



## **STANDING CONFERENCE (AGREED SYLLABUS) OF CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY 28TH  
MARCH 2022 AT 3.30 P.M**

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Taylor - Chair  
Mrs J. Jones (Church in Wales) - Vice Chair

Councillors:

Representatives of Faith and Belief: Mr M. Gray (The Methodist Church)

Teacher Union Representatives: Mrs K. McCullough (NASUWT)

Together with:

H. Jones (EAS Curriculum Partner - SACs and RVE), V. Bodenham (School Improvement Officer), M. Wallbank (Senior Solicitor), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer), S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer)

### **RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed and would be available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here to View](#). Members were advised that voting on decisions would take place via roll call.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E.M. Aldworth, A. Collis, Mrs G. Oliver, T. Parry and J. Simmonds, together with Miss H. Bartley (ATL), Mrs M. Jones (UCAC), Mrs T. Lloyd (NAHT), Mrs C. McLaughlan (NASUWT), Mr K. Chamberlain (Humanists Wales), Mrs E. Hawthorn (United Reformed Church) and Major P. Hubbard (The Salvation Army)

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**3. MINUTES OF STANDING CONFERENCE (AGREED SYLLABUS) OF CAERPHILLY SACRE – 14TH FEBRUARY 2022**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2022 be approved as a correct record and by a show of Hands Up this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Standing Conference (Agreed Syllabus) meeting held on 14th February 2022 (minute nos. 1-3) be approved as a correct record.

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

The report sought Standing Conference approval of the new Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics, and asked Standing Conference to recommend its adoption to the local authority for implementation from September 2022. The report also asked Members 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.

The report provided an overview of the progress made to date in preparing and drafting the new Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics. At its meeting held on 14th February 2022, Standing Conference 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 at the time that a Working Group would be set up following the meeting in order for Members and Officers to contribute to the document and finalise the content, ahead of presentation of this finalised Agreed Syllabus to a further meeting of Standing Conference for approval.

Ms Hayley Jones (EAS Curriculum Partner - SACs and RVE) delivered a presentation which provided an overview of the new Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus document as drafted by the Working Group and which had then been circulated to all SACRE/Standing Conference Members for consultation and to provide them with the opportunity to put forward any final comments or views for inclusion. It was noted that an introductory page from the Local Authority would be added to the Agreed Syllabus once approved by Standing Conference.

Ms Jones expressed her thanks to all participants of the Working Group and to Standing Conference for their contributions to the document, and she acknowledged the significant level of work and detail that had gone into the preparation of the new Agreed Syllabus.

Ms Jones provided a page-by-page overview of the new Agreed Syllabus document, which included the role of the Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council on RVE, contact details for the RVE Advisor, and an introduction on Religion, Values and Ethics and why this is mandatory in schools. The introduction also included a link to the WG RVE guidance on the Hwb website for ease of use.

The aims of RVE were included which is felt to be vital in highlighting the importance of RVE as a curriculum subject and how it gives learners opportunities. The document included an overview of the audience and who it has been written for, and important points of note for schools. A second link was included to the WG legal summary of legislation on the Hwb website.

Information was included around curriculum time for RVE, which stated that sufficient time

and resources should be allocated at each progression step, given the mandatory element of the subject within the Curriculum. However, it is difficult to state a definitive time allowance, as this will depend on how schools choose to factor the new Curriculum for Wales guidance into their own school curriculum.

A section on curriculum design was included as teachers have felt strongly that it is important to include some guidance on this area in the new Agreed Syllabus. Links to sections of the WG Guidance were also included where teachers can find more specific information on designing their curriculum, which included links to RVE concepts, sub-lenses and progression steps. Information was included on Post-16 RVE, due to the changes around this area, as the mandatory status of RVE has been removed for Sixth Forms in maintained schools and RVE is now optional for these learners. A link to the Post-16 RVE guidance on Hwb was also included.

The Agreed Syllabus document included information on the right to withdraw in the Curriculum for Wales, which will see a significant change from September 2022 when there will be no parental right to withdraw their child from RVE once the new Curriculum for Wales is implemented in their year group. A link to the WG legal summary of legislation giving more information around this change was included in the document. The Agreed Syllabus document also included information on Collective Worship, together with arrangements for dealing with complaints around the provision of RVE.

Standing Conference thanked Ms Jones for her presentation and noted the details of the update. There were no questions or comments received from Members.

Members were then referred to the recommendations in the report, which asked Standing Conference 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. Standing Conference were also asked to support and note the details of the RVE professional learning programme that is currently being arranged to provide teachers with guidance and support on implementing the new Agreed Syllabus within their school's curriculum.

The Chair asked Standing Conference whether there were any final changes to the document that they wished to bring forward for consideration. There were no comments received from Standing Conference in this regard.

It was then moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By way of roll call (and in noting there were 4 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions), this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the document attached at Appendix 1 of the Officer's report be endorsed and approved by Standing Conference as the new Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus for RVE, and that it be recommended to the local authority for adoption and implementation from September 2022;
- (ii) Standing Conference 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.

The Chair confirmed that the new Agreed Syllabus would now be passed to the Education Directorate to take forward and that Standing Conference would be kept updated on its

progress and implementation into schools. The Chair also expressed his thanks to all Members and Officers who have contributed towards the preparation of the new Agreed Syllabus.

The Chair thanked all present for their attendance and the meeting closed at 3.43 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 6th July 2022

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CHAIR