

## **CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: STANDING CONFERENCE (AGREED SYLLABUS) OF  
CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**DATE: 28TH MARCH 2022**

**SUBJECT: TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF THE NEW CAERPHILLY  
AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS**

### **A PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To seek Standing Conference approval of the new Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics, and for Standing Conference to recommend its adoption to the local authority for implementation from September 2022.
2. To provide an update on the RVE professional learning programme that is being arranged to provide teachers with guidance and support on implementing the new Agreed Syllabus within their school's curriculum.

### **B BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Agreed Syllabus sets out the requirements that schools should follow in order to meet statutory requirements. In June 2013 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the existing Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education that was adopted in 2008, with an understanding that the syllabus would be reviewed once further information is received in relation to the assessment and national curriculum review.
- 1.2 SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments with the National Curriculum review and the development of the Humanities curriculum. Schools have been advised that they should follow the current agreed syllabus until further notice.
- 1.3 In May 2019, Standing Conference agreed to readopt the current Agreed Syllabus until the implementation of the new curriculum in 2022.
- 1.4 In January 2022, Welsh Government released guidance on the new Curriculum for Wales framework. which allowed local authorities across Wales and their SACREs to begin preparations on the adoption of a new Agreed Syllabus.
- 1.5 The guidance from Welsh Government makes provision for local authorities to adopt or adapt this guidance as their Agreed Syllabus.
- 1.6 At the meeting of Standing Conference held on 14th February 2022, Standing Conference Members agreed that the WG Guidance on RVE should be adopted as the basis of the new Agreed Syllabus for the local authority, subject to the inclusion of a covering foreword document which will be relevant to Caerphilly County Borough Council as the local authority in delivering RVE.

It was also agreed that a Working Group be set up following the meeting in order for Members and Officers to contribute to the foreword and finalise the content, ahead of presentation of this finalised Agreed Syllabus to a further meeting of Standing Conference for approval.

- 1.7 The Standing Conference Working Groups were held on Tuesday 1st March and Tuesday 8th March 2022. Representatives on the Working Group comprised of Councillor John Taylor (Caerphilly SACRE Chair), Mrs Janet Jones (Church in Wales representative and Caerphilly SACRE Vice-Chair) and SACRE teacher representatives Miss Helen Bartley (ATL) and Mrs Claire McLaughlan (NASUWT), together with Officers Hayley Jones (EAS Curriculum Partner SACs and RVE) and Vicky Bodenham (CCBC School Improvement Officer).
- 1.8 The Working Group representatives discussed and analysed the WG guidance in detail across the two sessions and have drafted and refined a covering Agreed Syllabus document which is relevant to Caerphilly as the local authority, and which sets out the main points of note across the WG RVE guidance for teacher and practitioners to have regard to when preparing their curriculum and lesson planning. The draft Agreed Syllabus document also provides guidance for teachers on key areas such as collective worship and the removal of the right to withdraw in the Curriculum for Wales.
- 1.9 Once completed, the working draft Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus document was sent out to all SACRE Members for consultation and to provide them with the opportunity to put forward any final comments or views for inclusion within the Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus document ahead of its presentation to Standing Conference.
- 1.10 The final draft of the Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics, based on the Curriculum for Wales RVE Guidance, is now attached for Standing Conference endorsement and approval.

## **C RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 Standing Conference are asked to endorse and approve the attached document (at Appendix 1) as the new Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus for RVE and recommend its adoption to the local authority for implementation from September 2022.
- 1.2 Standing Conference are asked to support and note the details of the RVE professional learning programme that is being currently being arranged to provide teachers with guidance and support on implementing the new Agreed Syllabus within their school's curriculum.

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Appendices:  
Appendix 1 Draft - New Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics from September 2022