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Date: 2nd June 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education** will be held at **Cwmaber Junior School, Brynhafod Road, Abertridwr, Caerphilly, CF83 4BH** on **Tuesday, 14th June, 2016** at **2.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chris Burns'.

Chris Burns
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

	Pages
1 To receive apologies for absence.	
2 Declarations of Interest.	

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

To approve and sign the following minutes: -

3 Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held on 3rd March 2016.	1 - 10
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Correspondence may be in any language or format | Gallwch ohebu mewn unrhyw iaith neu fformat



4 To receive a presentation from Sarah Dann, RE Co-ordinator at Cwmaber Junior School.

To receive and consider the following report(s):-

- | | | |
|---|---|---------|
| 5 | Revised Criteria for GCSE and GCE Specifications: Update. | 11 - 12 |
| 6 | National Curriculum Review and Assessment: Update. | 13 - 16 |
| 7 | Incerts Assessment Programme. | 17 - 20 |
| 8 | Schedule of Meetings 2016-17 (verbal update - venues to be confirmed at the meeting) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 18th October 2016 at 2.00 p.m.• 2nd March 2017 at 2.00 p.m.• 19th June 2017 at 2.00 p.m. | |
| 9 | Correspondence (verbal update). | |

WASACRE:-

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 10 | Feedback from the WASACRE Meeting in Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire on 8th March 2016. | 21 - 28 |
| 11 | Survey on the Impact of the Welsh Baccalaureate on RE in Schools. | 29 - 32 |
| 12 | Executive Voting 2016 - Nominations for the Executive Committee. | 33 - 36 |
| 13 | Representation at forthcoming WASACRE Meetings (verbal update):- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thursday 23rd June 2016 - Rhyl, Denbighshire;• Tuesday 18th November 2016 - Carmarthenshire;• Friday 17th March 2017 - Usk, Monmouthshire. | |

Circulation:

Councillors Mrs E.M. Aldworth, D.G. Carter, Mrs G.D. Oliver, Mrs M.E. Sargent, J. Simmonds and J. Taylor (Chair)

And Appropriate Officers; Trade Union Representatives and Religious Organisations



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT LEWIS SCHOOL PENGAM, GILFACH, BARGOED, ON THURSDAY, 3RD MARCH 2016 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

Mrs E.M Aldworth, Mrs M.E. Sargent, J. Simmonds

Representing Teaching Organisations: Mrs B. Davies (UCAC), Mrs L. Strange (NASUWT)

Representing Religious Organisations: Mr M. Western (Roman Catholic Archdiocese)

Together with:

Mrs V. Thomas (RE Consultant), Mrs J. Elias (Service Manager – Additional Learning Needs),
Miss R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

Also present:

Mr M. Oliver (Assistant Head Teacher - Lewis School Pengam)
Mr T. Davies, Mr L. Pearce and Mr E. Wilson (Pupils - Lewis School Pengam)

1. WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting and introductions were made.

Ms Laura Strange welcomed SACRE Members to Lewis School Pengam. She explained that as Mr Chris Parry (Head Teacher) was unable to attend the meeting on this occasion, Mr Michael Oliver (Assistant Head Teacher) was present on his behalf. Also in attendance were Year 10 pupils Tom Davies, Liam Pearce and Elis Wilson, who had greeted SACRE Members on arrival at the school.

A warm welcome was extended to Councillor Julian Simmonds, who was attending his first meeting of SACRE, having taking up the vacant Councillor position within the membership list.

It was noted that Mrs Jacquelyn Elias (Service Manager – Additional Learning Needs) has replaced Mrs Tanis Cunnick as the local authority representative to Caerphilly SACRE. Members welcomed Mrs Elias to her first meeting of SACRE in her new capacity and extended their thanks to Mrs Cunnick for the work she had carried out on behalf of SACRE.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D.G. Carter and Mrs G.D. Oliver, Miss H. Bartley (ATL), Mrs N. Boardman (NUT), Miss H. Marsh (ASCL), Mr C. Parry (NAHT), Captain C. Di-Palma (Salvation Army), Mrs E. Hawthorn (United Reform Church), Rev E. Williams (Baptist Union of Wales), together with Ms R. Bradshaw and Mr E. Mushayanyama (Co-opted Members).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs M. Sargent declared an interest in Agenda Item 12 (WASACRE – Feedback from the WASACRE Meeting in Blaenau Gwent - 25th November 2015). Details are minuted with the respective item.

4. MINUTES – 2ND NOVEMBER 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Caerphilly SACRE meeting held on 2nd November 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Discussion took place regarding the venue for the Summer Term 2015 meeting of SACRE, which will be held on Tuesday 14th June 2016 at 2pm. It was confirmed that arrangements had tentatively been made for it to be held at Cwmaber Junior School and that Members would be informed once the venue had been finalised.

Members were reminded that at the Autumn 2015 meeting, SACRE considered the main RE findings derived from the Estyn inspection of thirteen Caerphilly schools between Autumn 2014 and Summer 2015. At that meeting, it was noted that the inspection report for Lewis Girls School stated that the school does not comply with the statutory collective worship requirements. There was also a comment listed against Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Allta, which explained that the school does not always ensure a balance of subjects and therefore does not meet the statutory requirements in respect of ensuring consistency in the provision of religious education. SACRE Members subsequently requested that the action plans for the two schools be provided and that an update be sought on the progress made in addressing these recommendations.

Mrs Vicky Thomas (RE Consultant to SACRE) explained that information had since been provided by Mrs Keri Cole (CCBC Chief Education Officer) in relation to the actions taken by the schools and the progress made in meeting the statutory requirements as identified by Estyn.

Within Lewis Girls School, the daily act of collective worship has twice been formally monitored through a cycle of whole school monitoring, since the previous inspection. The Head Teacher circulates the minimum requirements regarding the daily act of collective worship on a half-termly basis, in advance. Training has been provided for staff to increase their confidence in the delivery of the daily act of collective worship and the role of the form

tutor has been revisited to include formal responsibilities regarding the delivery of the daily act of collective worship. Pupil voice evidences that tutor time has become more meaningful and allows greater opportunities for reflection, and tutors are confident in meeting the expectations of their job descriptions. The school has made very good progress towards meeting this recommendation and leaders will continue to monitor practice to ensure best practice is consistently sustained.

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Allta took immediate steps to address this recommendation and RE is now taught weekly. Christianity is taught across the school, and in addition, Years 3-4 pupils study Judaism and Years 5-6 pupils study Islam. Portfolios of work are kept for both key stages and the school reports that most pupils are able to describe the main features of the faiths. The Senior Leadership Team monitor teacher planning and learner books every fortnight and examples of planning are also included in the portfolios. The school reports that there is now much greater consistency across the school than at the time of the inspection. The Head Teacher reports on progress against Estyn recommendations to the governing body every term and the next update is planned for the governing body meeting to be held at the end of February 2016. The school believes that this recommendation has now been fully met.

Following discussion and consideration of the actions carried out by the school to address the recommendations of Estyn, Members noted the progress made by Lewis Girls School in respect of the statutory requirement for acts of collective worship and that of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Allta in respect of the statutory requirement for ensuring consistency in the provision of religious education.

SACRE were pleased to note the progress that had been made on this matter and thanked Mrs Thomas for the update.

There were no other matters arising.

6. PRESENTATION – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT LEWIS SCHOOL PENGAM

Mrs Laura Strange (Head of Religious Education at Lewis School Pengam) welcomed Members to the school, and explained that she would be assisted in her presentation by Year 9 pupils Tom Davies, Liam Pearce and Elis Wilson.

With the aid of a slideshow presentation, Mrs Strange delivered to SACRE Members an insight into the teaching and study of RE at the school, entitled “Religious Education at Lewis School Pengam”.

Mrs Strange outlined details of the RE departmental staff and the structure of RE lessons within the school at Key Stages (KS) 3 and 4. At KS3, Years 7 and 8 pupils receive 1 hour of RE study per week. Christianity and Hinduism is studied across both years, together with Islam in Year 7 and Judaism in Year 8. Pupils also study the topics of Worship and Ritual, Pilgrimage, Leaders and Text, Rites of Passage, and Suffering. At Year 9, RE study increases to 2 hours per week and all pupils follow a WJEC Short Course (Religion and Life Issues) which culminates in a GCSE exam at the end of the school year. The topics covered are Relationships, Is It Fair?, Looking for Meaning, and Our World, with Christianity and Hinduism covered in each topic.

Mrs Strange highlighted the compulsory topics studied across KS3 (Worship and Ritual, Leaders and Text, Rites of Passage and Our World). She advised Members that after evaluating the effectiveness of the voluntary topics, she was considering whether to replace the Suffering theme with the study of an additional religion (such as Buddhism).

At KS4, Year 10 pupils receive 1 hour of RE study per week and follow a second WJEC Short Course (Religion and Human Experience), covering the topics of Peace and Conflict, Religion and Medicine, Religious Expression, and Evil and Suffering, which again culminates in a GCSE exam at the end of the school year. At Year 11, pupils receive 1 hour of study per week to complete the Global Citizenship Challenge of the Welsh Bacallaureate qualification.

Mrs Strange outlined the list of global issues included within the Global Citizenship Challenge together with examples of topics relating to these issues. One issue and two different topics must be covered in the Challenge, which is achieved through a combination of teaching and learning exercises (15 hours in total) and controlled tasks (16 hours in total). Members were advised that a Challenge brief sets the scene and the topic for the controlled task and can be selected from those already written by WJEC or written by the school in a generic brief.

Members were advised of the key considerations that need to be taken into account in ensuring the requirements of the Welsh Bacallaureate meet the Caerphilly-agreed Religious Education syllabus. These include an understanding of religion, choosing a suitable challenge brief, planning the teaching and learning around a RE topic, and collaborative working with the RE head of department and Welsh Bacallaureate coordinators.

Mrs Strange outlined examples of subjects covered within the teaching and learning of RE, such as relationships surrounding life/death, class debates, reflection and peer assessment, which link together and ensure that pupil motivation levels are sustained during lessons. These subjects all encourage literacy and numeracy, which is a major focus of the school, and is addressed through learning methods such as National Reading Tests, skimming/scanning reading exercises, writing in different text types, and the use of skeletons/connectives.

In closing, Mrs Strange outlined the number of pupils entered for the Religious Education (Short Course) GCSE over the past few years. Members noted that 16.4% of pupils achieved an A* - A grade and 60% of pupils achieved an A* - C grade in 2015, which is well above the average results for the county borough.

Tom Davies, Liam Pearce and Elis Wilson were then invited to give their viewpoints on studying Religious Education at Lewis School Pengam. They explained that they are due to sit a GCSE exam shortly which will give them experience of exam techniques and the exam hall environment, and will result in one less exam in Year 11. The pupils are currently studying the Is It Fair? topic and will be studying the Religion and Medicine topic in Year 10. They explained that the study of Religious Education is useful in the wider world as it enables pupils to understand and present different viewpoints and hence is important in terms of employability prospects.

The pupils explained that they enjoy studying the subjects covered, such as learning about different types of relationships, and find many of these subjects to be topical and interesting (such as voting rights for women in Saudi Arabia). The pupils explained that they like having the opportunity to give their opinion in class and that some of the debates in their RE lessons can become very lively.

Discussion of the matters raised during the presentation ensued, and Mrs Thomas suggested that it could be beneficial for the school to extend the current Year 10 Short Course syllabus over two years at KS4 to alleviate teacher and pupil pressure and to ensure that statutory RE requirements continue to be met. Members were reminded of the impending revised specifications for Religious Education at GCSE and A Level and of the impact that this could have on the teaching structure of RE, and Mrs Strange confirmed that staff within the school's RE department were planning for this eventuality.

Members thanked Mrs Strange for her informative presentation and were very pleased to note the enthusiastic presentation given by Tom, Liam and Elis. Members thanked the Year 9 pupils for their attendance and articulate responses, and the three pupils left the meeting at that point.

7. ANALYSIS OF EXAMINATION RESULTS 2015

The report informed Members of the attainment at GCSE, AS and A Level of Caerphilly pupils in Religious Studies and Religious Education for 2015.

SACRE were advised that the figures represented raw scores and as such did not necessarily reflect the selectivity of the entry and in some cases the numbers were too small to be statistically significant. The results recorded are for those pupils entered for the examinations. They do not necessarily reflect the number of pupils following the examination course nor do they indicate how well pupils are performing relative to their ability. Further information detailing the attainment results for each Caerphilly school was also tabled to Members at the meeting.

The results for the GCSE (Full Course) were confirmed and it was noted that there were 679 entries from 13 schools. Entry numbers are higher than previous years but the number of schools entering candidates has decreased this year. A* - A grades for Caerphilly reached 28.3% which is the best result of the last three years and is just below the All Wales figure of 31%. Members were advised that the level of A* - C grades at 71.4% is below 2014 but better than 2013 performance. 98.4% of pupils entered achieved a grade A* - G, which is comparable with the previous two years' results and slightly better than the All Wales figure of 98%.

The results of GCSE (Short Course) were confirmed and it was noted that there was a significant decrease in entries again this year, with 647 entries from 13 schools. The overall percentage of A* - A grades of 18.6% is much better than 2014 performance and better than the All Wales figure of 14%. The overall % of A* - C grades was 60.9% which is the best result of the last three years and is also better than the All Wales figure of 52%. However, the overall percentage of A* - G grades was 91.5% which is below previous performance and the All Wales figure of 93%. A significant number continue to be entered for Short Course and this is very encouraging because it provides pupils with the opportunity for accreditation for their KS4 study.

Members were asked to note that pupils do not usually opt to follow the Short Course as it is delivered as part of the statutory requirements for RE. An Estyn survey also reported that those pupils following an examination course such as Short Course, as part of their statutory requirement at KS4 were more motivated than those who did not.

The results for A Level Religious Studies were confirmed, which highlighted very good entry figures this year (100 entries from 8 schools, which is an increase on previous entry figures). A* - A was achieved by 13% of students, which is below previous performance and the All Wales figure of 23%. At A* - C, candidates achieved a pass rate of 73%, which is below 2014 performance but is slightly better than 2013. It was noted that 100% of the pupils entered at A Level achieved a grade at A* - E, which is an excellent result and continues the impressive performance of previous years.

The results for AS Level Religious Studies were confirmed and showed a increase in entry levels for this year, with 22 entries from 8 schools. 4.5% of students achieved an A grade and 6.4% of students achieved A* - C grades, which are both below performance for previous years. There was a 72.7% pass rate for grades A - E and although it does not match the 100% pass rate of the previous year, it is better than 2013.

Members were asked to note that the AS Level data only includes those students who have cashed in their results. For example, if a student sat an AS Level during 2015 but have not yet cashed the result in, then they would be included in next year's data when the results have been cashed in. This avoids the same results being counted twice, and for this reason, an All-Wales comparison has not been included for AS Level data. Mrs Thomas advised Members that because of the situation of cashing in results, the AS statistics need to be considered with caution.

Having fully considered and discussed the report, SACRE noted the analysis of examination results in Religious Studies and Religious Education for 2015 and agreed that a letter be circulated to all secondary schools to inform them of the analysis of results.

8. REVISED CRITERIA FOR GCSE AND GCE SPECIFICATIONS – UPDATE

The report summarised details of the proposed changes to specifications and assessment practices for Religious Studies at GCSE and GCE (AS and A) Level (which were due to be implemented in Autumn 2016), the processes and timescale involved in implementing these changes, and the issues raised by partner agencies regarding these changes.

Mrs Thomas outlined the latest developments in respect of the proposed changes. She explained that revised specifications for AS and A Level and Sample Assessment Materials were submitted to Qualifications Wales (the independent regulator responsible for overseeing the reform of these qualifications) for approval at the end of November 2015. This material is currently being translated and once this is done the draft proposals will be placed on the WJEC website. Qualifications Wales will respond to the submitted specifications and advise on necessary changes, and following this feedback, WJEC will revise the specifications and resubmit for approval. The new A Level specifications will be implemented in Autumn 2016 as planned.

With regards to revised GCSE specifications, Mrs Thomas explained that as the draft proposals were only placed on the WJEC website prior to Christmas 2015, there were concerns across teaching establishments that the final specifications would not be approved by Qualifications Wales in readiness for the new academic year. It was feared that this delay would impact on the teaching of the subject, as it would have meant a delay in teaching resources and specimen papers which would impact on teaching and learning. Some schools start teaching GCSE courses in May and the specifications would still be in draft form, which held implications for option choices, timetabling and staffing issues, preparation of materials for teaching and availability of resources for teaching. In addition, Welsh resources were likely to follow even later than English resources due to translation timescales.

A letter was sent from Mary Parry to WJEC on behalf of Carmarthenshire SACRE, requesting a delay in the introduction of the new specifications to 2017. She also sent the same letter to Huw Lewis AM (Minister for Education and Skills), Qualifications Wales, and Estyn.

WASACRE (Wales Association of SACREs) and NAPfRE (National Advisory Panel for Religious Education) also sent letters to WJEC in a similar vein. The letter from WASACRE raised the issues associated with the new specifications and requested the deferment of one or both of the specifications. Copies of these letters were appended to the report.

Secondary schools in Caerphilly County Borough were informed of the current situation regarding specifications and timescales via a letter from Caerphilly SACRE. They were also advised that on 19th January 2016, a one page draft summary of the new GCSE specifications became available on the WJEC website.

On 11th February 2016, Qualifications Wales wrote to all secondary schools in Wales and explained that they had had taken the decision to defer the introduction of both the new GCSE History and GCSE Religious Studies qualifications from September 2016 to September 2017. The regulator felt that deferring these qualifications would allow more time for schools to prepare for first teaching and the development of bilingual teaching and learning resources.

It was acknowledged by Qualifications Wales that this deferral will affect a small proportion of schools who currently take GCSE History and GCSE Religious Studies qualifications with a different awarding body (instead of WJEC). Those schools will have to switch in 2016 from the specification they currently teach to one of the existing specifications offered by WJEC, before switching again in 2017 to the new, reformed qualification. It is estimated that 33 schools in Wales will be affected by the decision to defer GCSE Religious Studies, and Qualifications Wales are working with WJEC, Regional Consortia and the Welsh Government to put in place a package of support to help these schools manage the impact of switching specifications twice in two years.

Mrs Thomas explained that she had not received any detail from the Consortia which Caerphilly schools (if any) would be affected by this decision but that she would update SACRE Members once this information becomes available.

SACRE Members noted the update relating to the revised criteria for GCSE and GCE specifications.

9. NATIONAL CURRICULUM REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT – UPDATE

The report outlined latest developments regarding the review assessment arrangements and the National Curriculum in Wales, which was announced by the Minister for Education and Wales on 1st October 2012.

In February 2015, Professor Donaldson released his report and recommendations via the document "*Successful Futures – Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales*". The Minister for Education and Skills has accepted all of Professor Donaldson's recommendations, and in October 2015, a further document "*A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life*" was issued, which is the plan for taking forward these recommendations. Members were referred to Appendix 1 of the report which outlined details of the timeline up to 2021 in respect of these recommendations.

Mrs Thomas explained that Pioneer schools and stakeholders will have a say in the shape of the curriculum via a series of meetings. SACRE were referred to a list of Pioneer schools appended to the report, and it was explained that these schools have been selected for their ability to lead in the areas of Curriculum and New Deal (which will reshape continuing professional development). WASACRE will be a high level stakeholder in the review implementation process through the Pioneer Network. The first meeting of the Pioneer Network took place in December 2015 and the key points arising from this meeting were outlined in the report. It was agreed that the first stage for Curriculum Pioneers will be a high level definition of an Area of Learning and Experience framework, and New Deal Pioneers will focus on the pedagogy and leadership needed to deliver the requirements of the new curriculum as it develops. The next meeting of the Stakeholder group will be held in March 2016.

SACRE were also advised that at its Autumn 2015 meeting the National Advisory Panel for RE (NAPfRE) began the process of drawing up guidelines on "*What makes good RE*" for WASACRE representatives to submit to the Pioneer Network for consideration when working on the shape of the RE curriculum.

Following discussion of the report, Members noted the developments relating to the position of RE in the curriculum.

10. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2016 FEEDBACK

At the Autumn 2015 meeting of Caerphilly SACRE, Members were advised of the resources available to schools in order to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day 2016, and it was arranged that the Clerk to SACRE would write to all schools in the county borough to make them aware of these resources. It was also agreed at that meeting that the Clerk to SACRE would contact Council colleagues to determine whether any Council-organised commemorative events were taking place across the county borough.

Caerphilly Council subsequently invited all SACRE Members to a commemorative event held in the Market Place, Blackwood Town Centre on Wednesday 27th January 2016. The event involved a wall of remembrance exhibition featuring the work of local secondary school pupils, readings, the lighting of a symbolic candle and the opportunity to partake in artist David Garner's artwork *B for Defiance* (a replication of the *Arbeit Macht Frei* sign above the gates of Auschwitz).

A number of SACRE Members attended on the day and reported that this poignant and moving event had been well attended and positively received by local residents, visitors and school pupils. In addition, all 18 libraries across the county borough played an important part in raising the profile of this international day of remembrance for victims of the Holocaust and other genocides by hosting art exhibitions and coffee mornings.

SACRE were pleased to note the moving commemorative events that had taken place across the county borough to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2016. It was agreed that a letter of thanks would be sent to the relevant departments within Caerphilly Council to convey SACRE's appreciation for the arrangement of these events.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk to SACRE informed Members that the Farmington Scholarships information leaflet for 2016-2017 had been circulated to all schools, together with details of the resources available to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2016.

SACRE were informed that all secondary schools have now received a copy of the learning resource "Muslim Footballers in the Premier League".

A letter had been sent to all secondary schools on behalf of SACRE in respect of the WJEC update on revised specifications for Religious Education, together with the subsequent letter from Qualifications Wales regarding the deferment of the new GCSE Religious Studies and GCSE History qualifications.

Members were advised that a WASACRE survey regarding the new Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification had been circulated to all secondary schools in the county borough. 4 responses from headteachers/RE teaching staff had been received and forwarded to Libby Jones at WASACRE. This was discussed in further detail under Agenda Item 10 (Feedback from the WASACRE Meeting in Blaenau Gwent – 25th November 2015).

SACRE noted the details of the correspondence update.

12. WASACRE - FEEDBACK FROM THE WASACRE MEETING IN BLAENAU GWENT – 25TH NOVEMBER 2015

Councillor Mrs M. Sargent declared an interest in this item as her son is the Welsh Government contact for SACRE. As the interest was personal and not prejudicial, she remained in the meeting room during consideration of the item.

Members were updated on the discussions and deliberation of WASACRE at its meeting in Blaenau Gwent on 25th November 2015. A copy of the draft minutes was included in the meeting papers.

At the WASACRE meeting, concerns were raised over the security of religious education in KS4 with the implementation of the statutory Welsh Baccalaureate qualification as a timetabled subject. Members were concerned that some schools are using RE time scheduled on the timetable to teach the Welsh Baccalaureate. A teacher representative at the meeting explained that it is difficult to make provision for core RE within the Welsh Baccalaureate that meets statutory requirements and that this presents a challenge for schools. WASACRE agreed that a survey regarding the Welsh Baccalaureate would be circulated to all secondary schools in Wales via their local SACRE Clerk.

SACRE discussed the limited responses received to this WASACRE survey. It was felt that the information received from Caerphilly secondary schools would be extremely useful to both WASACRE and Caerphilly SACRE in monitoring the situation regarding the new qualification and would provide a deeper understanding of the situation in schools across the country.

It was agreed that as WASACRE had granted an extension to the survey response deadline, the Clerk to SACRE would re-circulate the survey to those schools who had not yet responded, with a deadline of 11th March 2016 for the information to be returned to the Clerk.

SACRE noted the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE at the Blaenau Gwent meeting.

13. NOMINATIONS TO THE WASACRE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SACRE were informed of the correspondence received from WASACRE in relation to nominations for new Members to the WASACRE Executive Committee. No nominations were received at the meeting.

It was agreed that the Clerk to SACRE would recirculate nomination details to all Members via email and forward any subsequent nominations received to WASACRE.

14. REPRESENTATION AT FORTHCOMING WASACRE MEETINGS

Members were advised of the date and time of forthcoming WASACRE meetings and sought nominations for representation from Caerphilly SACRE.

With regards to the next meeting of WASACRE on **8th March 2016** (Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire), it was noted that Mrs Vicky Thomas would be in attendance.

Regarding a future meeting of WASACRE on **23rd June 2016** (Denbighshire), Members were asked to notify the Clerk to SACRE should they be interested in attending. They would then be contacted with the agenda papers nearer to the meeting date and asked to confirm attendance.

Mrs Thomas explained that future WASACRE meetings had been arranged for 18th Nov 2016 (Carmarthenshire) and Spring 2017 (Monmouthshire) and requested that the Clerk to SACRE email all SACRE Members with these dates to encourage their attendance.

Mrs Jacquelyn Elias (CCBC Service Manager – Additional Learning Needs) expressed a need for SACRE Members to be more proactive in terms of WASACRE attendance and for Caerphilly SACRE to be adequately represented at these meetings. She explained that there is an expectation for SACRE representatives to attend WASACRE meetings wherever possible and for teaching staff to be released from their duties to attend such meetings. Discussion took place between SACRE Members regarding this matter.

It was agreed that the Clerk to SACRE would write to all SACRE Members to encourage representation at WASACRE meetings, and for Members to be asked to indicate their preference for future meetings so that the matter can be discussed at the next SACRE meeting. Mrs Elias confirmed that she would also raise the matter of representation with Keri Cole (Chief Education Officer) with a view to encouraging Headteachers to release their SACRE teaching representatives to attend these meetings wherever possible.

The Chair thanked the Members of Caerphilly SACRE for their attendance at the meeting and also Mrs Laura Strange for her kind hospitality and informative presentation.

The meeting closed at 3.40 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 14th June 2016, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 14TH JUNE 2016

SUBJECT: REVISED CRITERIA FOR GCSE AND GCE SPECIFICATIONS: UPDATE

A BACKGROUND

The current situation in schools is the availability of different routes in the delivery of RE/RS.

Route 1 – Optional Religious Studies

A significant number of schools offer Religious Studies in the option choices at KS4. Students who choose the subject will then follow an examination spec for Religious Studies and be entered for the full course examination, having received exactly the same time allocation (usually around 10% of curriculum time) as all other optional subjects

Route 2 – GCSE RS accreditation in the statutory Religious Education lesson

Religious Education is a statutory subject which must be taught to all students at KS4. This is where the situation for RE/RS differs from nearly all other subjects (PE is the other exception). Many schools in Wales use the statutory RE lessons to follow a Religious Studies external examination specification with the whole cohort and enter students for this examination – either for a short course or a full course.

Route 1 and 2

A significant number of schools use both routes. This means that if a student has chosen Religious Studies in the options, then that student will still be present in the statutory RE lesson, and so needs to follow a different specification for Religious Studies or they will be following the same lesson content twice. It is possible to do so at present because there are two RS GCSE specifications at WJEC (as well as the availability of specs from examining boards in England). However, with the proposed merging of the two specs into one, this will no longer be an option and it is here that it will have the negative impact.

Meeting between WJEC and NAPRE representatives – 15th April 2016

Present: Gareth Pierce, Alun McCarthy, Lynda Maddocks, Jen Malcolm, Mary Parry

NAPfRE members had requested a meeting with WJEC to discuss the new specifications and pointing out the implications of there only being one specification on schools- especially those schools currently following a combined Route 1 and 2.

Implications for Schools

Affect 1

Schools/ teachers may decide to retain their optional RS and **not accredit** the short course in the statutory lesson. A factor influencing that decision could be the increased rigour in the exam specification/s making it more difficult for candidates to be successful in achieving a GCSE RS accreditation in the statutory lessons. Statutory RE would still have to be provided and this could be subsumed into Welsh Baccalaureate or some other form of provision. This would have a huge affect on entry figures for WJEC and the Board stated that they would contact Estyn asking them to keep a watching brief on KS4 statutory RE provision.

Affect 2

Schools/ teachers may decide to only follow RS in the statutory lessons and the RS option will disappear. This will also have an effect on A and AS level Religious Studies.

Decisions

- WJEC are offering both the short and full course options from a single specification. The WJEC will not be offering an additional RS GCSE specification from September 2017. There had been no call for an additional RS spec in England. However, it will review the impact after two years.
- It is a matter for each school's internal organisational structures to ensure that an optional RS GCSE course and a RS GCSE (short course) for statutory RE lessons can run side by side.
- WJEC will contact schools who appear to provide an organisational structure which allows the GCSE optional full course and the statutory GCSE RS short course to run concurrently with no overlap and where the pupils are not educationally disadvantaged, so that any good practice can be shared with other schools.
- WJEC will contact Estyn to draw attention to the need to keep a watching brief on the provision for statutory KS4 RE to ensure that statutory requirements are met.

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DATE: 14TH JUNE 2016

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SUBJECT: NATIONAL CURRICULUM REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT: UPDATE

A BACKGROUND

Professor Donaldson report and recommendations can be found in the document *Successful Futures - Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales*. Recommendation 9 stated:

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

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

Pioneer schools and stakeholders will have a say in the shape of the curriculum. The first stage for **Curriculum Pioneers** would be a high level definition of an Area of Learning and Experience framework. Detail around content would follow on from this initial phase.

New Deal Pioneers would focus on the pedagogy and leadership needed to deliver the requirements of the new curriculum as it develops

Current situation - April 2016

The National Advisory Panel for RE (NAPfRE) has begun the process of drawing up a guidance document called *What makes good RE* for submission to the pioneer network for consideration when working on the shape of the RE curriculum. There have been two meetings to work on this Nov '15, April '16 and May '16

At the April meeting NAPfRE were joined by two representatives from the Curriculum Division of Welsh Government. **Manon Jones** who is responsible for the pioneer schools and two areas of learning and experience (ALE), Humanities and Language and Literacy and **Abi Williams** who will be responsible for Religious Education and ITC. Manon Jones outlined the process and steps they are currently following.

Step 1: Representatives from the pioneer schools have attended a few induction events and are currently working in four working groups in order to develop the structure of the new curriculum:

- Learning beyond the classroom
- Assessment and progression
- Cross curricular responsibilities (literacy, numeracy and digital competence)
- Welsh dimension, international perspective and wider skills

There are 18-20 representatives in each group, many of whom are members of schools' senior management teams. WG is collecting information from the

pioneer schools to identify which areas of learning, disciplines, sectors (e.g. primary, secondary, Welsh medium), need most attention.

Step 2: Representatives from the pioneer schools will work within areas of learning and experience (ALE) in order to consider the 'big questions' of curriculum development, e.g. what is the scope of each ALE? What are the connections between ALEs? There will be a balance of FP, primary and secondary practitioners.

Step 3: Representatives from the pioneer schools will consider the strands within each area of learning and experience. Subsidiarity is an important principle but WG hopes that other 'good practice' schools will be involved at this stage to contribute their appropriate expertise and good practice. However the WG library service is gathering evidence of successful curriculums from around the world. They are prepared to work with bodies (such as NAPfRE and WASACRE) that can advise.

NAPfRE agreed to do the following for WG:-

- prepare a briefing paper for WG in order to outline the particular issues relating to RE within a new curriculum. NAPfRE identified three areas
- share any useful documents, action research case studies or examples of good practice which might help the pioneer schools.
- identify schools which exemplify good practice.

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

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

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

B SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Appendix 1 NAPfRE Briefing Paper for Welsh Government (Draft)

NAPFRE BRIEFING PAPER FOR WELSH GOVERNMENT (DRAFT)

Please note this is in draft format.

RE in the present curriculum

Currently RE is not a National Curriculum subject but sits within the 'basic curriculum'. It is statutory for all registered pupils at a school except those in nursery classes, i.e. reception to post 16 inclusive.

RE is taught in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus in all maintained and voluntary controlled schools. Since 2008, all agreed syllabuses in Wales are based on the Welsh Government *National Exemplar Framework for RE*. All local authorities are required to have a SACRE whose role is to monitor the provision of RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus for that local authority.

Successful Futures recommends that "religious education should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience, and should remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception" (p114).

Questions for consideration:

- What is the intention regarding the position of Religious Education in the new curriculum?
- If Religious Education sits within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience - as Donaldson proposes- does this mean that there is an intention to no longer require LAs to have a locally agreed syllabus?
- How will this impact on SACREs?

Withdrawal

Schools have a statutory obligation to provide Religious Education. Present legislation allows parents to exercise their right to withdraw their child/children from Religious Education

Questions for consideration:

- Is there an intention to remove the withdrawal clause for RE?
- What will be the implication of the removal of the withdrawal clause?

RE for nursery settings

Currently legislation states that religious education is not statutory for children in nursery classes. However this is an anomaly within the Foundation Phase where all other areas of learning are for 3 to 7 year olds. Without a change in legislation this anomaly would continue within the new *Successful Futures* 3-16 curriculum.

Questions for consideration:

- Will legislation be changed in order to create consistency for Religious Education to be able to sit within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience?

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CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DATE: 14TH JUNE 2016

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SUBJECT: INCERTS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

A BACKGROUND

Incerts Programme

At the March 2016 meetings of the National Advisory Panel for RE and WASACRE concern was raised by members about the Incerts software that tracks pupils' progress in National Curriculum subjects and Religious Education. The concerns are as follows:

1. There are two options for schools to choose from regarding level descriptions for RE and it is not made obvious which set of Levels are the correct Levels for use by maintained and voluntary controlled schools.
2. Incerts have been advising some schools in Wales that there are no statutory Level Descriptions for RE and that schools are free to choose which set of Level Descriptions they use in the Incerts programme - this is incorrect. There are statutory Level Descriptions for schools in Wales. Schools do not have a choice regarding which Level Descriptions they are to use.
3. Any schools that have started using the wrong Levels option will have to start the assessment process again when they switch to the correct option.

Information from Incerts website:-

Incerts is an independent, non-profit organisation working to transform assessment practices in schools on a local, national and international scale. With help from our support staff, teachers and school leaders use our online system to get more than they thought possible from assessment.

Assessment for Learning

As soon as teachers have recorded their assessments, Incerts highlights the skill-by-skill strengths and weaknesses of individual pupils. Incerts also identifies groups of pupils with common skill profiles to support planning and differentiation in the classroom.

Assessment of Learning

School leaders are able to access a live view of attainment across the school at any time. Our analysis tools facilitate the tracking of vulnerable groups in detail, helping to identify trends and anomalies within the academic year, or across a Key Stage.

Reporting of Learning

Incerts uses on-going teacher assessments to create personal and readable reports for parents in a fraction of the time usually spent. Our online Reportal also provides a practical outlet for sharing evidence with parents and teachers can share the media they have uploaded through our dedicated evidence capture app, Incerts Snap.

B RECOMMENDATION

That the LA and its SACRE writes to all schools in the Local Authority to reiterate the need to ensure that they are using the correct option for RE within the Incerts programme.

C SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Appendix 1 Draft Letter to Headteachers and Religious education co-ordinators of all primary and special schools in Caerphilly

To Headteachers and Religious education co-ordinators
All primary and special schools in Caerphilly

June 2016

Dear Colleague

Many schools in Wales are now using the Incerts software to track pupils' progress in the National Curriculum subjects and Religious Education.

Incerts are offering the option of two sets of level descriptions for Religious Education in KS2.

The first option, called RE 'original levels', consists of the levels from a programme of study used by Catholic schools in the UK, 'Here I am', (although this is now out of date and has been superseded). The second option, RE - 'exemplar framework', contains the statutory level descriptions for all maintained schools in Wales, as set out in all 22 Locally Agreed Syllabuses for RE in Wales. **This is the correct set of Levels in Incerts for use by maintained and voluntary controlled schools in Wales.**

It has come to the attention of Caerphilly SACRE that some schools in Wales have been advised by Incerts that schools are free to choose which assessment framework they wish to use as neither framework is statutory. This is incorrect as the level descriptions found in your locally agreed syllabus are statutory. Every Agreed Syllabus in Wales contains the Level Descriptions for RE as produced by Welsh Government in their *National Exemplar Framework for RE* and these form part of the statutory syllabus and aim to ensure consistency of expected standards across all maintained and voluntary controlled schools.

Schools are urged to ensure that the correct version is used if this programme is adopted by the school to track pupils' progress in RE.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter then please contact Vicky Thomas RE Consultant to SACRE by email vickyathomas@hotmail.co.uk

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Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru, Hwlfordd, 8 Mawrth
2016 (11am – 3pm)

*Wales Association of SACREs meeting, Haverfordwest, 8 March
2016 (11am – 3pm)*



Attendance

<p>Ynys Môn / Anglesey Bethan James Rheinallt Thomas</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent Gill Vaisey</p> <p>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend Vicky Thomas Edward Evans</p> <p>Caerffili/ Caerphilly Vicky Thomas</p> <p>Caerdydd / Cardiff Gill Vaisey Gillian James Kate Church</p> <p>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire Mary Parry Meinir Wynne Loader Helen Gibbon Gwyneth Thomas</p> <p>Ceredigion Lyndon Lloyd</p> <p>Conwy</p>	<p>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire</p> <p>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire</p> <p>Gwynedd Bethan James</p> <p>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil Vicky Thomas Ernie Galsworthy</p> <p>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire Gill Vaisey</p> <p>Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot Jen Malcolm</p> <p>Casnewydd / Newport Huw Stephens Vicky Thomas</p> <p>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire Mary Parry Huw George Emyr Phillips</p>	<p>Powys</p> <p>Rhondda Cynon Taf Gill Vaisey</p> <p>Abertawe / Swansea Vicky Thomas Rachel Bendall Alison Lewis</p> <p>Torfaen /Torfaen Vicky Thomas</p> <p>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan Gill Vaisey</p> <p>Wrecsam / Wrexham Libby Jones</p> <p>Sylwedyddion / Observers Janet Ingram- St David's Centre (Speaker) Siân Brooks- UWTSO (Speaker) Mrs Y Galsworthy</p>
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Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru, Hwlfordd, 8 Mawrth 2016 (11am – 3pm)

Wales Association of SACREs meeting, Haverfordwest, 8 March 2016 (11am – 3pm)

Minutes

1. Cyflwyniad a chroeso / *Introduction and welcome*

Edward Evans began the meeting by explaining that he would be Chairing the meeting in the absence of both Phil Lord, Chair of WASACRE and Tania ap Sion, Immediate past Chair of WASACRE.

Cllr Huw George, Chair of Pembrokeshire SACRE welcomed WASACRE members to Pembrokeshire. He shared a video clip showing views of Pembrokeshire from a drone, which had been created especially for the WASACRE meeting by a pupil from a local school. The pupil had called the film *Paths for Pilgrims*.

2. Adfyfrio tawel / *Quiet reflection*

Edward gave thanks to Huw George for the welcome and shared some words with members about Mothering Sunday and the importance of sharing in peoples' lives. Edward Evans quoted the poet John Donne, saying, 'No man is an island' and members reflected on the relationships we have with others, including the relationship we have with God and our mothers.

3. Ymddiheuriadau / *Apologies*

Phil Lord, Tania ap Sion, John Mitson, Tudor Thomas, Lynda Maddock, Andrew Pearce, Chris Abbas, Sharon Perry-Phillips, Neeta Singh Baicher, Sue Cave.

4. Cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd yn Yr Ebbw Vales, 25 Tachwedd 2015 / *Minutes of meeting held in Ebbw Vale, 25 November 2015 (p10 item 9 spelling of December)*

Rheinallt Thomas pointed out that the Welsh name for RE Ideas needs translating on the Welsh part of the minutes, P4. Item 10.

The minutes were accepted by members as a true record of the meeting.

5. Materion yn codi / *Matters arising*

P3, item 5. *Welsh Baccalaureate survey*. Libby Jones confirmed that she had sent out the Welsh Baccalaureate and RE survey to schools, that the return had been quite good and that there was still time for schools to send in any late returns. Some members were concerned that the survey wasn't getting past Headteachers, who are taking the decision not to fill it in as they may feel threatened by its purpose. The importance of RE coordinators completing the survey was highlighted so that we can present a truer picture to Welsh Government and be able to support teachers.



**Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru, Hwlfordd, 8 Mawrth
2016 (11am – 3pm)**

***Wales Association of SACREs meeting, Haverfordwest, 8 March
2016 (11am – 3pm)***

Action: Libby will give feedback on the analysis of the survey results at the next WASACRE meeting in June.

P4, Item 10. *A.O.B. RE Ideas*. Rheinallt Thomas assured members that the English version of RE Ideas is now fully available on the Website. www.religious-education-wales.org/news/archive which forms part of the Peneith website. The Welsh medium material is all on the website too, but the web address is different, it is: www.addysg-grefyddol-cymru.org/newyddion/archif. There are 48 themes in all and the ideas have come from a variety of teachers from across Wales. Rheinallt suggested a link from the WASACRE website to the Peneith website and confirmed that they are not subject to copyright.

Action: RT to email welsh version of website address to LJ.

P4, Item 10. *Withdrawal from RE Guidance document*. Gill Vaisey has presented the draft document at NAPfRE which will become final by May 2016. If members have anything to share with Gill to add to this document in terms of case studies please can they send them to Gill within the next couple of weeks. The document will be made available to SACRE once it is complete.

P9, Item 8. *Revised GCSE Specifications for Religious Studies*. Ceredigion SACRE will be writing to Welsh Government to request a review of the structure of Religious Studies GCSE courses and to highlight the need for the content of RS courses to be geared towards young people getting jobs, for example in the caring professions like nursing and community care. A discussion ensued and the following points were made: It is important to ensure that standards in RS have parity with other GCSE subjects; having only one RS specification rather than two could cause problems for KS4 statutory RE and/or optional RS, NAPfRE will be writing to WJEC to ask for a meeting to discuss this issue further; concern over schools taking time away from RS for other initiatives like Welsh Baccalaureate with a plea made to teachers to keep SACREs informed of any squeeze on RS time; there are currently no bursaries in Wales for RS PGCE students and that fewer post graduate students from Wales are taking up this training than in the past.

Action: LJ to keep WASACRE informed regarding discussions between NAPfRE and WJEC. LJ to put RS PGCE bursaries on the agenda for the next meeting with Welsh Government.

P8. Item 7. *Collective Worship conference*. In consultation with Welsh Government, WASACRE has decided not to pursue a meeting with Alison Mahwinney and other academics involved in the Collective Worship Conference at this time.



Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru, Hwlfordd, 8 Mawrth 2016 (11am – 3pm)

Wales Association of SACREs meeting, Haverfordwest, 8 March 2016 (11am – 3pm)

Ceredigion SACRE has contacted all schools in the LA to reinforce the need for worship during assembly time and that this should not be used for other matters. Collective worship has been discussed by NAPfRE and the group were resolved to find examples of good practice in a secondary school to put on the WASACRE website in order to support school in this area.

Humanist representation on SACRE and the teaching of Humanism in school was also raised. Humanists are not a religious group and therefore cannot be on Committee A, but a Humanist representative can be on SACRE as a co-opted member, as already happens in some SACREs currently. The Respect Agenda was referenced with regard to certain individuals not showing respect for Christianity, which would cause problems. Ultimately it is up to each individual SACRE to decide and largely depends on the contribution the individual representative can make to SACRE. It was also confirmed that Humanism is on the new GCSE RS specification.

P10. Item 8. *Revised GCSE specifications*. Libby Jones confirmed the deferment of the New RE specification for GCSE RS until September 2017.

6. *Cyflwyniad NAPfRE/ NAPfRE presentation:*

Siân Brooks, PTAR Tiwtor USWTSD. 'Cymhwysedd Digidol'/ Siân Brooks, PGCE Tutor USWTSD 'Digital Competence'

A copy of this presentation is available on the WASACRE website.

Bethan James, Chair of NAPfRE thanked Siân for an interesting and informative presentation and highlighted the need for critical reading when developing digital competence, which can be and already is being developed through RE. Ceredigion SACRE raised the concern of the risk that writing and communication skills would be hampered by the development of digital competence. Siân emphasised the opportunity for capturing the debate in RE through digital competence, which is often lost at the end of the lesson, and that is very much about oracy, rather than writing. The issue of lack of funding was raised, especially in secondary schools, in order to enable digital resources to be available in all classrooms to make this work.

Action: Siân will send all the links from the presentation to Libby.

Janet Ingram, Swyddog Addysg a Phererindod, Tŷ'r Pererin, esgobaeth Dewi Sant/ *Janet Ingram, Education and Pilgrimage officer, Tŷ'r Pererin, Diocese of St. David*

A copy of this presentation is available on the WASACRE website.



Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru, Hwlfordd, 8 Mawrth 2016 (11am – 3pm)

Wales Association of SACREs meeting, Haverfordwest, 8 March 2016 (11am – 3pm)

Janet Ingram was thanked for her inspiring presentation. Rachel Bendall commented that Primary PGCE students need this type of training, Janet Ingram was able to confirm that the presentation has not yet been shared with other Diocese in Wales. It was suggested that Tŷ'r Pererin could reach out to Hŵb to put resources online to enable a wider audience and more schools benefitting from the project. Janet emphasised that experiential learning is the key to this resource.

7. Diweddariadau/Up-dates:

Cysylltiadau a chyfarfodydd Llywodraeth Cymru/ *Welsh Government contacts and meetings* – Libby Jones

Libby read out the notes from the meeting which included the following: Foundation Phase profile handbook; Curriculum Review update; Review of current RE legislation; Collective Worship conference; RE GCSE / A' level; Welsh Government requirement to publish all SACRE reports; Updating the Religious Festival absence guidance document for 2016/17.

The following points were raised by members.

Welsh Government request for WASACRE to up-date the religious festival dates on the WG School Attendance and Religious Festivals Guidance 2016. Vicky Thomas raised the issue of accountability and members agreed that Libby should have a conversation with WG colleagues and if it is impossible for WG to do it then WASACRE will.

It was agreed that WASACRE writes to various political parties to request their standpoint on Religious Education and DACW in schools, ask if they would adhere to the present legislative arrangements should a new curriculum be put forward.

Action: LJ will contact the Parties and send the replies to SACRES.

Cyngor Addysg Grefyddol Cymru a Lloegr/ *Religious Education Council for England and Wales*– Gill Vaisey

There was nothing new or urgent to report only that the next meeting is on 12 May in London. Gill Vaisey hopes to attend.

Cyfarfod y Fforwm Ffydd/ *Faith Forum meeting* – Phil Lord (delivered by Libby Jones)

Libby Jones read out the notes made by Phil Lord at the meeting. It was apparent from Manon Jones that no decision has been made as yet to change the nature of SACRE. Concern was raised regarding RE being taught within the Humanities area of Learning and Experience and how RE



Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru, Hwlfordd, 8 Mawrth 2016 (11am – 3pm)

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would sit together in the curriculum with History and Geography, with RE being agreed locally by SACREs.

Other concerns raised were that some schools are dumbing down the opportunities of our young people with Welsh Baccalaureate and numeracy and literacy. Also that Stakeholders (such as WASACRE) cannot get involved in the nitty gritty of curriculum planning. Therefore could individual SACREs use their expertise to work with pioneer schools on the development of the new curriculum for Humanities and RE? Edward Evans commented that this is the purpose of SACREs. Members were assured that this is happening in the background through NAPfRE which has representatives from different SACREs on it. Thanks were given to Phil for the report and Huw for his contributions.

Gill Vaisey offered a reflection and reminded members of mistakes made with the Foundation Phase document. Gill urged WASACRE to learn from that experience. If Welsh Government are not clear how RE sits within the national curriculum maybe we need to be clear what we want and we need to give it more thought.

Action: LJ to make 'RE and its place within the new curriculum' an agenda item for the next meeting.

Adolygiad Cwricwlwm / *Curriculum Review*- Libby Jones

The Pioneer Schools Network will be at the forefront of designing the new curriculum and assessment arrangements with expert advice and support. The Curriculum for Wales Strategic Stakeholder Group will provide challenge, support and advice as we work together to develop the new curriculum. WASACRE form part of this Strategic Stakeholder Group. The Pioneer Schools focussing on Humanities have not been identified yet, but once they have been Manon Jones, Head of Areas of Learning and Experience Design and Development for Humanities will discuss with PL and LJ the role WASACRE could play in the development process. Some experts will work with the Pioneers to develop the scope and content of the Area of Learning and Experience while others will provide quality assurance. Welsh Government is mindful that those providing quality assurance should not be fully involved in the development work to ensure an effective process.

8. Adroddiad ar gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith a gynhaliwyd ar 4 Chwefror 2016/ *Report from the Executive Committee held on 4 February 2016*

VT asked for clarification of the Executive positions. LJ confirmed that there are 3 positions available plus the position of Vice Chair. It was also confirmed that a member can be nominated for both and Edward Evans raised the need for coverage of all committees.



Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru, Hwlfordd, 8 Mawrth 2016 (11am – 3pm)

Wales Association of SACREs meeting, Haverfordwest, 8 March 2016 (11am – 3pm)

9. Gohebiaeth / *Correspondence*

None that had not already been dealt with in the meeting.

10. U.F.A. / *A.O.B.*

Mary Parry spoke to members about the issues relating to Incerts which is a commercial assessment tracker used by many schools in Wales. For all other subjects apart from RE the level descriptions within the program are appropriate for Wales. However, for RE the teacher has to choose the appropriate set of level descriptions to use for their setting. This has proved confusing for some teachers and there is concern that some schools are not using the level descriptions from the Exemplar Framework for RE which has been adopted by all 22 SACREs in Wales as part of their Agreed Syllabus, which therefore makes the levels statutory. NAPfRE requested that WASACRE writes to Welsh Government to ask them to endorse the following statement. '*All 22 local authorities in Wales have adopted the outcomes and level descriptions of the Welsh Government National Exemplar Framework for RE and therefore these are the statutory assessment requirements for all maintained schools in Wales*'. All members present agreed.

Action- LJ will write to Welsh Government to request an endorsement of this statement.

Following this a letter could be sent to INCERTS and the Managing Directors of the 4 consortia in Wales to alert them to the issue and to confirm the statement.

11. Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf / *Date for next meeting*: Haf, 23 Mehefin 2016, Sir Ddinbych / *Summer, 23 June 2016, Denbighshire In Rhyl.*

12. Dyddiadau cyfarfodydd yn y dyfodol / *Future meeting dates*: Hydref, 18 Tachwedd, 2016 Sir Gaerfyrddin / *Autumn, 18 November 2016, Carmarthenshire*; Gwanwyn 2017, Sir Fynwy / *Spring 2017, Monmouthshire. 17 March in Usk.*

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CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DATE: 14TH JUNE 2016

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SUBJECT: SURVEY ON THE IMPACT OF THE WELSHBACCALAUREATE ON RE IN SCHOOLS

A BACKGROUND

With the launch of the new Welsh Bacallaureate in September 2015, WASACRE was interested to know how schools have managed the implementation of the new qualification in their individual setting, and whether the Welsh Bacallaureate has had a positive or negative impact on religious education in schools across Wales. In order to monitor this situation and to gain a deeper understanding of what is happening across Wales WASACRE produced a short survey which was circulated to secondary schools within their local authority by the SACREs for schools to complete and return.

According to the 2015 school census (Jan 2015) there are 207 secondary schools in Wales. 16 out of 22 SACREs sent returns and 70 schools completed the survey.

SURVEY RESPONSES:-

Question 1 Since the implementation of the New Welsh Bacallaureate, does your school provide statutory Religious Education according to the Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE at KS4?

Response Yes = 86% No = 14%

Question 2 Since the implementation of the New Welsh Bacallaureate, does your school offer a Religious Studies GCSE qualification as one of the supporting qualifications for Welsh Bacallaureate, at KS4?

Response Yes = 84% No 16%

Question 2a If YES, is the RS GCSE course taught within:
a) Core RE time (for all KS4 pupils)
b) Option only
c) Other

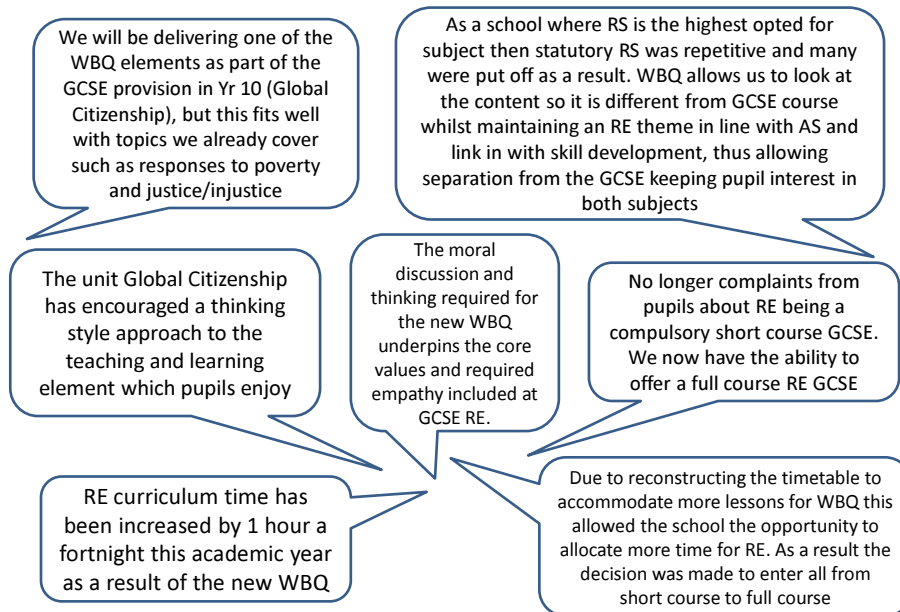
Response Core Time = 46% Option only = 30% Other = 16%
No Response = 8%

Question 3 Has the New Welsh Bacallaureate had more of a positive/negative or no impact on RE?

Response Positive = 16% Negative=17% No Impact = 67%

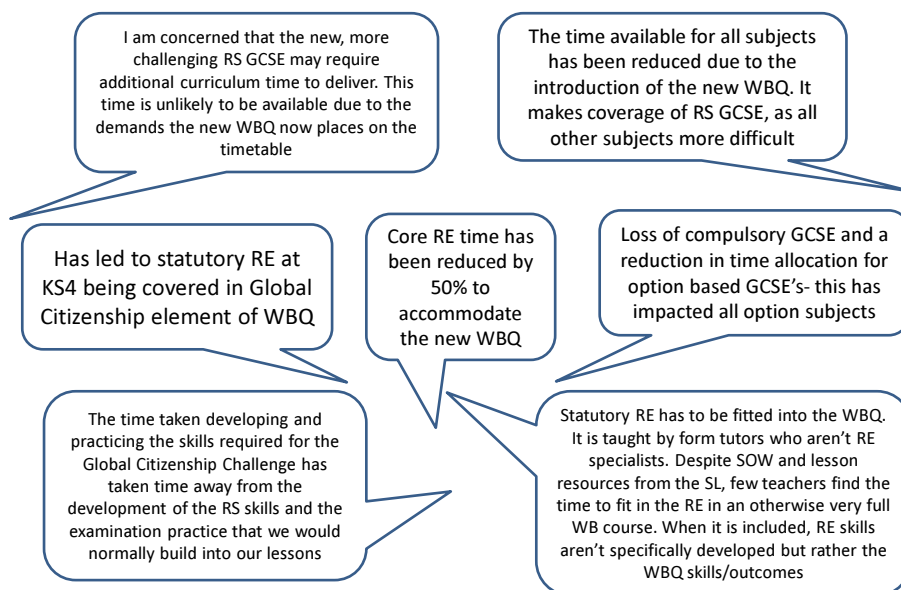
Question 4 How has the new Welsh Baccaulaureate had a **positive** effect on RE in your school

Positive impact on RE



Question 5 How has the new Welsh Baccaulaureate had a **negative** effect on RE in your school

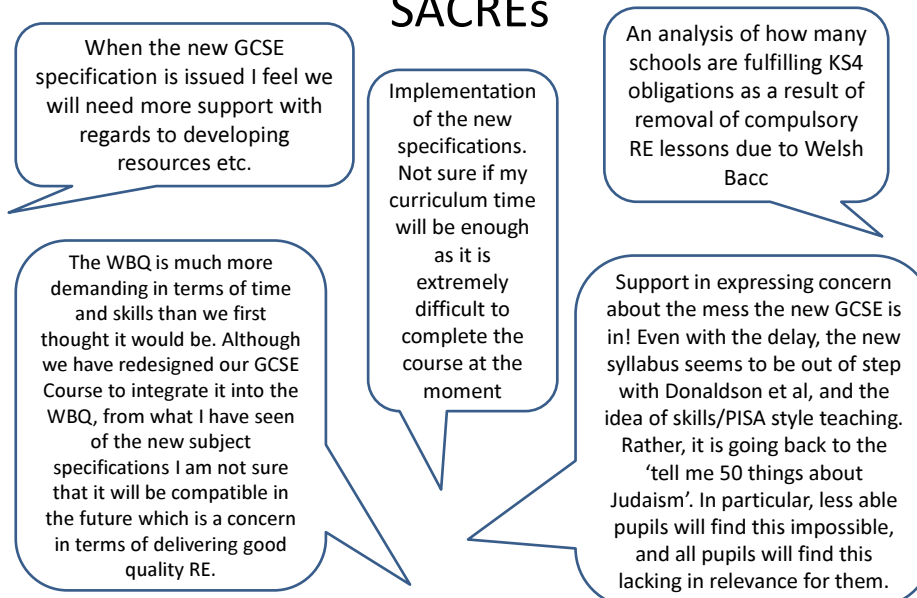
Negative impact on RE



Question 6 Do you require any support from your local SACRE?

Response Yes = 11% No = 76% No response = 13%

Responses to the offer of support from SACREs



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CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DATE: 14TH JUNE 2016

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE VOTING 2016 - NOMINATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A BACKGROUND

There are FOUR nominations for THREE positions on the Executive Committee.

1. Mary Parry - Carmarthenshire SACRE

- I have been working in the field of Religious Education for many years and I am very passionate about the importance of the subject in developing well-rounded young people in Wales today. I am always prepared to fight for the rightful place of RE in the curriculum.
- I have been a Religious Education Advisor in Carmarthenshire (and its predecessor, Dyfed) for 22 years. With recent reorganisation my title is now an ERW Associate Challenge Adviser - the South, West and Mid Wales Regional Consortium.
- I am the professional officer to the Carmarthenshire SACRE. As such, I have been involved in drawing up the LA's RE Agreed syllabuses and support materials. In addition, I have recently accepted the invitation to work with the Pembrokeshire SACRE as its professional officer.
- I have been an active member of the WASACRE executive committee for 20 years and participate regularly at WASACRE meetings. For example, last year I gave a presentation at the spring term meeting on an RE unit of work which I had created for secondary schools, 'Muslim footballers in the Premier League'.
- I advise and support teachers in implementing the LA Agreed Syllabus and in teaching RE effectively. I have provided many bilingual courses and resources for schools – both in Carmarthenshire and in other LAs in Wales.
- I have worked with external bodies such as WJEC, Estyn and Welsh Government on matters relating to RE. For example, I inspect schools under Estyn contract and was one of the three inspectors who undertook the Estyn thematic review of RE in secondary schools in Wales.
- Before my present position, I was the head of RE and the head of lower school in Newcastle Emlyn Comprehensive school, Carmarthenshire.
- With this experience, I feel that I can continue to make a valuable contribution to the WASACRE executive and would find it a privilege to continue to serve on it.

2. Huw Stephens, M.A., B.Ed. - Newport SACRE

I was a Religious Studies teacher for 39 years until my retirement in 2012. My career was in the Secondary sector – Fairview, Blackwood, Queen's School, Newport, and Bassaleg School, Newport. I taught GCSE Short and Full Course, and Advanced Level religious Studies.

I was a Head of Year 7, involved in the Pastoral side of school life and heavily associated with the transition of pupils from Junior to Secondary school. I also served as a Teacher Governor at Queen's and Bassaleg Schools.

Before my retirement, I was nominated as a Baptist representative on Newport SACRE and have been a regular member and contributor on that committee, also attending WASACRE meetings, as a Newport representative.

I have been involved in local Church life and, in retirement, have been Ordained and Inducted as a Co-Pastor in my local Baptist Church in Rogerstone, Newport.

I have been married to Rachel, my wife, for 30 years, with three grown up daughters - all married within 10 months of each other, just after my retirement!

I am very interested in the way Religious Studies is developing and am aware that WASACRE is uniquely placed to have a strong and informed voice as a stakeholder in ongoing discussions about the shape of the new curriculum. I am willing to bring my experience and passion for Religious Studies to the role for which I have been nominated.

3. Moses Tutesigensi - Powys SACRE

It has been said that most people occupy two cultures - that of their parents and the one of their generation. Some may have a third if their ancestry is of a different nation to their residence! As for me, I have at least 4 cultures that burden my identity - I was a child in Uganda, a teenager in England, and now a young adult in Wales. More fundamental to me than those three, is the fourth - having been raised in a Christian household, I became a born-again Christian at age 15.

It was around the age of 15 that I first came into contact with a SACRE. At my school, I had gotten involved with a teacher-pupil panel called 'Section 23' which was charged with developing the Christian ethos of the school (I went to a Roman Catholic school). And so, my head of year informed me that Portsmouth SACRE was looking to set up a youth forum for young people of faith. To cut a long story short, I subsequently became a founding member of the Portsmouth Youth Interfaith Forum, which was one of the first youth interfaith forum in southern England. My involvement with Portsmouth SACRE continued until 2014 by virtue of my supporting the organising, as well as being a speaker at, a city wide RE enrichment day.

I am now in my eighth year of living in Wales, after becoming besotted with the place and the people whilst studying biochemistry at Cardiff University. After graduating, I spent some time volunteering with Christian Aid whilst also supporting the work of two churches that I had become involved in as a student - St Philip's in Tremorfa, Cardiff and the parish of Bargoed, Deri and Brithdir in the Rhymney valley. I have now been working with the Presbyterian Church of Wales in Mid Wales as a mission enabler since mid 2013. My everyday work sees me coming into contact with different schools, different communities, and churches with different challenges. My core belief is that in all those circumstances people of faith have a critical role to play.

A Bible verse that I aspire to live by is taken from what God says through Isaiah to his people - 'learn to do good, seek justice, rebuke the oppressor, defend the fatherless, plead for the widow'. These are themes that can be explored sensibly in a religiously plural society like ours, and it is to this end I hope I can usefully serve on the WASACRE Executive.

4. Mathew Maidment – Rhondda Cynon Taf SACRE

I have worked at Bryn Celynnog Comprehensive School for over twenty years. Having graduated from UWIC, I started my career as a teacher of Physical Education and Religious Education in 1995. Following a serious football injury I became a full-time member of the Religious Education department and am now Head of RE. I have held a number of roles during my time at the school including the coordination of PSE, Progress File, Learning Coaching and Key Skills and, having been both a Head of Year and Head of Lower School, I have been a member of the Extended Senior Management Team for the past four years.

I am passionate about Religious Education and recently became a member of the RCT SACRE. I also attended the WASACRE meeting in Ebbw Vale on the 25th November. Attending the RCT SACRE and the WASACRE meetings made me realise the importance of these organisations. With the changes taking place, within education in Wales, I believe the role of WASACRE is vital at this time. As curriculum time is squeezed we must ensure that the statutory obligation for schools to deliver appropriate and meaningful RE, across all key stages, is being adhered to.

At KS4 I am particularly concerned at the prospect of 'token gesture' RE being delivered as part of other qualifications such as the Welsh Baccalaureate. I believe we need to ensure that schools provide RE programmes that effectively cover an agreed syllabus, with regular and appropriate curriculum time across years 10 and 11.

I feel that the current WJEC GCSE options have worked extremely well, with option B, especially, proving engaging for KS4 pupils, regardless of their religious or non-religious backgrounds. It is, therefore, with great interest that I await the new GCSE specifications. I have been proactive in contacting Lynda Maddock (WJEC) to express my hopes for the new qualification and my support for the work she is doing. Furthermore, I was recently invited, by Gill Vaisey, to attend a potential meeting with Gareth Pierce (WJEC). This meeting has been requested by representatives from NAPfRE and WASACRE to discuss some of the issues surrounding the new GCSE.

I hope my experience as a teacher of RE and Head of Department in the secondary school setting, during this time of change within Welsh education, would be of value to the WASACRE Executive Committee and I would be grateful for the opportunity to serve the committee if appointed as a member.

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