

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 Bacculaureate 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 Bacculaureate 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 Bacculaureate, 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 Bacculaureate, does your school offer a Religious Studies GCSE qualification as one of the supporting qualifications for Welsh Bacculaureate, 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

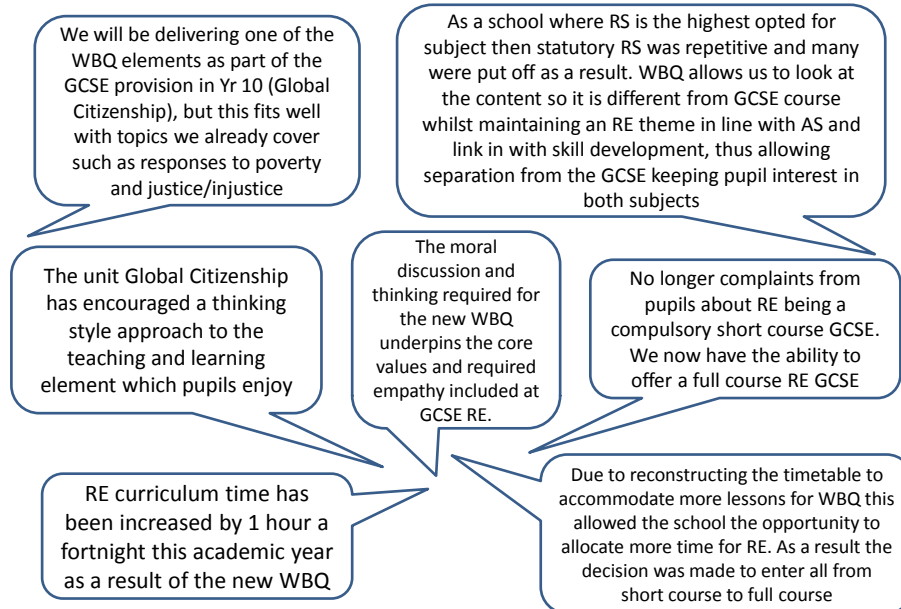
Response Core Time = 46% Option only = 30% Other = 16%
No Response =8%

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

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

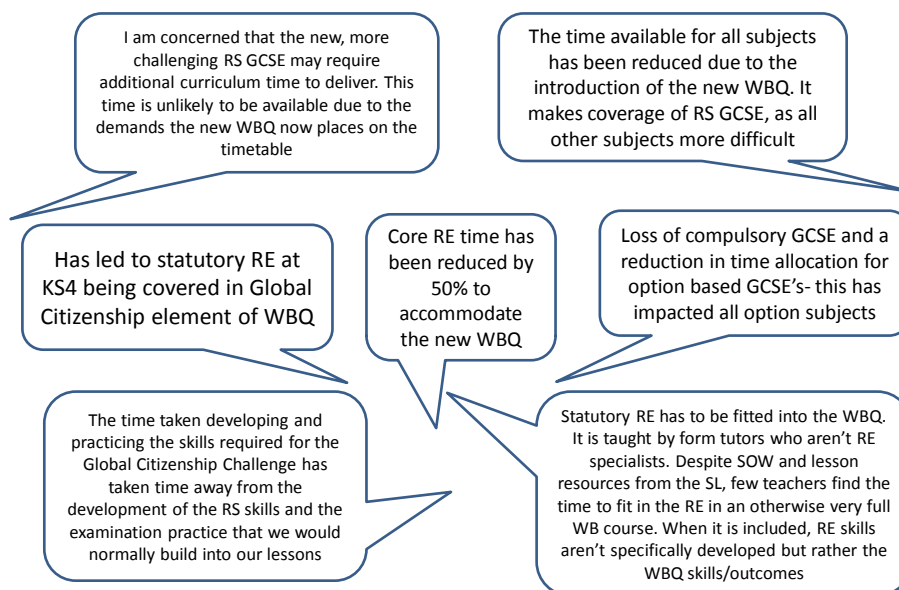
Question 4 How has the new Welsh Baccaulaureate had a **positive** effect on RE in your school

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

When the new GCSE specification is issued I feel we will need more support with regards to developing resources etc.

Implementation of the new specifications. Not sure if my curriculum time will be enough as it is extremely difficult to complete the course at the moment

An analysis of how many schools are fulfilling KS4 obligations as a result of removal of compulsory RE lessons due to Welsh Bacc

The WBQ is much more demanding in terms of time and skills than we first thought it would be. Although we have redesigned our GCSE Course to integrate it into the WBQ, from what I have seen of the new subject specifications I am not sure that it will be compatible in the future which is a concern in terms of delivering good quality RE.

Support in expressing concern about the mess the new GCSE is in! Even with the delay, the new syllabus seems to be out of step with Donaldson et al, and the idea of skills/PISA style teaching. Rather, it is going back to the 'tell me 50 things about Judaism'. In particular, less able pupils will find this impossible, and all pupils will find this lacking in relevance for them.