings. The latest version of the minutes requires the Chair to sign and date and these are kept digitally by the Secretary.

The election of new members to the Executive Committee was discussed, there are three seats available plus the Vice Chair RS confirmed that her two-year term of Chair finishes in the Summer and TS will take over as Chair.

Nominations for the posts are to be sent by 8th April 2022 to the Secretary or the Vice Secretary.

Nominees will be invited by WASACRE to write a pen portrait, which will then be sent to SACREs, and a vote taken at the AGM in the Summer.

RS thanked PW for completing the EFTRE survey on behalf of WASACRE and from the Welsh perspective.

The meeting with ESTYN is reported within the papers. Meeting with Welsh Government have been included earlier in this meeting.

A meeting was held with WJEC and confirmation of pre-release information for the GCSE Unit 1, question D across the board.

ACTION: The following documents will be shared by AP by email: Update from the WASACRE Executive Committee and the two presentations from today's meeting.

PR: Asked whether the Estyn report was available in Welsh?

ACTION: AP to send Estyn report to translator.

10. Correspondence (Alice Parry)

CA: Notified the group of the worldwide conference – 'Building Vibrant Communities' to be held on 15th -17th April 2022

NB: Notified the group of the Visakhi celebrations on 14th April for Sikhs and some Hindus.

11. Any other business (to be agreed in advance of the meeting with the Chair)

RS: Apologies that unfortunately MS Teams does not enable translation in Welsh. Presentations and additional papers will be sent after the meeting all will be available bilingually as soon as they are back from the translators.

12. Date of next meeting

The provisional date for the next meeting and the AGM is 29th June 2022. It will be online and hosted by Flintshire.

Meeting ended: 1.01p.m.

DRAFT