



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT 2.00 P.M

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mrs E. Aldworth, Mrs T. Parry, J. Taylor

Representatives of Faith and Belief: Mrs J. Jones (Church in Wales)

Teacher Union Representatives: Mrs K. McCullough (NASUWT), Mrs C. McLaughlan (NASUWT)

Together with:

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

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

SACRE were reminded that the meeting was being filmed 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. TO APPOINT A CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR TO CAERPHILLY SACRE

It was moved and seconded that Councillor J. Taylor be appointed as Chair of Caerphilly SACRE and Mrs J. Jones be appointed as Vice-Chair of Caerphilly SACRE. By a show of Hands Up, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that Councillor J. Taylor be appointed as Chair of Caerphilly SACRE and Mrs J. Jones be appointed as Vice-Chair of Caerphilly SACRE.

The Chair gave a warm welcome to Ms Hayley Jones (EAS Curriculum Partner - SACs and RVE) and Ms Vicky Bodenham (School Improvement Officer), who were attending their first meeting of Caerphilly SACRE.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Collis, Mrs G. Oliver, and J.

Simmonds, together with Miss H. Bartley (ATL), Mrs M. Jones (UCAC), Mrs T. Lloyd (NAHT), Mr K. Chamberlain (Humanists Wales), Mr M. Gray (The Methodist Church), Mr M. Gray (The Methodist Church), Major P. Hubbard (The Salvation Army) and Mr M. Western (Roman Catholic Archdiocese).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. MINUTES OF CAERPHILLY SACRE – 12TH NOVEMBER 2020

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2020 be approved as a correct record and by a show of Hands Up this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Caerphilly SACRE meeting held on 12th November 2020 (minute nos. 1-9) be approved as a correct record.

5. ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

6. CAERPHILLY SACRE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Ms Hayley Jones (EAS Curriculum Partner - SACs and RVE) introduced the report, which provided an update on the current membership of Caerphilly SACRE as of November 2021 and highlighted any vacant positions within the Committee.

SACRE noted that there is one vacancy across Committee A for a non-Christian faith representative and two vacancies across Committee B for the NEU and ASCL teacher unions. There are also two co-opted vacancies reserved for youth representatives. Work will be carried out with a view to filling these vacancies during 2022.

Having considered the report, SACRE noted the membership update and the progress made to date in filling the vacancies.

7. CAERPHILLY SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Consideration was given to the draft Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report which outlined the activities of SACRE during the academic year 2020-2021. SACRE were asked to consider, note, and approve the contents of the draft Annual Report and agree any final amendments for inclusion in the document. Once approved, the final version of the document will be translated and submitted to Welsh Government by the deadline of 30th December 2021.

There were no comments received on the contents of the Annual Report and it was moved and seconded that the SACRE Annual Report for 2020-2021 be approved. By way of roll call (and in noting there were 6 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report for 2020-2021 be approved and circulated accordingly following its submission to Welsh Government by 30th December 2021.

8. CAERPHILLY SACRE RESPONSE TO THE WG CONSULTATION ON THE CURRICULUM FOR WALES RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS (RVE) GUIDANCE

Ms Jones introduced the item, which asked SACRE to receive and note the consultation responses submitted by the Chair of Caerphilly SACRE arising from a recent Welsh Government consultation on the Curriculum for Wales 2022.

It was noted that the draft response had been circulated to SACRE Members for comment in July 2021, and following input received from Members, the final response was submitted to WG ahead of the deadline of 16th July 2021. A copy of the response was attached to the report.

Ms Jones explained that she had not been in post when the response was prepared during Summer 2021, but provided an update on progress made since that time with the new Curriculum for Wales Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) guidance. It is expected that the new guidance will be shared shortly with SACREs for comment but will be embargoed until its publication on the Hwb website. Local Authorities across Wales will then use this guidance to move forward in the preparation and adoption of a new locally Agreed Syllabus for RVE. It was noted that the Agreed Syllabus has to be in line with the new Curriculum for Wales and supporting framework, and is intended to provide a support mechanism to schools in their delivery of RVE rather than being of a prescriptive nature. A date for Caerphilly SACRE's Standing Conference (Agreed Syllabus) will be arranged in due course to consider the preparation of the new Agreed Syllabus for Caerphilly.

Following consideration of the report, SACRE noted the attached responses to the consultation submitted by the Chair of Caerphilly SACRE on behalf of its Members, together with the update on the Curriculum for Wales RVE guidance.

9. CURRICULUM UPDATES - WJEC ASSESSMENTS 2022 / GUIDANCE ON THE DESIGN AND DELIVERY OF MANDATORY RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS (RVE)

Ms Hayley Jones provided an update on WJEC assessments for 2022.

SACRE were advised that WJEC have held two successful CPD events (one through the medium of Welsh and the other through the medium of English). WJEC have emphasised that if exams proceed in 2022, then the adaptations will continue to take place where pupils are expected to answer three out of the four questions for GCSE across all three units. Year 11 will sit two papers at the end of the 2021/22 examination season. There is no requirement to consider a non-religious worldview perspective in the 3D question and so this has been removed in order to make the examination fairer. It was noted that pupils will be credited if they talk about it in the exam, but equally they will not be at a disadvantage if they do not refer to it. In addition, SPaG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) is still applicable to either question 3 or 4D (whichever one pupils choose to answer).

It was also noted that WJEC have alerted schools of the contingency plan in place if exams do not proceed in Summer 2022. There is the possibility that WJEC will request that work is submitted to them for moderation and so schools have to be prepared for tasks to be made available for moderation in the event of this request being made.

In relation to the RVE guidance, Ms Jones explained that schools are waiting for this to be published so that they can move forward with the new Curriculum for Wales and the delivery of RVE in their lesson plans.

There were no questions received for Ms Jones, and Caerphilly SACRE noted the details of the curriculum updates in relation to WJEC Assessments 2022 and the guidance on the design and delivery of RVE.

10. CURRICULUM FOR WALES UPDATES

Ms Jones provided an update in respect of the new Curriculum for Wales, which is due to come into effect in September 2022. It was noted that the EAS are preparing a rollout of modules across different phases to support senior leaders and to be filtered down to schools. These sessions will also be recorded so that they can be viewed by teachers who are unable to attend.

SACRE were advised that the current EAS focus is very much on the rollout of the new Curriculum for Wales and developing a middle leadership program which provides opportunities to specialise in the specific areas of learning. Attendance at recent CPD events has been very low owing to Covid pressures within schools and so there is a flexible approach to how these sessions are run, again with pre-recorded sessions so everybody has access to them where possible. However, EAS have acknowledged that they are relying on the goodwill of staff to cover their colleagues to attend CPD events.

Additionally, there has been a secondary design group set up to address and focus on the primary sector, with regional and national networks to be set up as the next steps. EAS have also set up Task and Finish groups on various aspects of the new curriculum but there are also difficulties in running these due to the ongoing issues around the availability of school staff, and EAS remain greatly appreciative to those practitioners who are able to attend.

There were no questions received for Ms Jones, and Caerphilly SACRE noted the details of the update in relation to the Curriculum for Wales 2022.

11. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2022

Ms Jones introduced the report, which advised Caerphilly SACRE of the date and theme of Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2022, the actions taken to inform schools of the resources available to commemorate this occasion, and for SACRE to consider the local HMD commemorations available.

It was noted that the Clerk to SACRE has circulated information to schools in relation to Holocaust Memorial Day 2022 to encourage schools to mark the occasion in some way and for teachers to make use of the resources available on the HMD website. The theme for 2022 is **“One Day”** and there are many ways to interpret this theme, which are outlined in the Theme Vision on the HMD website. The Chair also observed that Holocaust Memorial Day had been commemorated in a different format in January 2021 due to the challenges arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown in place at that time. He confirmed that if restrictions allow Caerphilly Council to organise a commemorative event for 2022, then the information will be shared with SACRE Members nearer the time.

Following consideration of the report, Caerphilly SACRE noted the details of the update in relation to Holocaust Memorial Day 2022.

12. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2022

Caerphilly SACRE noted the details of the proposed Spring Term meeting arranged for 28th March 2022, with the meeting to be held on Microsoft Teams. SACRE were advised that efforts are also ongoing to arrange Standing Conference (Agreed Syllabus) meetings during the Spring Term 2022 and Members will be advised of these in due course.

13-15. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES FROM THE VIRTUAL WASACRE MEETINGS HELD ON 7TH OCTOBER 2020, 23RD MARCH 2021 AND 16TH JUNE 2021

Caerphilly SACRE were referred to the minutes included in the agenda papers, and noted the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE at its meetings held on 7th October 2020, 23rd March 2021 and 16th June 2021.

16. FEEDBACK FROM THE VIRTUAL WASACRE AUTUMN MEETING HOSTED BY TORFAEN ON 23RD NOVEMBER 2021

Ms Jones provided an update on the recent WASACE meeting and explained that all regional RE Advisors had been invited to give a presentation on their consortium and where they are in terms of developing RVE moving forward. It was noted that EAS are currently working on strengthening the partnership between SACREs and schools in order to make best use of the wide range of experience and faiths across SACRE's representatives so that they can have involvement in the new curriculum.

It was noted that interesting feedback had been received from the other consortia across Wales. Similar schemes of support for teachers are being prepared by other regional consortia. WASACRE are also creating a RVE Professional Learning Development Team and have written to all SACREs to invite primary and secondary teachers to join this working party, which will be central to the development of online modules and related resources, and which will be made available on Hwb as part of the RVE professional learning offer. It was confirmed that the letter will be circulated to all Caerphilly schools shortly. Members were also referred to the update from WJEC at the WASACRE meeting and the discussions around the Agreed Syllabus Conferences.

There were no questions received and Caerphilly SACRE noted the details of the feedback from the WASACRE Autumn Term meeting.

17. REPRESENTATION AT FORTHCOMING WASACRE MEETINGS

It was noted that the date of the next WASACRE meeting had not yet been finalised. The Clerk to SACRE will email all SACRE Members nearer the time to seek nominations for attendance and will circulate the agenda papers when received.

The Chair thanked all attendees for their participation and the meeting closed at 2.30 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 28th March 2022.

CHAIR