

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: JUNE 10TH 2015

SUBJECT: FEEDBACK ON DONALDSON REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

Background

On October 1st 2012 the Minister for Education and Skills announced a review of assessment and the National Curriculum in Wales. This review includes two phases.

Phase 1 - will focus on strengthening the teaching of literacy, numeracy and wider skills, ensuring continuity and progression from Foundation Phase to key stage 4.

Phase 2 - will focus on curriculum design at each phase/stage of education to ensure that we have a broad and balanced curriculum which is fit for the twenty-first century. It will include consideration of the Basic Curriculum which is where RE sits within the curriculum.

Professor Donaldson has reported back to the Education Minister on Phase 2.

On April 15th 2015, the National Advisory Panel for RE (NAPfRE)/ members of WASACRE met to discuss the implications for RE of the Donaldson review and to formulate a response on behalf of the Panel and WASACRE.

SACREs also had the opportunity to respond - in order for a response to be sent on behalf of Caerphilly SACRE, a copy of the NAPfRE response was sent to all SACRE members for comment and a formal response to Welsh government was made from Caerphilly SACRE.

Main messages of the Donaldson Review (refer to presentation to be given at SACRE meeting):-

References to Religious Education in the Report:

- Pgs 46-47 – RE should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience and should **remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception.**
- Pg 61 – Although young people will choose some of their courses for the period from **14-16** there are some aspects of the curriculum that all young people should continue to study regardless of those choices these includeand **those such as RE** that are important to achieving some of the characteristics of the four purposes that would not be achieved otherwise....
- Pg 100 – It is therefore proposed that a general duty be placed on schools to organise and deliver a curriculum for all children and young people that is designed to meet the four purposes of education. In line with national policy, **specific duties may also be placed on schools in relation to the Welsh language and RE.**

RECOMMENDATION

For SACRE to discuss and note the report