

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 16TH OCTOBER 2017

SUBJECT RE AND THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM: WELSH GOVERNMENT NEWSLETTER/UPDATE

A BACKGROUND

The Professor Donaldson report *Successful Futures - Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales* made a recommendation that:

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

Manon Jones (Curriculum Division of Welsh Government) is responsible for the pioneer schools and two areas of learning and experience (AOLE), Humanities and Language and Literacy.

Recent developments

As part of the development work, the 6 AoLE working groups prepared and produced reports to both the Curriculum and Assessment Group (CAG) and the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) for feedback. Both groups, along with Welsh Government expert groups, have provided feedback on the work so far as part of the quality enhancement process. The reports have been approved and are available to view via the following link: <http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/170707-new-curriculum-for-wales-story-so-far-en.pdf>.

The Humanities working group recommendation is to follow the 'big ideas'/what matters approach as exemplified within Wynne Harlen et al's 'Working with Big Ideas in Science'. This would provide an organising construct whilst also allowing sufficient flexibility for each disciplinary area. It outlined a planning methodology to develop the AoLE – by identifying the key knowledge/concepts, skills and competencies for each discipline within the Humanities and then 'building' the AoLE by identifying overarching 'big ideas'/what matters key concepts that will be drawn across the disciplines.

WG has agreed to work closely with WASACRE and NAPfRE colleagues during this process and has commissioned WASACRE to make a contribution regarding a suitable approach to the organising of RE within the Humanities discipline. They are also intending to commission other groups to have arranged ideas and approached for consideration.

B RECOMMENDATION

SACRE are asked to note and discuss the developments relating to the position of RE in the curriculum.

C SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Appendix 1 Welsh Government Newsletter July 2017

Appendix 2 Welsh Government – A New Curriculum for Wales: The Story So Far