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For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Julie Lloyd
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Date: 30th November 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

A multi-locational meeting of the **Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council on Religion, Values and Ethics** will be held in Penallta House, and via Microsoft Teams on **Wednesday, 6th December, 2023 at 3.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. Councillors and the public wishing to speak on any item can do so by making a request to the Chair. You are also welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, both these requests require a minimum notice period of 3 working days. A simultaneous translation will be provided on request.

Members of the public or Press may attend in person at Penallta House or may view the meeting live via the following link: <https://civico.net/caerphilly>

This meeting will be live-streamed and a recording made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. Therefore the images/audio of those individuals speaking will be publicly available to all via the recording on the [Council's website](#).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissy'.

Christina Harrhy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

	Pages
1 To receive apologies for absence.	

A greener place Man gwyrddach



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 on Religion, Values and Ethics - 29th June 2023. 1 - 4
- 4 To consider actions and matters arising from the minutes (verbal update).

To receive and consider the following reports:-

- 5 Update from the RVE Advisor (verbal update).
- 6 Draft SACRE Annual Report 2022/2023. 5 - 24
- 7 Holocaust Memorial Day 2024 (verbal update).
- 8 Members Training (verbal update).
- 9 SACRE Membership Update. 25 - 28
- 10 Correspondence Update. 29 - 30
- 11 Schedule of Meetings 2023/2024. 31 - 32

WASACRE:-

- 12 Feedback from the virtual WASACRE Summer Term Meeting hosted by Denbighshire on 19th June 2023. 33 - 42
- 13 Feedback from the virtual WASACRE Autumn Term Meeting hosted by Rhondda Cynon Taff on 25th October 2023 (verbal update).

Circulation:

Councillors Mrs E.M. Aldworth, M. Chacon-Dawson, B. Miles, T. Parry, J. Taylor (Chair) and A. Whitcombe

And Appropriate Officers

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CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGION VALUES AND ETHICS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT
TEAMS ON THURSDAY 29TH JUNE 2023 AT 3.00 P.M

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Taylor - Chair

Councillors: Mrs E.M. Aldworth, M. Chacon-Dawson, B. Miles, T. Parry, and A. Whitcombe.

Representatives of Faith and Belief: Mrs. J. Jones (Church in Wales and Caerphilly SAC on RVE Vice Chair), and Mr K. Chamberlain (Wales Humanists).

Teacher Union Representative: Miss H. Bartley (NEU), Mrs. C. McLaughlan (NASUWT), Miss J. Davenport (NEU), and Mrs T. Lloyd (NAHT).

Together with:

Ms H. Jones (EAS Curriculum Partner - SACs and RVE), V. Bodenham (School Improvement Officer), and J. Lloyd (Committee Services Officer).

Also in attendance: A. Carter (Hengoed Primary School).

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs M. Jones (UCAC), Mrs K. McCullough (NASUWT), and Mr. M. Gray (The Methodist Church).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES OF CAERPHILLY SACRE – 13TH MARCH 2023.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2023 be approved as a correct record, and by way of a show of hands this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Caerphilly SACRE meeting held on 13th March 2023 (minute nos. 1-8) be approved as a correct record.

4. TO CONSIDER ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

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

5. UPDATE FROM THE RVE ADVISOR.

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

Members were advised that the Hwb resource had now gone live and were given a demonstration of the system during the meeting. Members were informed of its content, which included modules for Head Teachers secondary schools and primary schools.

Members were updated on the EAS professional learning and the provision of collective worship in schools. A collective worship survey is due to go out to schools in September.

Members were informed that the curriculum design course had been launched this week, which was attended by the Vice Chair, and was the first of four sessions. The Vice Chair noted that it was really beneficial and recommended others to attend.

Members were advised of the consultation period ending for the Qualification Wales. This qualification included wider options and was equivalent to a GCSE. There would be RVE modules within the qualification or a specific qualification in RVE. Schools can decide which modules they wish to cover. The results of the consultation will be circulated to members when they are available.

Caerphilly SAC on RVE noted the details of the RVE Advisor update.

6. HENGOED PRIMARY SCHOOL – RVE CURRICULUM PRESENTATION.

Members were given a presentation by Alys Carter, a year 5 teacher, from Hengoed Primary School on the RVE provision within the school. Members were informed of the way in which the subject is covered with the pupils and their own personal beliefs, and the aims of RVE. Members were advised that they provide a two-year rolling programme of teaching RVE and also cover the RVE lenses within the cycle. The school also incorporated parents' workshops, school trips to religious premises and the Bible Exhibition, and bread making into the lessons.

The Chair thanked Alys Carter for her presentation.

Members noted the excellent work that was being done at primary school level and thanked Alys for her contribution. A Member queried the resources that were used at the school.

Members were advised that Lat Blaylock was used at Hengoed Primary School and the HWB for resource information and the EAS website. Members were also referred to an email link which would be shared with members following the meeting.

Caerphilly SAC on RVE noted the details of the presentation.

7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF THE CHANGES TO LEGISLATION AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS (RVE) CURRICULUM.

Ms Hayley Jones (EAS Curriculum Partner - SACs and RVE) and Mrs Victoria Bodenham (School Improvement Officer), introduced the report which updated members on the implementation of RVE and the new Agreed Syllabus. Members were also provided with an overview on the support provided by the EAS for schools, and an update on the engagement of schools with RVE and the Agreed Syllabus. The report also identified ways forward for RVE in Caerphilly schools.

Members were advised that the report had been presented to SMT and the Chief Education Officer, and the Officers had been invited back next year to provide feedback on the report going forward.

Members thanked Hayley Jones for all her work and the support that she provided to Caerphilly schools.

Caerphilly SAC on RVE noted the details of the report.

8. MEMBERS TRAINING (VERBAL UPDATE).

Ms Hayley Jones (EAS Curriculum Partner - SACs and RVE) advised members that training was planned for September 2023 to welcome new members and to provide a refresher for existing members. Members were informed that they would shortly receive a Microsoft voting form via email which would allow them to indicate a preference on proposed dates and times. Members were also requested to attend 'in person,' if possible, in order to gain as much as possible out of the training session and meet with other members of the Caerphilly SAC on RVE.

Caerphilly SAC on RVE noted the details of the update.

9. CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE.

Members were referred to the report which provided an update on the correspondence received by Caerphilly SAC on RVE and/or circulated on behalf of Caerphilly SAC on RVE since the last meeting.

Caerphilly SAC on RVE noted the details of the correspondence update.

10. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2023/24.

Members were advised that the Autumn Term meeting was scheduled for 6th December 2023 and the meeting invite would be circulated to Members as soon as possible. Members were also advised that dates were being confirmed for the Spring and Summer Term meetings in 2024, and invites would be sent in due course.

Caerphilly SAC on RVE noted the details of the schedule of meetings update.

11-12. FEEDBACK FROM THE VIRTUAL WASACRE SPRING TERM MEETING HOSTED BY PEMBROKESHIRE ON 21ST MARCH 2023 AND FEEDBACK FROM THE VIRTUAL WASACRE SUMMER TERM MEETING AND AGM HOSTED BY DENBIGHSHIRE ON 19TH JUNE 2023 (VERBAL UPDATE).

Ms Hayley Jones (EAS Curriculum Partner - SACs and RVE) advised members that the agreed syllabi of the 22 local authorities would be subject to an informal monitoring process completed by WASACRE in line with Wesh Government. Members were advised that feedback would be circulated when it became available.

Members were informed that the WJEC is working towards the deadline for completing a new specification for GCSE by September 2024, to commence teaching in September 2025. WJEC is currently looking for teachers who wish to take part, and members were referred to the WJEC website if they were interested.

Members were also informed of the current decline in the take up for RE at GCSE and AS levels. It was suggested that the provision of GCSE in schools should be monitored and that the changes to the new qualification could lead to an increase in the numbers at GCSE level.

Caerphilly SAC on RVE noted the details of the updates.

13. EXECUTIVE VOTING 2023 – WASACRE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS (VERBAL UPDATE).

Ms Hayley Jones (EAS Curriculum Partner - SACs and RVE) advised members that information on the elections and voting was previously circulated to members. Members were informed of the election results for the WASACRE Executive Committee, Jenny Downes, together with Marged Williams and Tyler Saunders were now the new members of the Executive Committee.

The Chair noted that there had been a low level of response from Caerphilly SAC on RVE for the above elections and suggested this may have been due to the elections taking place prior to the Caerphilly SAC on RVE Summer term meeting. He requested that, in future, members should ensure that they respond to the voting correspondence so that a proper vote could be submitted from Caerphilly SAC on RVE.

Caerphilly SAC on RVE noted the details of the update.

The Chair thanked all attendees for their participation.

The meeting closed at 3.55 pm.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2023.

CHAIR



CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

A MESSAGE FROM CAERPHILLY SACRE MEMBERS

Members of the Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council for Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC) would like to express gratitude to everyone in the education sector for the sterling work you are doing to provide children and young people in Wales with care, support, and education despite the many challenges and uncertainties faced as we have emerged from the wake of the pandemic. It has also been a time for great change and growth as schools move into the new Curriculum for Wales 2022.

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

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

Caerphilly SAC on RVE welcomes correspondence via the contacts below

Julie Lloyd, Clerk to Caerphilly SACRE
lloydj4@caerphilly.gov.uk

Hayley Jones, Curriculum Partner (SACs and RVE) - South East Wales EAS
hayley.jones@sewaleseas.org.uk

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

2022-2023

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

2022- 2023

SECTION 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE/ SAC

1.1 Duty to Establish SACRE/SAC

All Local Authorities are required to constitute a Standing Advisory Council for Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC) within their local area under s 390 of the Education Act 1996, as amended by the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021. Legacy functions of SACRE will be exercised by SAC pending the phase out of the pre-curriculum for Wales 2022 syllabus.

1.2 Composition of SACRE/SAC

Representation on SACRE is required as follows: -

- (i) Such Christian and other religious denominations and non-religious philosophical convictions as, in the opinion of the Local Authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area. Since 2018, on the Direction of the Welsh Government Cabinet Minister for Education, humanists can be full members of this Committee as well as other belief groups analogous to religious belief;
- (ii) Representatives of teachers' associations;
- (iii) Representatives of the local authority.

The Local Authority determined that the SACRE/SAC should comprise of six elected members, seven bodies representative of religion and belief and seven representatives of teachers' associations. In addition, the Authority allowed for two other individuals to be co-opted. Both co-opted places are currently vacant (see 1.3 regarding actions to fill vacant positions).

1.3 Membership of SACRE/SAC

The membership list showing the position for September 2022- August 2023 is attached at Appendix 1.

SACRE are continuing to make efforts to seek representation from religious organisations other than Christianity but have experienced delays in finding such representation This process was put on hold due to the Covid pandemic but has since been re-examined in 2022-2023. The LA is currently seeking expressions of interest with respect to vacancies within this group.

With regards to Committee A, advice has been sought from Cytun (Churches Together in Wales). With regards to Committee B, SACRE/SAC is in the process of contacting schools to seek expressions of interest for the two vacant places on the committee (ASCL and NEU).

Caerphilly SACRE have also allocated their two co-opted places to youth representatives and work is ongoing to fill these places. SACRE/SAC look forward to

young people joining the Standing Advisory Council (SAC) in the future in order to incorporate learner voice.

1.4 Functions of SAC

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

1.5 Meetings

SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2021-2022.

5th December 2022
13th March 2023
29th June 2023

All three meetings were held online via Microsoft Teams during 2022-2023. However, it has been resolved that, where possible, meetings will continue to be held at alternative venues such as schools or places of worship during 2023-2024.

1.6 Circulation of Report

Copies of this report are circulated electronically to those organisations and establishments listed in Appendix 3. It is also available on the Local Authority and the WASACRE website.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ADVICE GIVEN BY SACRE/ SAC

Summary of the advice given to the local authority by SACRE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS

Issue

To monitor provision and standards in RE/ RVE

Action

1. SACRE/SAC considers and analyses school inspection reports. If there are any issues regarding RE/RVE, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up. This process was reinstated during 2022-2023 and will continue into the academic year 2023-2024.
2. SACRE /SAC visits schools on an annual basis to receive a presentation on RE/RVE. However, during 2022-2023 SACRE/SAC did not visit any schools.

Issue

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

Action

1. In 2008 the Agreed Syllabus Conference endorsed and adopted a new agreed syllabus for the authority's schools which was implemented from September 2008. In June 2013 the Agreed Syllabus Conference, endorsed the re-adoption of the Caerphilly agreed syllabus for Religious Education with an understanding that the syllabus would be reviewed once further information is received in relation to the assessment and national curriculum review.
2. SACRE (as it then was) subsequently received updates via email and during termly meetings of developments with the Curriculum and the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience.
3. During 2020-2021 SACRE responded to the Welsh Government consultation on the Guidance for Religion Values and Ethics in the Curriculum for Wales 2022.
4. Following the publication of the RVE guidance SACRE advised the local authority to convene an Agreed Syllabus conference where the adoption or adaption of the framework as the Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus was discussed.
5. The local authority subsequently adopted the new Agreed Syllabus in June 2022 and the document was circulated to all schools in July 2022 ahead of the implementation of the new Curriculum for Wales in September 2022.

TEACHING MATERIALS

Issue

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

Action

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

1. Schools were informed of the 2022 Interfaith Week, Saturday, 12th to the 19th of November. Resources can be found on their website <https://www.interfaithweek.org>, these include lesson plans, case studies, collective worship material suitable for primary to post-16.
2. Schools were informed of the 2023 Holocaust Memorial Day theme 'Ordinary People'. Holocaust resources can be found on their website www.hmd.org.uk, these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.
3. WASACRE continued to provide resources and advice for RE, RVE and collective worship which was distributed to schools via SACRE.
4. Schools were informed about Welsh Government consultations and publications for Humanities and RVE.
5. Primary and Secondary Network Meetings for curriculum leads and offers of support were sent to all primary and secondary schools through the EAS Humanities Network.
6. Farmington Scholarships 2023-2024 information was sent to all schools and shared via SACRE meetings.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR TEACHERS

Issue

To ensure that teachers can access appropriate professional learning (PL).

Action

The principle of subsidiarity in Curriculum for Wales, and EAS have offered a range of professional learning opportunities, for all practitioners within the region, focusing on sharing practice and empowering teachers.

The EAS has provided RE specific training to secondary school practitioners via the Curriculum Partner for RVE and SACREs. During 2022-2023 the EAS provided RVE specific PL to both primary and secondary school practitioners via Learning Network Schools, Humanities meetings, and the Curriculum Partner for RVE and SACREs. The focus of the training included the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales 2022, approaches to curriculum design and pedagogy, in addition, changes to legislation around RVE.

Schools in the region were also provided with ongoing RVE Headteacher briefings, with the aim to understand the mandatory requirements of RVE, develop understanding of RVE and how it has evolved in the context of the Curriculum for Wales and consider some of the planning or implementation issues that may arise because of the new RVE framework in schools.

Schools were informed of the 2022 Interfaith Week. Resources and website link for this event were shared with schools (<https://www.interfaithweek.org>) – these include lesson plans, case studies, collective worship materials suitable for primary to post-16. It is hoped that schools will find the materials useful and they have been asked to let SAC know of their involvement in order to hear about pupil experiences and learning outcomes.

Schools were informed of the 2023 Holocaust Memorial Day theme ‘Ordinary People’ and resources from their website were shared (www.hmd.org.uk) – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students. It is hoped that schools will find the materials useful, and they have been asked to let SAC know of their involvement in order to hear about pupil experiences and learning outcomes.

WASACRE continued to provide resources and advice for RE, RVE and collective worship which was distributed to schools via SAC.

Schools were informed of any further Welsh Government consultations and publications for Humanities and RVE.

The cross regional Curriculum Design Project continued (supported by Lucy Crehan in 2022) and resources were shared with schools, published on Hwb.

Teachers were invited to share good practice with SACRE. Hengoed Primary School shared initial RVE Curriculum plans during the Spring network meeting.

and
WASACRE commissioned specific professional learning relating to RVE, with Welsh Government funding. The first in a suite of modules were published in March 2023. These resources are intended to support practitioners with the changes to RVE (formerly Religious Education), within the Curriculum for Wales. The modules are specifically tailored and aim to support practitioners. They help with the transition to a new way of thinking, planning, and delivering an RVE curriculum that is purposeful for learners in Wales.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Issue

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

Action

1. SACRE/SAC monitors the sections of inspection reports that are concerned with collective worship and SMSC and the LA follows up on any non-fulfilment of statutory requirements by requesting their action plan. During 2022-2023. Estyn did not identify any instances of non-compliance from this inspection with statutory requirements. In nearly all schools, it is reported that spiritual, moral

and social skills are developing well, and pupils have beneficial opportunities to develop good understanding of spiritual and ethical beliefs through assemblies, reflection time, comparing different faiths and beliefs.

2. Schools have been informed by SACRE/SAC of appropriate resources and websites that support collective worship in schools e.g., HMD 2022-2023.
3. SACRE/SAC resolved to continue to hold meetings at schools in the County and observe an act of collective worship, where possible, to monitor fulfilment of statutory requirements, provision, and quality of collective worship during 2023-2024.

OTHER ISSUES:

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

1. SACRE/SAC has maintained its membership of WASACRE and receives termly feedback from the meetings of the Association.
2. The RVE Partner is a member of NAPfRE and regularly attends meetings on SACRE/SAC's behalf.
3. SACRE/SAC members receive regular training to keep up to date with legislative and educational changes and to understand the role and function of SACRE/SACs.
4. SACRE/SAC takes seriously Holocaust Education and advises the LA and its schools on this.
5. SACRE/SAC has received updates on the development and implementation of the Curriculum for Wales 2022 and the implications for religious education. It has responded to Welsh Government consultations on Curriculum for Wales.
6. SAC has received updates on the development of the Qualifications Wales Full 14-16 qualifications offer consultation and the implications for religious education. It has responded to this.
7. SACRE/SAC, where possible, would hold meetings at schools in Caerphilly for members to familiarise themselves with RE, RVE and collective worship in schools. This has not been possible during 2022-2023. Meetings in school settings will be planned for in 2023-2024 where possible.

SECTION 2: ADVICE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/ RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS

2.1 The Locally Agreed Syllabus

Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics (Curriculum for Wales 2022)

Caerphilly Local Authority convened an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). The ASC advised the LA to adopt the Religion, Values and Ethics Guidance as the basis of the Local Agreed Syllabus for RVE. Changes have been made to ensure that the document can be read as a Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus for RVE. In accordance with the changes to the Curriculum for Wales 2022, Religion, Values and Ethics has been taught to all primary school children and possibly year 7 learners from Sept 2022. Secondary schools were able to defer the teaching of the new curriculum until September 2023. If a secondary school choose to do this, they will teach the new curriculum, including RVE, to both year 7 and 8 in Sept 2023. Secondary schools will continue to teach the pre 2022 curriculum (called Curriculum for Wales 2008), including the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, to pupils in year 8 in Sept 2022 and the 2008 curriculum will follow them during their time in compulsory secondary education.

The new Agreed Syllabus, conforming to the requirements of the new Curriculum for Wales 2022, relates the subject titled 'Religion, Values and Ethics'. The previous Agreed Syllabus, still applicable for secondary schools for the reasons described above, relates to the subject titled 'Religious Education'. This is an important distinction. Caerphilly adopted the 'National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education for 3–19-year olds' as the Locally Agreed Syllabus for 'Religious Education' in 2008.

2.2 Standards In RE/ RVE

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

School Inspection Reports

It has been the practice of SACRE/SAC to scrutinise relevant sections of Estyn school inspection reports for schools across Caerphilly schools, and if any issues emerge regarding collective worship, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up requesting their action plan. During 2022-2023 this process was re-instated following the Covid -19 pandemic. There are no subject judgments in the current Estyn inspection framework. Instead, members receive information from the reports relating to Estyn's comments of a schools' provision of SMSC.

Examination Reports

It has been the practice of SACRE/SAC to analyse examination results over a three-year period and identify trends in performance benchmarked against all Wales data.

However, due to continued guidance from Welsh Government on the way data is presented and to avoid arbitrary comparison of schools, members were not presented with this, and were unable to discuss the comparative examination data for examinations awarded in 2021-2022. There has been, and will continue to be, a much closer relationship between the LA and SACRE. The EAS partner will be able to

identify schools requiring additional support as a result of a schools' own self-evaluation, Estyn inspections and collaboration with the EAS.

Through the EAS Humanities and RVE practitioner meetings, schools were updated on the changes to the GCSE and GCE examinations for Religious Studies. The practitioners and all issues concerning the examinations for Religious Studies and views were shared with SAC, WASACRE, NAPfRE and the WJEC.

During 2023-2024 SACRE/SAC will discuss ways in which the Local Authority will be able to provide meaningful information to SAC about the quality of Religious Education and Religious Studies (RS) at KS4 within its schools.

SACRE/SAC was informed and discussed the national challenges facing RE/RS and the decline in GCSE and A Level entry. The RE Council of England and Wales published a report. SAC were provided with a national update and discussed concerns. Concerns shared with WASACRE and NAPfRE.

2.3 Methods of Teaching, Teaching Materials and Teacher Training

Professional Learning

SACRE/SAC has continued to provide advice and guidance to schools on pedagogy and resources. The EAS, as regional provider of school improvement services and professional learning support to schools and practitioners, has provided a wide range of professional learning programmes, materials and approaches shared with schools in the region.

EAS advertises its courses through CPD online. Mrs Hayley Jones offered bespoke support for Religious Education within the region during 2022-2023.

SAC was advised that the EAS has invested in delivering bespoke support for RE/RS and RVE. This enables schools to receive direct support from the Curriculum Partner for RE/RVE and SACRE/SAC, for example in developing their understanding of the Curriculum for Wales, planning, and designing their RVE and Humanities curriculum. Cluster schools also work together, with the support of the adviser to co-construct and collaborate their RVE and Humanities curriculum design along the learning continuum, from 3 to 16 years. This offer is open to all schools and has allowed schools to build and increase the collective ownership for the development of curriculum, pedagogy, and leadership. This model is becoming the main driver to ensure the realisation of the new curriculum from September 2022 and the delivery of professional learning and will support the national changes in accountability and self-evaluation. RVE practitioners can access EAS professional learning and resources on pedagogy.

Learning Network Schools for Religious Education

The work of the Learning Network Schools (LNS) in each consortium has continued through 2022-2023 and the guidance and support arising from the LNS, together with the work undertaken between colleagues across SACRE/ SACs and NAPfRE, has been cascaded to teachers of RE/RVE.

Bassaleg LNS has produce and shared resources to upskill non-specialist RE/RVE practitioners through information summaries of the major world religions. These

resources are available to both primary and secondary schools in the EAS Humanities Teams space and all recordings of Humanities meetings are recorded and stored in the files there for practitioners to return to. Bespoke support is also available as required.

Teaching Materials

A wide range of teaching materials have been made known to schools by SACRE as follows:

Farmington Scholarships

SAC provided Caerphilly schools with information about Farmington Scholarships 2022 - 2023 which are free to Teachers of religious education in the UK. Practitioners can study any aspect of religious education they wish but preference will be given to applicants whose work can be seen to be of direct value to the teaching of RE in schools. The Scholarship will cover the cost of tuition, board and lodging where appropriate, essential local travel and, by negotiation with the school, the salary of a replacement teacher up to point 6 of the main pay scale. School/home-based Scholarships may be taken in the form of day release, for instance for one day a week over a term or over the year or for continuous periods up to a maximum of 30 days. University-based Scholarships may be taken as a block of up to eight weeks or in the form of day release up to 30 days. More information for schools can be found at www.farmington.ac.uk or E-mail: farmington@hmc.ox.ac.uk

Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 Resources

For Holocaust Memorial Day 2023, SAC wrote to all schools to encourage them to commemorate the day in some way. They were advised of the theme, and free educational Holocaust resources that can be found on [the Holocaust Memorial Day website](#) – these included lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.

The cross regional Curriculum Design Project with Lucy Crehan

Resources published on Hwb.

The Jewish History Association of South Wales resources and website link to support RVE <https://www.jhasw.com/>

JHASW/CHIDC aims to uncover, document, preserve, and share the heritage of the Jewish communities of south Wales. The charity has produced new Holocaust Resources for teachers and students in Wales. The new classroom activities, educational resources and teacher guidance notes on the history of the Holocaust are bilingual (English and Welsh) and completely free to download.

The resources incorporate video testimonies from child refugees who came to Wales during the 1930s to escape Nazi persecution. They tell local stories and show Jews as part of a collective, shared Welsh history. They also give voice to the individuality and common humanity of Jewish lives affected by or lost in the Holocaust. The training introduced teachers to the charity's Holocaust education resources and explain the rationale, research and pedagogical principles underpinning these new materials.

EAS Humanities Newsletter

An EAS Humanities Newsletter is emailed to all school on a termly basis. The newsletter contains useful information around the teaching and delivery of RVE together with updates relating to the work and function of SACRE.

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SECTION 3: ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

3.1 School Inspection Reports

It has been the practice of SAC to scrutinise relevant sections of Estyn school inspection reports for schools across Caerphilly, and if any issues emerge regarding collective worship, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up requesting their action plan. During 2022-2023 this process was re-instated and will continue in 2023-2024.

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

3.2 Applications for Determinations

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

3.3 School Visits

SACRE/SAC appreciates the opportunities accorded to members to observe acts of collective worship in schools. Members did not have the opportunity to host a SACRE/SAC meeting at a school or observe an act of collective worship during 2022-2023. This is something that SAC/SACRE would like to re instate during 2023 – 2024.

SECTION 4: OTHER ISSUES

4.1 WASACRE

SACRE/SAC has continued to affiliate to WASACRE and representatives have attended its meetings. During the 2022-23 academic year issues considered at WASACRE meetings have been fully reported back to SACRE and full discussions have taken place. SAC welcomes the pro-active work of WASACRE in taking up issues that have implications for RE/RVE and keeping members of SACRE's fully informed. Caerphilly SACRE/SAC has received regular feedback from Mrs Jones and those representing SAC at WASACRE meetings.

4.2 HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 Resources – 'Ordinary People'

Holocaust Memorial Day, 27th January 2023, theme 'Ordinary People' – is a time put aside to come together to remember, reflect and to learn about the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, in the hope that there may be one day in the future with no genocide. We learn more about the past, we empathise with others today, and we take action for a better future.

To show the council's commitment to commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day, Blackwood Miners' Institute and Penallta House will be lit up to show an act of solidarity.

Cllr Philippa Leonard, Caerphilly Council's Equalities Champion commented, "It is important that we continue to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, as the atrocities of the Holocaust and other genocides throughout the world must never be forgotten".

Wales also hosted its second digital Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony.

For Holocaust Memorial Day 2024, SACRE will write to all schools to encourage them to commemorate the day in some way and will advise them of theme and free educational Holocaust resources that can be found on [the Holocaust Memorial Day website](#) – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.



4.3 CURRICULUM FOR WALES 2022

SACRE/SAC has continued to receive updates on the developments being made with regards to Religion, Values and Ethics and the new Curriculum for Wales.

4.4 TRAINING OF SACRE MEMBERS

SACRE members receive training on the Roles and Responsibilities of SACRE at the beginning of each academic year and this will be arranged during Autumn 2023.

4.5 MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE

The current membership list showing the position as of August 2023 is attached at Appendix 1.

The following positions are currently vacant:

Co-opted places x 2 – SACRE have agreed to co-opt two youth representatives onto the Committee and work is ongoing in this area.

Committee A – Work is ongoing to fill the one remaining vacancy for the non-Christian faith representative. The long-serving representatives of the Roman Catholic Church and United Reformed Church tendered their resignation to SACRE during Spring-Summer 2022, and work is currently ongoing to secure replacement members to fill these vacancies.

Committee B – Two positions remain vacant for a NEU Representative and ASCL Representative, and SACRE are in the process of writing to schools to seek expressions of interest to fill these places.

4.6 PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT TO CAERPHILLY SACRE

Mrs Victoria Bodenham and Mr Paul Warren provide support to SACRE in their role as the Local Authority Education Officers.

Mrs Hayley Jones, the EAS Curriculum Partner for SACs and RVE, took up post in November 2021 to provide professional support to Caerphilly SACRE and Professional Learning within the EAS region.

Mrs Julie Loyd continued to act as Clerk to SACRE, and Members are very grateful to Mrs Lloyds work which is vital to the effective and efficient functioning of Caerphilly SACRE.

APPENDIX 1: CAERPHILLY SACRE MEMBERSHIP AUTUMN 2022-SUMMER 2023
CAERPHILLY SACRE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE AS OF NOVEMBER 2023

CHRISTIAN AND OTHER RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS - COMMITTEE A (7 Members)

Mrs Janet Jones (Church in Wales) (SACRE Vice-Chair)
Mr Michael Gray (The Methodist Church)
Mr Ken Chamberlain (Wales Humanists)

Vacancy – Religious representative
Vacancy – Religious representative
Vacancy – Religious representative
Vacancy - Non-Christian faith group/religion

TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS - COMMITTEE B (7 Members)

Primary Schools

Mrs Tara Lloyd (NAHT)
Ms Meirir Jones (UCAC)
Miss J. Davenport (NEU)

Secondary Schools

Miss Helen Bartley (NEU)
Ms Katherine McCullough (NASUWT)

Vacancy - ASCL Representative
Vacancy – NASUWT Representative

THE LOCAL AUTHORITY - COMMITTEE C (6 Members)

Councillor Mrs E.M. Aldworth
Councillor M. Chacon-Dawson
Councillor Mrs B. Miles
Councillor Mrs T. Parry
Councillor A. Whitcombe
Councillor J. Taylor (SACRE Chair)

CO OPTED MEMBERS (2 Members)

Two vacancies - held for youth representation on SACRE

OFFICERS

Ms Hayley Jones (EAS - RE Advisor to Caerphilly SACRE)
Mrs Victoria Bodenham (Lead School Improvement Officer)

CLERK TO SACRE

Mrs Julie Lloyd (Committee Services Officer)
Email lloydj4@caerphilly.gov.uk

APPENDIX 2: SCHEDULE AND AGENDA OF MEETINGS

Caerphilly SACRE Meeting
5th December 2022 at 3pm
Microsoft Teams

- To receive apologies for absence.
- Declarations of Interest.
- Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th July 2022 and matters arising.
- To consider actions and matters arising from the minutes (verbal update).
- To receive a presentation from Lewis School Pengam on RVE and Collective Worship (verbal update).
- Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report 2021-2022.
- Update from the RVE Advisor.
- Monitoring Provision and Standards - Caerphilly School Inspection Reports. Holocaust Memorial Day 2023.
- Correspondence Update.
- Schedule of Meetings 2023
- WASACRE:-
 - Feedback from the virtual WASACRE Summer Meeting and AGM on 29th June 2022.
 - Representation at forthcoming WASACRE Meetings (verbal update).

Caerphilly SACRE Meeting
13th March 2023 at 3pm
Microsoft Teams

- To receive apologies for absence.
- Declarations of Interest.
- Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th December 2022 and matters arising.
- To receive an update from the RE Advisor.
- To receive an update on the correspondence received by Caerphilly SACRE and/or circulated on behalf of Caerphilly SACRE since the last meeting.
- To note the date of future SACRE meetings during 2023.
- WASACRE:-
 - To receive and note feedback from the WASACRE Autumn Term Meeting.
 - To note dates of future WASACRE meetings and confirm representation

Caerphilly SACRE Meeting
29th June 2023 at 3pm
Microsoft Teams

- To receive apologies for absence.
- Declarations of Interest.
- Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th March 2023 and matters arising.
- To receive an update from the RE Advisor.
- Hengoed Primary School - RVE Curriculum Presentation
- Caerphilly LA Monitoring and Evaluation Report (Focus: The impact of the changes to legislation and the implementation of the new Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) curriculum)
- Members Training (verbal update)
- To receive an update on the correspondence received by Caerphilly SACRE and/or circulated on behalf of Caerphilly SACRE since the last meeting.

- To note the date of future SACRE meetings during 2023.
- WASACRE:-
 - To receive and note feedback from the WASACRE Spring Term Meeting.
 - Feedback from the virtual WASACRE Summer Term Meeting and AGM hosted by Denbighshire on 19th June 2023 (verbal update).
 - Executive Voting 2023 - WASACRE Executive Committee Elections (verbal update)
 - To note dates of future WASACRE meetings and confirm representation.

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APPENDIX 3: CIRCULATION OF REPORT

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

Members of Caerphilly County Borough Council

Chair of Caerphilly Council Education Scrutiny Committee

All members of Caerphilly SACRE

Regional Director of South-East Wales Education Advisory Service (EAS)

Welsh Government Education Officer responsible for Religious Education

Minister for Education and Welsh Language, Welsh Government

Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all County Borough Schools

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

All SACREs in Wales

Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE)

The National Library of Wales

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CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGION,
VALUES AND ETHICS.

DATE: 6TH DECEMBER 2023

SUBJECT: SACRE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the current membership of Caerphilly SAC RVE, in light of an expression of interest from Parent Governors to take up co-opted positions on the Council.

To inform SAC RVE of recent membership requests and to seek its views as to whether it wishes to recommend any changes to its Membership.

B BACKGROUND - CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

All Local Authorities have a statutory duty to constitute a SAC RVE within their local area.

Representation on SAC RVE is required as follows:

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

The current arrangements for Caerphilly SAC RVE are as follows:

1. Faith Group Representatives (Committee A) (7 places)

There are 4 vacancies in this group arising from the recent resignations. Efforts are ongoing to fill the vacant places with various faith groups.

2. Teacher Association Representatives (Committee B) (7 places)

There are 2 vacancies in this group arising from the recent resignations. Efforts are ongoing to fill the vacant places with representatives from the relevant unions.

3. Local Authority Elected Members (Committee C) (6 places)

All positions are currently filled.

4. Co-opted positions (without voting rights) (2 places)

These appointments are made at the discretion of the Committee.

The current vacant co-opted positions (2) are reserved for Youth Representation.

C REPORT

Expressions of interest have been received from 2 Parent Governors to take up co-opted places on Caerphilly SAC RVE, currently those places are reserved for Youth Representatives.

The report asks Caerphilly SAC RVE to consider increasing the number of co-opted places to 4, to allow the inclusion of Parent Governors to its membership.

It is felt that the inclusion of Parent Governors would add different views and experiences to the Committees' discussions and be a valuable link between schools and the work of SAC on RVE.

D RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That SAC RVE note the details of the current membership.
2. That SAC RVE note the details regarding co-opted positions and advise how they wish to proceed on this matter.
3. That should SAC RVE approve the increase in the number of co-opted places, that the EAS RE Advisor write to those individuals who have expressed an interest on behalf of the Council and request that a pen-picture of their interests/experience be submitted for Members consideration and if appropriate they be invited to attend the next meeting.

E BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 Caerphilly SAC RVE Membership as of December 2023

CAERPHILLY SACRE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 2023

CHRISTIAN AND OTHER RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS - COMMITTEE A (7 Members)

Mrs Janet Jones (Church in Wales) (SACRE Vice-Chair)

Mr Michael Gray (The Methodist Church)

Mr Ken Chamberlain (Wales Humanists)

Vacancy – Religious representative

Vacancy – Religious representative

Vacancy – Religious representative

Vacancy - Non-Christian faith group/religion

TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS - COMMITTEE B (7 Members)

Primary Schools

Mrs Tara Lloyd (NAHT)

Ms Meinir Jones (UCAC)

Miss J. Davenport (NEU)

Secondary Schools

Miss Helen Bartley (NEU)

Ms Katherine McCullough (NASUWT)

Vacancy - ASCL Representative

Vacancy – NASUWT Representative

THE LOCAL AUTHORITY - COMMITTEE C (6 Members)

Councillor Mrs E.M. Aldworth

Councillor M. Chacon-Dawson

Councillor Mrs B. Miles

Councillor Mrs T. Parry

Councillor A. Whitcombe

Councillor J. Taylor (SACRE Chair)

CO OPTED MEMBERS (2 Members)

Two vacancies - held for youth representation on SACRE

OFFICERS

Ms Hayley Jones (EAS - RE Advisor to Caerphilly SACRE)

Mrs Victoria Bodenham (Lead School Improvement Officer)

CLERK TO SACRE

Mrs Julie Lloyd (Committee Services Officer)

Email lloydj4@caerphilly.gov.uk

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CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS

DATE: 6TH DECEMBER 2023

SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on the correspondence received by Caerphilly SAC and/or circulated on behalf of Caerphilly SAC since the last meeting.

B BACKGROUND

Since June 2023, the following items have been circulated in relation to Caerphilly SAC on RVE :-

1. All Caerphilly SAC on RVE Members – WASACRE Executive Committee Elections 2023 Results.
2. All Caerphilly SAC on RVE Members – WASACRE Autumn Meeting date 25th October 2023.
3. All Caerphilly SAC on RVE Members – Reports from WASACRE AGM 19th June 2023.
4. All Caerphilly SAC on RVE Members as statutory consultees – 21st Century Schools – Notice of Consultation issued in connection with the proposal to relocate Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School.
5. All Caerphilly SAC on RVE Members as statutory consultees – 21st Century Schools – Notice of Consultation issued in connection with the proposed Closure of Cwm Glas Infants School.
6. All Caerphilly SAC on RVE Members – Draft Minutes from Summer WASACRE Meeting – 19th June 2023.
7. All Caerphilly SAC on RVE Members – Agenda, papers and link for Autumn WASACRE Meeting – 25th October 2023.
8. All Caerphilly SAC on RVE Members – Link to PowerPoint slides from Members Training Session – 10th October 2023.
9. All Schools – RVE Professional Learning Information (inspiring pedagogy in RVE) – 26th October 2023.
10. All Caerphilly SAC on RVE Members – Questionnaire on WASACRE Conference Seminars – 9th November 2023.

11. All Caerphilly SAC on RVE Members – Information and online survey for the WJEC Consultation on Religious Studies GCSE Proposals – 9th November 2023.
12. All Caerphilly SAC on RVE Members – Information in relation to sharing data from the Welsh Government c/o WASACRE – 9th November 2023.
13. All Schools – Information on Farmington Scholarships 2024/25 – 9th November 2023.
14. All Schools - RVE Professional Learning Information (inspiring pedagogy in RVE) – originally circulated 26th October 2023, reminder sent 13th November 2023.
15. All Caerphilly SAC on RVE Members – Information and online survey for the WJEC Consultation on Religious Studies GCSE Proposals – originally sent 9th November 2023 – reminder sent 15th November 2023.
16. All Caerphilly SAC on RVE Members and All Schools – Information on Holocaust Memorial Day 2024 – 29th November 2023.

C RECOMMENDATION

For Caerphilly SAC to note the details of the correspondence update.

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO: CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS**

DATE: 6TH DECEMBER 2023

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2023/24

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To confirm the dates of forthcoming Caerphilly SACRE meetings for 2023/24.

B. BACKGROUND

Proposed dates of forthcoming meetings:

Autumn Term 2023 – Wednesday 6th December 2023 at 3pm (multi-locational meeting – to be held in Penallta House, Ystrad Mynach and online via Microsoft Teams)

Spring Term 2024 – Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 3pm (multi-locational meeting – to be held in Penallta House, Ystrad Mynach and online via Microsoft Teams)

Summer Term 2024 – Wednesday 5th June 2024 at 3pm (multi-locational meeting – to be held in Penallta House, Ystrad Mynach and online via Microsoft Teams)

C. RECOMMENDATION

For Caerphilly SAC to note the date of future meetings during 2023/24.

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**Wales Association of SACREs meeting,
Virtual via Zoom
19th June 2023
10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.**

Attendance

<p>Ynys Môn / Anglesey Owen Davies (OD)</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent Chris Abbas (CA) Hayley Jones (HJ)</p> <p>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend Alice Parry (AP) Donna Graves (DG)</p> <p>Caerffili/ Caerphilly John Taylor (JT) Marina Chacon-Dawson (MCD) Hayley Jones (HJ)</p> <p>Caerdydd / Cardiff John Taylor (JT) Donna Graves (DG)</p> <p>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire Jennifer Harding Richards (JHR)</p> <p>Ceredigion Keith Evans (KE) Mary Davies (MD)</p> <p>Conwy Phil Lord (PL) Collette Owen (CO) Ellie Chard (EC)</p>	<p>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire Phil Lord (PL) Geraint Davies (GD) Leah Crimes (LC) James Brown (JB) Ruth Thackray (RT)</p> <p>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire Vicky Barlow (VB) Lyn Oakes (LO)</p> <p>Gwynedd Paul Rowlinson (PR) Eurfryn Davies (ED)</p> <p>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil Donna Graves (DG)</p> <p>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire Louise Brown (LB) Hayley Jones (EAS) Suzanne Gooding (SG)</p> <p>Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot Nia Jenkins (NJ) Rachel Samuel (RS)</p> <p>Casnewydd / Newport Hayley Jones (HJ) Huw Stephens (HS)</p>	<p>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire Jennifer Harding Richards (JHR)</p> <p>Powys John Mitson (JM)</p> <p>Rhondda Cynon Taf Mathew Maidment (MM) Donna Graves (DG)</p> <p>Abertawe / Swansea Jennifer Harding Richards (JHR)</p> <p>Torfaen Hayley Jones (HJ)</p> <p>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan Kathy Riddick (KR) Donna Graves (DG)</p> <p>Wrecsam / Wrexham Tania ap Siôn (TS) Libby Jones (LJ)</p> <p>NAPfRE Paula Webber (PW)</p>	<p>Observers:</p> <p>REMW</p> <p>WJEC Chris Owens (CO)</p> <p>Estyn Aranwen Morgans-Thomas (AMT)</p> <p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Church in Wales</p> <p>Catholic Education Service Angela Keller (AK)</p> <p>Minutes (from recording) Jo Nicholls (JNI)</p>
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Minutes of the meeting

1. Introduction and welcome

TaS welcomed everyone to the summer meeting and thanked the Denbighshire Local Authority and SACRE/SAC for hosting the meeting. TaS welcomed and introduced the Head of Education Service for Denbighshire, Geraint Davies.

Geraint Davies formally welcomed everyone to the meeting. Geraint introduced the meeting with the following:

The curriculum has gone through a great deal of change over the last few years. Religion, Values and Ethics has taken the place of Religious Education. The law has formalised the inclusion of non-religious philosophical convictions and the voluntary aided sector now must have regard to a locally agreed syllabus also.

These changes have been a challenge to our schools, with every challenge comes exciting opportunities for staff to be creative to provide a truly local curriculum. The opportunities to ensure that RVE feeds into the four purposes is integral to the new Curriculum for Wales. These changes allow our pupils to be healthy confident individuals and have secure values and establish their spiritual and ethical beliefs. These opportunities help shape them to become ethically informed citizens and to respect the rights and needs of others in our diverse society.

Geraint Davies gave examples of Denbighshire's history with regards to faith and belief and reflected on how it will change in the future.

The 21st century has seen great advancement in technology and that has impacted and continues to impact on our lives.

There is a need to equip our young people with the skills to critically engage with beliefs and the benefits from the society they live in and embrace the increasingly intercultural communities that we all serve.

TaS thanked Geraint Davies for his introduction and for hosting the meeting.

2. Quiet reflection

In May 2023, LJ and TaS represented WASACRE at the NASACRE conference in London. NASACRE were celebrating 30 years of the Association, supporting the SACREs of England.

Even though it is clear that the education systems in Wales and England are becoming increasingly different there is a distinctive common history which is worth celebrating. A history centred on the significant local role given to SACREs and SACs for RVE and collective worship. A history in which during the last 3 decades a national association has been formed to the work for SACREs and SACs recognising both the value of the local but also the strength and support that comes with working together at a national level.

TaS led a quiet reflection, when members were asked to pause briefly and bring to mind their own local authorities that they were representing today. What have they got to offer to this meeting and the AGM today? What is that they can take back home with them to share?

3. Apologies

Apologies from the Executive Committee member, Edward Evans, Elin Stock and Kate Russell from Qualification Wales.

4. Minutes of the last meeting held on Zoom on 21st March 2023

Amendments to be made:

Page 1 Change Microsoft TEAMS to Zoom.
Page 2 JHR to be included as representing Carmarthenshire.
Page 9 Regional RE Hubs – changes to be made, TaS to forward exact details to Alice:

- Delete first sentence of the second paragraph.
- Misspelling of AREIAC and AULRE
- RE Today needs to be removed from the list of steering group organisations. (RE Today has not been on the steering group, rather 'the Regional RE Hubs is enable and supported by RE Today).
- NATRE can be added to the list as can TRS-UK and Culham St Gabriels.

With the above amendments, the minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting held on 21st March 2023

RS proposed to accept the minutes and HS seconded.

TaS will sign the final minutes and AP will file the minutes.

5. Matters arising from minutes of the last WASACRE meeting.

The name 'Regional RE Hubs' has changed to Regional RE Hubs UK.

Any other matters arising will be addressed in the agenda items of the meeting.

6. Welsh Government matters:

- 1) The only meeting since the last report was about the informal agreed syllabus review which was completed at the end of March. Welsh Government (WG) has put on record its thanks to WASACRE for undertaking the review of the agreed syllabi and are now in the process of responding to it.

We have a date scheduled to meet with Welsh Government colleagues about this and about specific matters such as the changes that WASACRE have asked for the legal section on Hwb.

- 2) National professional learning update – WASACRE are producing national resources in partnership with the Welsh Government. WASACRE presented the first batch of the national professional learning playlists at the Policy Insight Event on 25th April 2023. These have now been published on the WG Hwb. This event was well attended with over 100 attendees. It is recommended that all members visit the WG Hwb to view the playlists.

Work is continuing on the next batch of RVE resources and will soon be published in the early Autumn term. These will include RVE and cross-curricular skills – literacy, numeracy and digital competence, as well as a playlist for school governors.

A third batch of resources will cover pedagogy within RVE and RVE within the humanities.

7. NAPfRE presentation: Emerging practice from a 'faith' school perspective [Leah Crimes – Headteacher, St Brigid's School, Denbigh]

Phil Lord, the Advisor for Denbighshire introduced the NAPfRE presentation. Leah Crimes (LC) is the Headteacher of St Brigid's School, Denbigh. St Brigid's is a school for 3-18 year olds, located on the outskirts of Denbigh. It is a faith school with a designated religious character. The school's trust designates the school's character as Roman Catholic, but it is not associated with the Catholic Education Service nor the Diocese of Wrexham. As a result, the school does not follow the Catholic Education Service's religious education curriculum directly.

St Brigid's has been working with Denbighshire SACRE/SAC and PL and the school has planned RVE with regard to the Welsh Government's guidance on RVE and Denbighshire's agreed syllabus and its own designated religious character.

LC presented a sample of work in relation to the RVE curriculum. She stressed that it was a work in progress and was not suggesting that it is best practice. It has been created having regard to the agreed syllabus and looking at the history of St Brigid's School. They are basing the school's Curriculum for Wales and RVE curriculum on their cynefin with the history of school and beyond Denbighshire, and including a range of pluralistic views. LC will be working with PL to refine and improve the curriculum for September. It is a new way of teaching and has been well received by learners up to year 7 who have enjoyed the authentic experience.

A copy of the presentation will be sent to the WASACRE members. LC is also happy to share resources.

TaS thanked LC for the inspiring presentation.

LW: Thanked LC for the presentation. Suggested that manmade climate change would be better linked with stewardship rather than veganism. In relation to the sanctity of life, as pro-life is considered to be a non-religious philosophical conviction in the European Court, this could be included accordingly. Although currently Humanism is secular, in the past there have been Christian Humanists, worth considering looking at this in more depth.

LC: Thanked LB and agreed that climate change would sit well with stewardship and agreed to look into pro-life. LC thanks LW for raising these two points and explained that certain aspects have been condensed in the presentation. Good points to help us to refine our curriculum.

PW: Thanked LC for the presentation and the deep thought that has been put into the curriculum design. PW asked, how, in a practical way, did they unpack the statements of what matters during the curriculum design process?

LC: They planned backwards and looked at how their children could understand those statements and made sure that they provided them with the skills and experiences in order to hit those statements. They use a program called Taith360 but are still deciding whether it is of benefit. It is a program that displays all curriculum areas and it is used as a planning tool. It assesses your curriculum and produces a colour-coded output of coverage of the statements of what matters.

KE: Requested a copy of the slides.

LC: Happy to share the slides with the members and happy to talk with KE's school in Ceredigion.

LB: Is St Brigid's School under voluntary control rather than voluntary aided?

LC: St Brigid's School is a Voluntary aided school.

TaS: Wished LC all the best as they continue on their journey.

ACTION: LC to send a copy of slides to the secretary for onward distribution to WASACRE members.

TaS explained that there was difficulty with the Welsh translation and the meeting was paused while a solution was found.

8. Qualification Wales (QW)

RS: The consultation closed on 14 June. To prepare for this the WASACRE Executive Committee produced a short video and shared the Executive Committee's draft response with SACREs/SACs. SACREs/SACs were encouraged to respond and to share the information with teachers within their local authorities.

The Executive Committee responded to the consultation on behalf of WASACRE using opinions and comments previously shared. The main foci of the response were:

- Noting that a specific qualification is needed for Religion, Values and Ethics for a number of reasons, such as those shared within the draft distributed to the SACREs/SACs.
- The importance of obtaining a qualification within a mandatory subject and its value to the learners was emphasised.
- It was shown how it would support the Curriculum for Wales and the four purposes.
- It was emphasised that it would also provide an opportunity for progression within Religion Values and Ethics up to the age of 16.
- Attention was drawn to the problem that the new GCSE starts in 2025 and there will be a box until 2027 until the full proposal starts to be taught. What can be done to respond to the gap?

The next steps will be to wait to hear the results of the consultation. It will depend on the number of responses and their comments whether a qualification is suggested by Qualifications Wales. If they were to develop a qualification it will be a short qualification on Religion, Values and Ethics which will sit within the foundation qualifications. We have emphasised that if such a qualification is developed it will need to be available from entry level standard up to level 2 to ensure opportunities for all learners. If such a qualification is developed we are sure that Qualifications Wales will be in touch to receive help and support from the members of WASACRE as they develop the qualification. We will update you on any developments when we hear more.

The final design of the new GCSE will be published for development by WJEC on the 26 June.

TaS: Hopefully QW has received a large number of responses, and this will affect the outcome. TaS emphasised the importance of responding to consultations. WASACRE provides support to SACREs and SACs when responding to consultations.

9. EFTRE conference [August 2023]

In March WASACRE agreed to fully fund one teacher to attend the conference in August. TaS confirmed that one expression of interest was received from Alice Parry, WASACRE Secretary. TaS delighted that AP would be able to attend and asked AP to report back to the members after the conference.

10. Up-dates:

- **Report from the Executive Committee held on 17 May 2023**

TaS – most things are covered on the agenda.

The Executive Committee agreed to hold a WASACRE conference in the coming school year. Planning has commenced and will involve national professional learning and case studies. WASACRE's aim is to create an exciting, cutting-edge event. As is usual practice, WASACRE will work with NAPfRE with regards to planning. WASACRE will fully fund the conference. It won't just take the form of a full conference day but there will be a series of online seminars in the lead up to the conference. These will all be free to member SACREs/SACs and their schools / practitioners. More information to be shared in the autumn term.

It had been agreed to award the WASACRE Assistant Secretary an honorarium in recognition of the enormous amount of work being conducted in this role.

- **Estyn**

TaS: In the spring meeting Estyn provided a helpful briefing paper on Estyn inspection guidance for schools.

AMT: Thanked WASACRE for inviting Estyn to the meeting and pleased to hear that the briefing paper was useful. AMT reported that Estyn is in the process of preparing the new inspection framework for 2024. The consultation is open on the Estyn website and AMT encouraged responses. Estyn will be happy to provide a brief update at the next meeting.

TaS expressed thanks to AMT and accepted Estyn's offer to feedback at the next meeting. TaS reinforced the importance of responding to consultations.

- **WJEC**

CO: Thanked WASACRE for the invite to the meeting. WJEC is in full examination mode until the end of July and cannot speak to the current examination summer series 2023.

CO confirmed that there has been a fall in the number of candidates across GSCE, AS and A level for Religious Studies.

CO's responsibility is only GSCE RS, and the results will be released on August 24th, 2023.

Following up from RS's QW item, WJEC are waiting for the recent materials from QW from June 26th, 2023.

Worth noting that WJEC is in the process of appointing a subject advisor for RS and also looking for support to help with the writing of materials. The advert is displayed on the WJEC website. Looking for subject writers for the new specification. The remit is to help produce specification content in line with the qualification outline to produce assessment tasks, mark schemes etc. The deadline for applications is Friday 7th July 2023.

In the Autumn Term, the Professional Learning (formally known as CPD) will include face-to-face events scheduled for Cardiff and Llandudno and there will be a **Cardarg** (1.25.53 mins) PL event schedule to take place in North Wales.

TaS thanked CO for the helpful update.

- **REC**

KR: It was the REC's 50th anniversary at the start of May. A big event was held at Conway Hall in London, home of The Ethical Union. There was a presentation from the Children's Commissioner for England who was an RE teacher herself.

At the meeting KR presented on the progress in Wales with the new curriculum and recognised that most of the RE community in England would like to be moving in the same direction as Wales and have strong support from the Government acknowledging the importance of SACREs and SACs.

At the end of April, the REC had a meeting with representatives from Welsh Organisations who are part of the REC: that is, WASACRE, REMW and Church in Wales. We were able to give them our perspective on whether we believe that the REC is a place for Wales to be represented as the two countries' curriculums are diverging so much. It was noted that it is important that the REC recognises Wales in everything it does and that it does not become an England-centric organisation.

REC will now work on how Wales can be represented more fully in the work that the REC does.

TaS thanks KR for the update.

- **EFTRE**

PL encourages everyone to look at the website; there are interesting country reports available. The one for Wales has been finalised and is waiting for upload to the website. There are also training videos available on the EFTRE website.

TaS: Thanked PL for representing WASACRE on the EFTRE board.

- **REMW**

No representative present.

- **NAPfRE**

NAPfRE met last week. It was PW's first meeting back and PL has been covering for her.

NAPfRE have also responded to the QW consultation in line with WASACRE's response. NAPfRE is delighted and excited that WASACRE are going ahead with the conference and is looking forward to fully participating in the planning process.

The working party groups were reinstated last week to look at the most pressing issues. As well as the termly meetings, NAPfRE are going to trial a meeting once a month with additional twilight sessions to work on projects. If there is anything that WASACRE members would like NAPfRE to look at, then please contact PW.

Four issues are identified for WASACRE to consider:

- 1) The group met last week to discuss the SACRE/SAC Annual Reports. NAPfRE would like WASACRE to write a letter to Welsh Government asking for an update on the status of the current 1996 and 2006 versions of the annual report guidance document produced by ACCAC. NAPfRE considers this document to be out of date in terms of language content, current practice, curriculum etc.

The WASCRE members agreed to this request.

- 2) WASACRE has a meeting with WG on a termly basis, with a NAPfRE representative. PW asked whether there is a meeting planned before the end of term to discuss the annual reports.

TaS mentioned that WASACRE have a meeting scheduled with a specific agenda but will be in touch with PW to see what can be included in the time limit of that meeting.

- 3) NAPfRE recently discussed the nature of RVE in the new curriculum and how it was developed in the writing process and how it was written to be a rigorous subject discipline which has parity with the other humanities disciplines. This led NAPfRE to consider undertaking a piece of work which would tackle the myths and misconceptions which have risen, or potentially could arise around RVE. PW wondered whether WASACRE would be interested in this document 'myths and misconceptions' maybe an FAQ to be displayed on the website?

TaS stated that WASACRE would be interested to see the document once developed. WASACRE members agreed.

- 4) During the recent meeting DG in liaison with HJ produced a playlist for members of SACRE/SAC in order to help them to provide PL on their roles and responsibilities. DG asked NAPfRE to quality assure the playlist. PW wondered whether it would be of interest for WASACRE to house this on the website or share with other SACREs/SACs so they can access this playlist.

TaS: This sounds like a very welcome resource. It might also be useful to look at whether it can join a relevant area on the Welsh Government Hwb.

LB: Recalls the question of the Free Church Council guidance and the discussion about whether WASACRE could put this on its website also. It will be useful to look at the playlist first.

It is recognised that there is a whole process of quality assurance for Hwb and WASACRE would play a role in this given the playlist focus.

NAPfRE also discussed the document 'So you are thinking of joining your local SACRE' this was updated by RS and PW a while ago, but it requires a rewrite because legislation has been changed. Is it the right time to update this document.

TaS: Agrees that this is the right time and suggests going ahead.

ACTION: WASACRE members to contact PW with anything they would like NAPfRE to work on.

- IFN

LJ reported that the [Interfaith week](#) takes place from 12th - 19th November 2023. IFN are keen to have schools and organisations preparing early and to start thinking about how to use this week as a platform to highlight and deepen interfaith religion and belief dimensions of their work. Lots of activity ideas on the [Interfaith](#) website.

The Development of Levelling up Housing Communities will no longer be funding IFN and hasn't since April 2023. IFN's Board of Trustees and staff are working to address this challenging situation and the Board has met on a weekly basis to carefully review the financial position taking appropriate steps so that IFN's vital work can continue. They have asked for member bodies to write to ministers and other public figures to show support for the IFN.

TaS: This request will be taken back to WASACRE Executive Committee to consider writing a letter and to whom.

CA: Suggested to contact Interfaith Council for Wales for more localised news on Interfaith week.

11. Correspondence

- Email from CA with a flyer about a short video pilot project for young people.

CA: This is an initiative from the Interfaith Council for Wales requesting young people to create short films around service to community, in anyway way they wish. The endeavour is to show these at some stage to celebrate the organisation's 20+ anniversary this year.

TaS: Thanked CA for sharing this initiative and suggested that advisors might want to take this to their local SACREs and SACs and identify schools that might want to take part in it.

- Email from NAPfRE regarding the 4 points raised in item 6.

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

HS: On behalf of the Committee, HS thanked TaS as Chair and the Executive Committee members for their representation at meetings and reporting on behalf of WASACRE. This all involves considerable time and it is very important that this expertise is been given on their behalf.

TaS: Thanked HS for his support and acknowledgment.

13. Date for next meeting: Autumn Term,

This will be a Zoom meeting on Wednesday 25th October 2023 hosted by RCT.

TaS thanked Denbighshire local authority for hosting the meeting. The meeting ended at 11.50pm.

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