

**CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**DATE: 14TH NOVEMBER 2018**

**SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018**

**A PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To offer to members of SACRE the Annual Report for 2017/18.

**B BACKGROUND**

This is the Annual Report for Caerphilly SACRE. This report outlines the activities of SACRE during the academic year 2017/2018.

**C RECOMMENDATION**

Members of the SACRE are requested to note and approve the report. The report is to be translated and sent to Welsh Government by 31st December 2018. The report will also be circulated to other interested parties as outlined in the report.

**D SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Appendix 1 Draft Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report 2017-2018

**CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2017-2018**

**Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report 2017-2018**  
**DRAFT VERSION**

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

**2017 - 2018**

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**ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**2017- 2018**

**SECTION 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE**

**1.1 Duty to Establish SACRE**

All Local Authorities are required to constitute Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) within their local area.

**1.2 Composition of SACRE**

Representation on SACRE is required as follows:-

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

The Local Authority determined that the SACRE should comprise of six elected members, five representatives of religious bodies and six representatives of teachers' associations. In addition, the Authority allowed for two other individuals to be co-opted. Both co-opted places are currently filled.

**1.3 Membership of SACRE**

The list of members of Caerphilly SACRE is set out in Appendix 1. Every effort has been made to seek representation from non-Christian communities but SACRE has experienced difficulties in finding such representation. SACRE commissioned the Clerk to SACRE to find out the composition of religions in Caerphilly County Borough Council and it was evident that statistically there are very few non-Christian religions represented in the area. SACRE have found wider representation through the co-optation of VALREC (Valleys Racial Equality Council) and currently Race Equality Wales to bring experience of working with different communities to the work of SACRE.

However it was resolved at the summer meeting that SACRE would recommend to Council and the LA that Committee A (faith groups) membership of SACRE be increased by two places (to comprise one place for a non-Christian faith group/religion and one place for a group who hold secular or non-religious beliefs. Also that Committee B (teaching unions) membership of SACRE be increased by one place and allocated to the NASUWT teaching union

**1.4 Functions of SACRE**

- To advise the Local Authority on worship and the religious education 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.

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- 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 and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) on its activities on an annual basis.

### **1.5 Meetings**

SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2017-18.

October 16th 2017  
March 13th 2018  
June 13th 2018

SACRE has resolved that, where possible, meetings will be held at alternative venues such as schools or places of worship. During the academic year 2017/18 SACRE held a meeting at a school in the Borough and two at the council offices.

### **1.6 Development Plan**

SACRE adopted a development plan as a basis for its activities for the period 2015 - 2018. A year on year progress report is included in the plan. The plan can be found in Appendix 3.

### **1.7 Circulation of Report**

Copies of this report are circulated electronically to those organisations and establishments listed in Appendix 7. It is also available on the Local Authority and the WASACRE website.

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ADVICE GIVEN BY SACRE**

Summary of the advice given to the local authority by SACRE

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

#### **Issue**

To monitor provision and standards in RE

#### **Action**

1. SACRE considers and analyses school inspection reports. If there are any issues regarding RE, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up. During 2016-2017 there were no issues of non fulfilment of statutory requirements for RE identified in the reports and therefore no follow up action was necessary.
2. SACRE visit schools on an annual basis and receive a presentation on RE at the school so that strengths and weaknesses can be identified and issues can be addressed directly. One special and one secondary school were visited in 2016/17
3. SACRE analyses examination results over a three-year period and identifies trends in performance benchmarked against all Wales data. Schools are informed of the outcomes of this analysis and SACRE raises any issues schools should be addressing as a result of this analysis.
4. SACRE sent all schools the WASACRE guidance document entitled *Managing the Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education* which was provided free of charge to all schools in Wales. This useful guidance document is intended to support schools dealing with withdrawal and also to share with parents who may be considering withdrawing their child from RE. A short questionnaire was sent to schools to gain an accurate awareness of the instances of withdrawal from Religious Education across schools in Wales. The SACRE clerk circulated this to schools in the local authority and the outcomes were analysed and presented to SACRE. These were then sent to WASACRE for an All Wales analysis.

#### **Issue**

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

#### **Action**

1. In 2008 Standing Conference endorsed and adopted a new agreed syllabus for the Authority's schools, which was implemented from September 2008.
2. In June 2013 Standing 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.
3. SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments with the National Curriculum review and the development of the Humanities curriculum. They have responded to WG (Jan '18 and June '18) to the progress regarding the AOLE and their associated Progression Steps and Achievement. SACRE are awaiting further details from Welsh Government on the shape of RE in the curriculum, and advice from WASACRE, before beginning any RE agreed syllabus review.

## TEACHING MATERIALS

### Issue

To ensure that schools are informed of suitable resources

### Action

1. All schools were informed of the 2018 Holocaust Memorial Day theme of 'The Power of Words' and that free Holocaust resources can be found on their website [www.hmd.org.uk](http://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.

## TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

### Issue

To ensure that teachers are able to access appropriate CPD.

### Action

1. With the current Welsh Assembly Government's emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy no subject specific training is on offer.
2. SACRE are aware of the need for CPD of teachers of RE and have made enquiries regarding the *Learn, Teach, Lead RE* initiative in England. Two RE Consultants in Wales are willing to explore the facilitating of arrangements for a Network group/s in Wales on a Consortia basis. SACRE will be updated on developments and progress made.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

### Issue

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

### Action

1. SACRE 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. The provision for collective worship had positive comments stating that schools were promoting pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development well. During 2017-2018 there were no issues of non fulfilment of statutory requirements for collective worship identified in the reports and therefore no follow up action was necessary.
2. Schools have been informed by SACRE of appropriate resources and websites that support collective worship in schools e.g. HMD 2018.
3. SACRE resolved to hold meetings at schools in the Borough and observe an act of collective worship where possible to monitor fulfilment of statutory requirements, provision and quality of collective worship. One primary school was visited but an act of collective worship was not observed by members.

## OTHER ISSUES:

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

1. SACRE has maintained its membership of WASACRE and receives termly feedback from the meetings of the Association.
2. Members have received presentations this year from their professional consultant Mrs V. Thomas who gave updates on the review of the National Curriculum and its implications for RE and the development of the revised exam specifications..
3. SACRE, where possible, would hold meetings at schools in Caerphilly for members to familiarise themselves with RE and collective worship in schools. One SACRE meeting was held at Cwm Ifor Primary School , where members were informed on the delivery of RE and collective worship at the school by the Headteacher.

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## **SECTION 2: ADVICE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **2.1 The Locally Agreed Syllabus**

In 2008 the Standing Conference endorsed and adopted a new agreed syllabus for the Authority's schools to be implemented from September 2008. The agreed syllabus closely relates to the National Exemplar Framework for RE. A yearly programme of INSET on the agreed syllabus and support materials, including schemes of work and electronic *Progress in Learning* files for secondary schools, were issued to schools.

During the 2012/13 academic year SACRE was made aware of the announcement by the Minister of a pending review of assessment and the National Curriculum in Wales. This review would involve the introduction of the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework and the identification of revisions to the current assessment and curriculum arrangements. During the Summer Term 2013 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the current syllabus with an understanding that the syllabus would undergo review once the outcomes of the review of assessment, the National Curriculum and the Foundation Phase are made available.

During 2017-18, SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments with the NC review. They have responded to WG (Jan '18 and June '18) to the progress regarding the AOLE and their associated Progression Steps and Achievement Outcomes. SACRE are awaiting further details from Welsh Government on the shape of RE in the curriculum, and advice from WASACRE, before beginning any RE agreed syllabus review.

### **2.2 Standards In RE**

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

#### **2.2a School Inspection Reports**

The local authority and its SACRE scrutinised relevant sections of Estyn school inspection reports for the period June 2016 - June 2017. Fifteen Caerphilly schools were inspected consisting of one infant school, two junior schools, eleven primary schools and one secondary school. If any issues emerge regarding RE, such as non fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up. No RE subject specific issues were identified in the reports and therefore no follow up action was necessary.

Comments were positive stating that curriculum and statutory requirements were met and that pupils benefited from studying other cultures, faiths and traditions and had a growing understanding of the diverse world in which they live. Schools had beneficial links with places of worship which enrich their experiences. There was good provision for global citizenship and education for sustainable development.

#### **2.2b Examination Results 2017**

Examination results for GCSE and GCE AS /Advanced Level achieved by pupils at secondary schools within the Authority have been analysed and considered. A three-year analysis is conducted so that a comparison can be made and trends identified. Cohort entry numbers are also analysed and a comparison is made to Consortia and All -Wales figures (where available).

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In **GCSE Religious** there were 808 entries from 11 schools. Entry numbers are much higher than previous years. 6 schools have entries in double figures and 5 schools in triple figures. Cohort entry has significantly increased to 41.1% from 29.5% in 2016. Cohort entry is below Consortia figures but higher than the All Wales figure

The overall % of **A\*- A grades was 24.1%** which is below previous performance. It is better than the Consortia figure (23.1%) and comparable with the All Wales figure (24.7%).

The overall % of **A\*- C grades was 66.8%** which is below previous performance and better than the Consortia figure (66.2%). It is below the All Wales figure (68.3%)

The overall % of **A\*-G grades was 96.9%** and is comparable to previous performance and better than the Consortia figure (95.5%) and slightly below the All-Wales figure (97.5%).

SACRE noted that results are below previous performance at all grade boundaries. Results are better than Consortia figures at all grade boundaries. Results are below All Wales figures at all grade boundaries. Factors to consider that impact on results include - the rise in entries this year may be due to including pupils of a greater range of abilities; the time allocation provided and also whether they receive specialist teaching.

**At GCSE Short Course in Religious Education** SACRE noted that 12 schools continue to enter pupils for the short course but there was a big decrease in entries this year although Full Course entries increased significantly. It appears that more schools are now entering pupils for FC rather than SC. Cohort entry has dropped to 18.6% (from 29%). Only 2 schools have large entry numbers and thus enter a significant percentage of the cohort and pupils of all ability levels. Cohort entry is below the Consortia (25.7%) and All Wales figures (29.8%).

SACRE noted that a comparison of entry figures from 2017 & 2016 show the following:

*Figures for 2017 when combining FC and SC are 1173 entries (59.7%) of cohort*  
*Figures for 2016 when combining FC and SC are 1199 entries (58.5%) of cohort*

The overall % of **A\*- A grades of 7.4%** is below previous performance and also below Consortia (13.5%) and the All Wales (9.8%) figures.

The overall % of **A\*- C grades was 27.4%** and is the worst result of the last three years and is below the Consortia figure (37.1%) and the All Wales figure of 39.6%.

The overall % of **A\*-G grades was 86.0%** and is below previous performance. It is comparable with the Consortia figure (86.3%) and below the All Wales figure (90.2%).

A significant number continue to be entered for RE either through FC or SC and this is very encouraging because it provides pupils with the opportunity for accreditation for their KS4 study. We must also bear in mind that pupils do not usually opt to follow the Short Course but it is delivered as part of the statutory requirements for RE.

**At GCE Advanced Level** there were 61 entries from 7 schools. The entry figures are below previous numbers. 3/7 schools have entry numbers in double figures. The cohort entry is slightly below 2016 but are higher than the Consortia and All Wales figures

A\*-A was achieved by 9.8% of students and is below previous performance. They are below the Consortia figure (17.1%) and the All Wales figure (18.2%).

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At A\*-C candidates achieved a pass rate of 67.2% which is below previous performance. It is also below the Consortia figure (76.9%) and the All Wales figure (78.1%)

The pass rate for grades A-E of 98.4% is comparable to 2016 although below 2015 outstanding performance of 100%. It is better than the Consortia figure (96.8%) and below the All Wales figure (99.8%)

During SACRE's Spring Term meeting, reference was made to the dip in performance against previous years (particularly at the higher grades of A\* and A\*-C) and SACRE were interested in determining whether there may be certain factors that are influencing performance, especially in view of the new A Level specifications introduced in Autumn 2016. This was especially noticeable when compared to the AS results which were much improved this year at all grade boundaries. It was confirmed that a letter would be sent out on behalf of SACRE to those schools that offer A Level Religious Studies, to find out what factors may be causing the dip in performance, and establish whether there are ways that SACRE can support schools in this matter.

At **AS level** there were 75 entries from 8 schools and the entry figures and cohort % have dramatically increased this year. Cohort entry is comparable with the Consortia (16.0%) and exceeds the All Wales figure (11.3%)

10.7% of students achieved A grade and this is the best result of the last three years. It is below the Consortia (18.6%) and All Wales figures (19.1%)

64.0% of students achieved A-C which is the best result of the last three years. This is below the Consortia figure of 71.5% and better than the All Wales figure of 62.3%

96% pass rate for grades A-E is the best result of the last three years and is comparable with the Consortia figure of 95.5% and better than the All Wales figure of 90.6%.

It should be noted that definitive conclusions could not be drawn because the figures represent raw scores and do not necessarily reflect the selectivity of the entry, and in some cases the numbers are too small to be statistically significant.

A detailed table of examination results can be found in Appendix 4.

SACRE resolved to write to schools informing them of the examination analysis.

## **2.3 Methods of Teaching, Teaching Materials and Teacher Training**

### **Continuing Professional Development**

The local authority informed SACRE that the South East Wales Consortium advertises their courses through CPD online. With the current Welsh Assembly Government's emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy no subject specific training is on offer.

## Teaching Materials

### Holocaust Memorial Day 2018 Resources

All schools were informed of the 2018 Holocaust Memorial Day theme of 'The Power of Words'. Spoken and written words can have a huge impact, whether good or bad. The theme explores how language has been used in the past, and how it is used in the present day. Schools were informed by SACRE that further information about the theme and free educational Holocaust resources can be found on their website [www.hmd.org.uk](http://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.

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## **SECTION 3: ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **3.1 School Inspection Reports**

The local authority and its SACRE scrutinised relevant sections of Estyn school inspection reports for the period June 2016 - June 2017. Fifteen Caerphilly schools were inspected consisting of one infant school, two junior schools, eleven primary schools and one secondary school. If any issues emerge regarding collective worship, such as non fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up requesting their action plan. Estyn did not identify any instances of non-compliance from these inspections and therefore all schools inspected meet statutory requirements in relation to collective worship. Members were presented with a summary of findings from these inspections.

The provision for collective worship had positive comments stating that schools were promoting pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development well.

#### **Good features**

- Assemblies encourage respect for diversity and racial equality successfully,
- During assemblies, pupils usually have appropriate opportunities to reflect and develop their spiritual awareness.
- ... in acts of collective worship, pupils reflect responsibly upon the importance of friendship and racial tolerance
- Well planned assemblies reinforce the school's values and provide worthwhile opportunities for pupils to reflect on how these relate to their own life experiences
- Collective worship fosters the development of strong values in pupils. It provides good opportunities for pupils to think about the world around them and their place within it
- Assemblies.... reinforce pupils' understanding of spiritual and moral principles.
- The school celebrates pupils' achievements successfully in assemblies and through positive encouragement and use of rewards.
- Visitors to the school, such as the local vicar, provide a valuable range of experiences that enrich the lives of pupils

There were no areas for development at either primary or secondary level.

SACRE resolved to continue to use inspection reports to monitor that statutory requirements are being met and to use whatever comments are applicable. They also resolved to continue to request the action plans of any schools identified as not fulfilling statutory requirements.

### **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 appreciates the opportunities accorded to members to observe acts of collective worship in schools. Members had the opportunity to host their SACRE meeting at one primary school this year. They did not attend an act of collective worship at the school.

## **SECTION 4: OTHER ISSUES**

### **4.1 WASACRE**

SACRE has continued to affiliate to WASACRE and representatives have attended its meetings. During the 2017-18 academic year issues considered at WASACRE meetings have been fully reported back to SACRE and full discussions have taken place. SACRE welcomes the pro-active work of WASACRE in taking up issues that have implications for RE and keeping member SACRE's fully informed. SACRE is represented on the WASACRE Executive committee by their professional consultant Mrs Vicky Thomas and receive regular feedback from Mrs Thomas and those representing SACRE at WASACRE meetings.

### **4.2 HOLOCAUST EDUCATION**

Caerphilly SACRE was informed of the 2018 Holocaust Memorial Day theme of 'The Power of Words' and that further information about the theme and free educational Holocaust Memorial Day resources can be found on their website [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk). SACRE resolved to inform schools about the availability of these resources and encourage them to commemorate HMD in some way. SACRE discussed how some schools were embracing the issues raised by HMD very seriously and reference was made to some primary and secondary schools who were conducting activities and acts of collective worship to commemorate the day.

Caerphilly SACRE were updated on the commemorative events which took place across the county borough to mark this International Day of Remembrance.

SACRE Members were invited to a special service to mark Holocaust Memorial Day held at Penallta House Council Offices on Friday 26th January 2018. The ceremony involved readings by pupils from Ysgol Gymraeg Caerffili and the lighting of a symbolic candle, and guests had the opportunity to view poetry and artwork produced by pupils of the school. A large number of schools participated in the event and several schools reported back on their activities, with further details included in the committee report.

At their Spring Term meeting, Caerphilly SACRE discussed a number of observations by members regarding the Penallta House ceremony. The Chair confirmed that he would write to the relevant Officers on behalf of SACRE regarding the focus of the event and would relay the feedback and suggestions received from Members in order to enhance the quality of the service in future years. Members also suggested that the service could be held as a combined event with schools to increase the level of representation across all ages and the LA representative confirmed that he would raise the matter with his colleagues in Education.

Caerphilly SACRE were pleased to recognise the efforts of participating schools in commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day 2018 and noted the moving commemorative events that had taken place across the county borough to mark it.

### **4.3 WELSH GOVERNMENT NATIONAL CURRICULUM REVIEW**

SACRE has received termly updates on the progress of the National Curriculum Review and its implications for RE in the curriculum. RE remains a statutory curriculum requirement from reception and should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience. Welsh Government sends termly newsletters to SACREs outlining the developmental work of the Pioneer Schools in relation to RE in the Humanities. The Humanities working group

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have recommended a 'Big Ideas'/What Matters" approach identifying the key knowledge/concepts, skills and competencies for each discipline within the Humanities and then 'building' the AoLE around them. The Humanities working group's recommendations and the January and June SACRE Newsletter Updates from Welsh Government regarding the AOLE and their associated Progression Steps and Achievement Outcomes have been discussed by SACRE. All comments have been forwarded to Welsh Government.

SACRE have been informed of the RE Conference organised by Welsh Government, in collaboration with WASACRE, to provide the opportunity for SACREs to discuss the key approaches to the curriculum recommended by the Humanities group. This will take place in the Autumn Term and SACREs are in the process of identifying the personnel to attend the Conference.

#### **4.4 WASACRE WITHDRAWAL FROM RE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Following requests from schools, the Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE) recently published a guidance document entitled *Managing the Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education* which was provided free of charge to all schools in Wales. This useful guidance document is intended to support schools dealing with withdrawal and also to share with parents who may be considering withdrawing their child from RE.

A short questionnaire was sent to SACRE clerks for circulation to schools in their local authority to help WASACRE gain an accurate awareness of the instances of withdrawal from Religious Education across schools in Wales. SACRE were informed of the outcomes for Caerphilly LA. They agreed that a further trawl be made in order to increase responses from schools and the outcomes have now been sent to WASACRE for an All Wales analysis.

#### **4.5 ESTYN UPDATES**

SACRE were informed that the *RE Thematic Review of KS2 & 3* had been undertaken by Estyn and that the outcomes would be made available on June 12th 2018. SACRE will be fully informed of the outcomes at the next meeting in the Autumn Term 2018. SACRE were also informed that Estyn have provided an update to its inspectors on *Spiritual development and the daily acts of collective worship*. SACRE agreed to send this update information to all schools so that they are suitably informed of the requirements.

#### **4.6 TRAINING OF SACRE MEMBERS**

As part of its training for members SACRE proposed the following:

- To keep members updated on developments in RE and collective worship through regular presentations to SACRE members. Mrs V Thomas gave updates on the review of the National Curriculum and its implications for RE
- SACRE, where possible, would hold meetings at schools in the Borough for members to familiarise themselves with RE and collective worship in schools. Cwm lfor Primary School was visited this year and the Headteacher gave an update on RE and Collective Worship at the school.

SACRE is very appreciative of the opportunities offered through visits and presentations to become more informed on RE and Collective worship issues in schools and would like to extend their appreciation to all concerned. A special note of thanks is extended to the Clerk to SACRE (Rebecca Barrett) for all her hard work in making such arrangements this year.

#### **4.7 MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE**

At its Summer Term meeting, SACRE were informed of vacant positions and changes of membership of the committee. SACRE discussed the request for membership of Committee A from Humanists UK and also the letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams, regarding the right of Humanists to have a full Committee A status. After some discussion the matter was voted upon by the three groups and the vote was carried to recommend to Council that a place on SACRE be allocated to a Humanist representative. SACRE would recommend to Council and the LA that Committee A (faith groups) membership of SACRE be increased by two places (to comprise one place for a non-Christian faith group/religion and one place for a group who hold secular or non-religious beliefs. Also that Committee B (teaching unions) membership of SACRE be increased by one place and allocated to the NASUWT teaching union. The final decision will rest with the Council and the Local Authority.

#### **4.8 RETIREMENT OF PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT TO SACRE**

SACRE had been informed that Mrs Vicky Thomas, Professional Adviser to SACRE was retiring after 22 years service with the Committee. It was acknowledged by members that she had made a huge contribution to the smooth running of the Committee and that her long service and work was greatly appreciated. At the Summer Term meeting, the Chair to SACRE (Councillor John Taylor) thanked Mrs Thomas for her invaluable contribution to the Committee and there was a presentation of gifts to show SACRE's appreciation for her work and commitment that enabled the smooth running of the Committee.

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**APPENDIX 1: SACRE MEMBERSHIP SEPTEMBER 2017-JULY 2018**

**THE LOCAL AUTHORITY**

Councillor Mrs E.M. Aldworth  
Councillor Mrs G.D. Oliver  
Councillor J. Ridgewell  
Councillor Mrs M.E. Sargent  
Councillor J. Simmonds  
Councillor J. Taylor (SACRE Chair)

**TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS**

**Primary Schools**

Mrs Tara Lloyd (NAHT) - replaced Mr Chris Parry April 2018  
Ms Meinir Jones (UCAC) - appointed June 2018 (Ms Bethan Davies resigned July 2017)

**Secondary Schools**

Miss Helen Bartley (ATL)  
Mrs Laura Strange (NASUWT)

Vacancy (ASCL) - Mrs Helen Marsh retired July 2017  
Vacancy (NUT) - Mrs Nicola L Boardman resigned Nov 2017

**CHRISTIAN AND OTHER RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS**

Rev Eryl Williams (Baptist Union of Wales) - Resigned July 2018 - Vacancy  
Mrs Janet Jones (Church in Wales) - SACRE Vice-Chair  
Mrs Enfys Hawthorn (United Reformed Church)  
Mr Martin Western (Roman Catholic Archdiocese)  
Captain Carl Di -Palma (The Salvation Army) - Replacement pending

**CO OPTED MEMBERS**

- (1) Race Equality Wales representative or similar organisation - Vacancy
- (2) Primary school representative - Ms Rhianne Bradshaw

**OFFICERS**

Mr Paul Warren (CCBC Strategic Lead for School Improvement)  
Mrs Vicky Thomas (Independent RE Consultant)

**CLERK TO SACRE**

Miss Rebecca Barrett

**NOTE**

SACRE has experienced difficulties in finding representatives from religious groups other than Christianity. It was agreed that a co-opted place would be given to VALREC/ Race Equality Wales so that they could bring their experience of working with different communities to the work of SACRE.

At their Summer Term 2018 meeting, SACRE agreed to recommend to Council and the LA that Committee A (faith groups) membership of SACRE be increased by two places (to comprise one place for a non-Christian faith group/religion and one place for a group who hold secular or non-religious beliefs. They also recommended that Committee B (teaching unions) membership of SACRE be increased by one place and allocated to the NASUWT teaching union.

## **APPENDIX 2: SCHEDULE AND AGENDA OF MEETINGS**

### **October 16th 2017 at Ty Penallta Council Offices**

#### **Main Agenda Items**

- Minutes of last meeting and matters arising
- Schedule of Meetings
- Membership Update
- SACRE Annual Report 2016 -2017
- SACRE Development Plan 2015 – 2018 (Progress Report)
- Analysis of Caerphilly Inspection Reports Autumn 2016-July 2017
- RE and the National Curriculum - Update
- GCSE Religious Studies: Update
- Estyn Thematic Review: Update
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2018
- WASACRE Issues, including feedback and report of WASACRE meeting and AGM at Wrexham, Executive Appointments and Representation at next meeting at Bridgend
- Correspondence

### **March 13th 2018 at Cwm Ifor Primary School**

#### **Main Agenda Items**

- Welcome and overview of RE from the Headteacher
- Minutes of last meeting and matters arising
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2018 : Feedback
- Analysis of Examination Performance 2017
- National Curriculum Review and Assessment – Update
- Correspondence Update
- WASACRE Issues including feedback from Meeting at Bridgend, Nominations to the WASACRE Executive and representation at next meeting of WASACRE at Swansea

### **June 13th 2018 at Ty Penallta Council Offices**

#### **Main Agenda Items**

- Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising
- Schedule of Meetings 2018-2019
- SACRE Membership Update / Welsh Government guidance
- WASACRE Withdrawal from RE Survey: Update
- National Curriculum Review and Assessment - Update
- Estyn Updates
- Correspondence Update
- WASACRE Issues including report of WASACRE meeting at Swansea, representation at next meeting at Anglesey, WASACRE revised Constitution, and Executive Voting for the Period 2018-2021

**APPENDIX 3: CAERPHILLY SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015-2018 (ACADEMIC YEAR)**

**Aim 1: To monitor standards and provision in Religious Education and Religious Studies.**

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
<p>1.1 Monitor standards and provision through regular review of inspection reports/ Estyn thematic reviews/ school self evaluation reports and recommend, where necessary, action by Local Authority.</p>	<p>Annual agenda item Autumn Term</p>	<p>Full SACRE Adviser</p>	<p>Agenda time Adviser time for analysis</p>	<p>Advice to LA on trends across the county borough; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools; follow up through school visits and review of action plan where necessary.</p>	<p><b>2015-2016</b> Considered 2.11.15. One school not fulfilling statutory requirements for RE. Action plan requested and considered. SACRE satisfied that progress has been made</p> <p><b>2016-2017</b> Considered 18.10.16. No school identified as not complying with statutory requirements. Schools asked to acknowledge that they understood that current agreed syllabus for RE is still statutory whilst the Humanities curriculum is under review. Survey conducted of KS4 provision and outcomes shared with SACRE and schools.</p> <p><b>2017-2018</b> Considered 16.10.17 No school identified as not complying with statutory requirements.</p>

<p>1.2 Receive information on results of: GCSE Religious Studies Full and Short Course; A/AS level Religious Studies.</p>	<p>Spring Term</p>	<p>Full SACRE Adviser</p>	<p>Agenda time Adviser time for analysis</p>	<p>Advice to LA on trends; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools.</p>	<p><b>2015-2016</b> Considered 3.3.16. Schools informed of outcomes. <b>2016-2017</b> Considered 16.3.17. Schools informed of outcomes <b>2017-2018</b> Considered 13.3.18. Schools informed of outcomes. Secondary schools with 6<sup>th</sup> form asked to complete a questionnaire to ascertain reasons for a dip in performance at A level in 2017.</p>
<p>1.3 Identify INSET needs, monitor and offer advice on training.</p>	<p>Autumn Term</p>	<p>Full SACRE</p>	<p>Agenda time</p>	<p>Training programme received along with figures on uptake; advice to LA.</p>	<p><b>2015-2016</b> No INSET provided by LA or EAS <b>2016-2017</b> No INSET provided by LA or EAS <b>2017-2018</b> No INSET provided by LA or EAS apart from GCSE Lead Practitioner subject meetings.</p>

**CAERPHILLY SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 – 2018 (ACADEMIC YEAR)**

**Aim 2: To review the agreed syllabus (as appropriate) and support its implementation.**

<b>Plan of action</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>People involved</b>	<b>Time and costs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Progress</b>
2.1 To review the agreed syllabus for Religious Education	Summer 2016 onwards (or as appropriate)	Full SACRE Adviser Working group NAPfRE	Advisory time to review the agreed syllabus. Establish a working group (if applicable). Convene a Standing Conference to adopt the syllabus Publication/ translation costs (as appropriate)	Agreed syllabus reviewed and adopted by Standing Conference. Agreed Syllabus training programme for schools (if required) Agreed syllabus to be implemented the Autumn term after adoption.	<p><b>2015-2016</b> SACRE has termly updates on curriculum development. SACRE are awaiting further details from Welsh Government on the shape of RE in the curriculum, and advice from WASACRE, before beginning any RE agreed syllabus review.</p> <p><b>2016-2017</b> SACRE has received termly updates on development of the Humanities curriculum.</p> <p><b>2017-2018</b> SACRE has received termly updates on development of the Humanities curriculum. They have responded to WG (Jan'18 and June '18) to the progress regarding the AOLE and their associated Progression Steps and Achievement</p>
2.2 Materials to support	Ongoing	Full SACRE	Advisory time	Support materials	<b>2015-2016</b>

implementation of the agreed syllabus for RE		Adviser		available to schools and accessed through Consortium website.	Schools sent materials from Carmarthenshire LA <b>2016-2017</b> Not Applicable <b>2017-2018</b> Not Applicable
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**CAERPHILLY SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 – 2018 (ACADEMIC YEAR)**

**Aim 3: To monitor provision and provide support for collective worship.**

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
3.1 Monitor provision for collective worship through regular review of inspection reports/ school self evaluation reports; recommend, where necessary, action by LA.	Annual agenda item Autumn term	Full SACRE and Adviser	Agenda time Adviser time for analysis	Advice to LA on trends across the county borough; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools; follow up through school visits and review of action plan where necessary.	<p><b>2015-2016</b> Considered 2.11.15. One school not fulfilling statutory requirements for DACW. Action plan requested and considered. SACRE satisfied that progress has been made.</p> <p><b>2016-2017</b> Considered 18.10.16. No school identified as not complying with statutory requirements</p> <p><b>2017-2018</b> Considered 16.10.17 No school identified as not complying with statutory requirements.</p>
3.2 To support the implementation of statutory collective worship	Ongoing	Advisory service	Advisory time	Provision of INSET (if applicable) Schools informed of resources and websites for collective worship. Schools informed of guidance materials available for collective worship	<p><b>2015-2016</b> Schools informed of resources to support HMD 2016 including resources for acts of collective worship.</p> <p><b>2016-2017</b> Schools informed of resources to support</p>

					<p>HMD 2017 including resources for acts of collective worship. <b>2017-2018</b> Schools informed of resources to support HMD 2018 including resources for acts of collective worship.</p>
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**CAERPHILLY SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 – 2018 (ACADEMIC YEAR)**

**Aim 4: To ensure a more informed SACRE through providing regular updates on local and national issues related to RE and collective worship in schools.**

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
4.1 To update members on the role of SACRE and its implications; recent developments in RE and collective worship; guidance materials from relevant bodies; input from practising teachers and outside providers	Termly/ Annually as required	SACRE members , Adviser, practising teachers, outside providers	Member time; Adviser / Officer time	SACRE members fully aware of their responsibilities. SACRE and schools updated and informed of recent developments and initiatives, both local and national.	<b>2015-2016</b> SACRE visited two schools this year and received two presentations on RE at the school/s. <b>2016-2017</b> SACRE received a presentation on RE at one secondary school and were also informed of developments in GCSE and Humanities in the revised curriculum. <b>2017-2018</b>
4.2 Programme of school visits.	Termly/Ann ually as required	SACRE members, Adviser/ Officers	Member time; Officer time to arrange visits	More informed SACRE on provision and practice regarding RE and collective worship in schools.	<b>2015-2016</b> SACRE visited two schools this year, attended one act of collective worship

					<p>and received two presentations.</p> <p><b>2016-2017</b> SACRE visited two schools this year, attended one act of collective worship and received one presentation on RE.</p> <p><b>2017-2018</b> SACRE visited one primary schools this year and received one short presentation on RE at the school.</p>
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## APPENDIX 4: EXAMINATION RESULTS ANALYSIS 2017

### GCSE Full Course Religious Studies 2017

	Caerphilly 2017	Caerphilly 2016	Caerphilly 2015	Consortia 2017	Wales 2017
<b>A*-A</b>	24.1%	27.7%	28.3%	23.1%	24.7%
<b>A*-C</b>	66.8%	71.1%	71.4%	66.2%	68.3%
<b>A*- G</b>	96.9%	97.8%	98.4%	95.5%	97.5%
<b>Entry Number</b>	808 11 schools +2LC 41.1%	605 14 schools 29.5% cohort	679 13 schools	2,873 47.8%	12,401 39.5%

### GCSE Short Course Religious Studies 2017

	Caerphilly 2017	Caerphilly 2016	Caerphilly 2015	Consortia 2017	Wales 2017
<b>A*-A</b>	7.4%	13.8%	18.6%	13.5%	9.8%
<b>A*-C</b>	27.4%	45.8%	60.9%	37.1%	39.6%
<b>A*-G</b>	86.0%	92.9%	91.5%	86.3%	90.2%
<b>Entry Number</b>	365 12 schools +1 LC 18.6%	594 14 schools 29% cohort	647 13 schools	1543 25.7%	9343 29.8%

### GCE A Level Religious Studies 2017

	Caerphilly 2017	Caerphilly 2016	Caerphilly 2015	Consortia 2017	Wales 2017
<b>A*-A</b>	9.8%	13.1%	13.0%	17.1%	18.2%
<b>A*-C</b>	67.2%	69.1%	73.0%	76.9%	78.1%
<b>A*-E</b>	98.4%	98.8%	100%	96.8%	99.8%
<b>Entry Number</b>	61 7 schools 13.6% cohort	84 9 schools 14.2% cohort	100 8 schools	251 12.9%	1305 11.4%

### GCE AS Level Religious Studies 2017

	Caerphilly 2017	Caerphilly 2016	Caerphilly 2015	Consortia 2017	Wales 2017
<b>A</b>	10.7%	0%	4.5%	18.6%	19.1%
<b>A-C</b>	64.0%	42.9%	36.4%	71.5%	62.3%
<b>A -E</b>	96.0%	71.5%	72.7%	95.5%	90.6%
<b>Entry Number</b>	75 8 schools 16.7%	28 9 schools 4.7%	22 8 schools	312 16.0%	1291 11.3%

#### Please Note:

Data includes only those who have cached in their results. For example if a pupil sat an AS Level during 2017, but have not yet cached the result in, then they should be excluded from this year's data and included next year when the results have been cached in, otherwise this will result in results being double counted.

## APPENDIX 5: 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 Education Scrutiny

Regional Director of SEWC

Department for Education and Skills (DfES)

Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all County Borough Schools

All members of SACRE

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

Wales Association of SACRE's (WASACRE)

Cabinet Secretary for Education, Welsh Assembly Government

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