

To: Members of the Standing Advisory
Council for Religious Education
(SACRE)

Date: 25 January 2021

Direct Dial: 01824 712568

e-mail: democratic@denbighshire.gov.uk

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)** to be held at **10.00 am** on **TUESDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2021** in **VIA ZOOM**.

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL AND THE REQUIREMENT FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING THIS MEETING WILL NOT BE HELD AT ITS USUAL LOCATION. THIS WILL BE A REMOTE MEETING BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Yours sincerely

G. Williams
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

AGENDA

PART 1 - THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THIS PART OF THE MEETING

SILENT REFLECTION

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (Pages 3 - 4)

Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in any business identified to be considered at this meeting.

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

Notice of items which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

4 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (Pages 5 - 10)

To receive the minutes of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education held on 14 October 2020 (copy enclosed).

5 DEFERMENT OF DENBIGHSHIRE SACRE QUESTIONNAIRE (Pages 11 - 12)

- To discuss deferring sending out the Denbighshire SACRE questionnaire.

6 WG AND NEW CURRICULUM UPDATES (Pages 13 - 14)

- To receive a verbal update regarding the WG consultation updates.
- To receive a verbal update regarding the supporting Framework for RE.
- To receive a verbal update regarding the Professional Learning offer for Religious Education.

7 RE AND BLENDED AND DISTANCE LEARNING (Pages 15 - 16)

- To receive a presentation on resources available to schools to support distance and blended learning.

8 WASACRE (Pages 17 - 18)

- To receive the minutes of the last meeting of the Association on 7th October 2020.
- To agree attendance to the next WASACRE - Date TBC.

9 DATE OF DENBIGHSHIRE'S NEXT MEETINGS

- 24th June 2021
- 29th October 2021

MEMBERSHIP

Ms. Tania Ap Siôn
Councillor Ellie Chard
Councillor Tony Flynn

Councillor Emrys Wynne
Councillor Rachel Flynn
Councillor Cheryl Williams

COPIES TO:

All Councillors for information
Press and Libraries
Town and Community Councils

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

Code of Conduct for Members

DISCLOSURE AND REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS

I, (<i>name</i>)	<input type="text"/>
a *member/co-opted member of <i>(*please delete as appropriate)</i>	Denbighshire County Council
CONFIRM that I have declared a *personal / personal and prejudicial interest not previously declared in accordance with the provisions of Part III of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members, in respect of the following:- <i>(*please delete as appropriate)</i>	
Date of Disclosure:	<input type="text"/>
Committee (<i>please specify</i>):	<input type="text"/>
Agenda Item No.	<input type="text"/>
Subject Matter:	<input type="text"/>
Nature of Interest: <i>(See the note below)*</i>	<input type="text"/>
Signed	<input type="text"/>
Date	<input type="text"/>

*Note: Please provide sufficient detail e.g. 'I am the owner of land adjacent to the application for planning permission made by Mr Jones', or 'My husband / wife is an employee of the company which has made an application for financial assistance'.

This page is intentionally left blank

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Minutes of a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held in by video conference on Wednesday, 14 October 2020 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Representing Denbighshire County Council

Councillors Ellie Chard (Chair), Tony Flynn, Cheryl Williams and Emrys Wynne

Representing Religious Denominations

Jennie Downes and Collette Owen

Representing Teacher Associations

No representatives in attendance

ALSO PRESENT

RE Adviser (PL) and Committee Administrators (KEJ & SJ)

POINTS OF NOTICE

- (i) Due to the current restrictions on travel and requirement for social distancing as a result of the coronavirus pandemic the meeting was held remotely by video conference and was not open to the general public
- (ii) In the absence of a teacher representative the Council's quorum requirements had not been met. It was agreed to proceed with the meeting on the basis that any decisions made would need to be formally ratified at the Council's next quorate meeting. Report recommendations were taken as read and agreed by consensus with no formal vote undertaken
- (iii) Collette Owen had replaced Mary Ludenbach as a member on SACRE representing the Roman Catholic Diocese.

SILENT REFLECTION

The meeting began with a few minutes silent reflection.

1 APOLOGIES

Dominic Oakes (Vice-Chair) and Councillor Rachel Flynn

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Ellie Chard declared a personal interest as Governor of Ysgol Tir Morfa

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No urgent matters had been raised.

4 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) meeting held on 5 February 2020 (previously circulated) were submitted.

Matters Arising – Page 7 – Item 8 SACRE Newsletter – The RE Adviser explained the delay in circulating the newsletter to schools due to Covid-19 but confirmed that the information contained therein was still relevant and a bilingual version would be emailed to schools shortly.

***RESOLVED** that the minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 5 February 2020 be received and approved as a correct record.*

5 SACRE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

The RE Adviser presented the draft Annual Report for Denbighshire SACRE 2019/20 (previously circulated) for approval which provided details of SACRE's activities during the previous academic year including advice given to the local education authority together with other local and national matters.

The RE Adviser reminded members that the annual report was a historic document and he sought approval of the report, subject to any amendment of errors. He provided a summary of the report and drew particular attention to the following –

- SACRE had only met twice during the period of the annual report with the summer term meeting having been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic
- there had been little to report previously under the heading 'Provision of Initial Teacher Training' and the presentation SACRE had received from Graham French, Bangor University was a welcome addition which had provided information on teacher training and a focus on RE. It was expected that positive relationship would continue with references in future annual reports
- the first annual newsletter informing schools of important information regarding RE and the new curriculum had featured in the resource recommendations
- in addition to covering the business of SACRE some other annual reports in Wales had also been used as a means of promoting the wider elements of RE. It was suggested that practice be followed in future with Denbighshire SACRE receiving relevant presentations which could then feature in the annual reports and also be included in the annual newsletter to schools
- it was pleasing to note that following previous requests by members the draft report had been made available bilingually this year as part of the agenda pack.

Members were content to receive the report as a true record of SACRE's work.

***RESOLVED** that –*

- (a) *the Annual Report of Denbighshire SACRE for 2019 – 2020 be approved as an accurate account of SACRE’s work, and*
- (b) *the Local Authority be requested to arrange for the report to be translated into Welsh and made available to all schools and colleges in Denbighshire and other recipients as required by law and as identified in the report.*

6 ANALYSIS OF INSPECTION REPORTS

The RE Adviser submitted a report (previously circulated) analysing the results of Estyn inspections in terms of RE provision and collective worship in four schools between October 2019 – February 2020. Inspections had been carried out at Ysgol Dyffryn Ial; St. Asaph VP Infants; Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog and Ysgol Bryn Hedydd.

Members considered the findings relating to each school and were pleased to note the positive comments and outcomes. Whilst accepting that Estyn was required to follow a prescribed format when carrying out their inspections it was generally felt a more individualised report for each school would add value and interest.

There was some debate about how schools were having to change and adapt in difficult circumstances to deal with the restrictions and challenges of Covid-19. The RE Adviser reported upon discussions with some schools and highlighted the benefits of smaller class assemblies with opportunities for pupils to express their thoughts and fears and to talk through issues with real purpose which had proved valuable to pupils’ and staff wellbeing. Jennie Downes endorsed those views and reported upon her experience with Church in Wales schools. She advised that whilst a lot of resources were going out to schools, the schools themselves were also producing their own resources and she provided an illustrative example to highlight the creativity in classrooms and amazing work being undertaken in difficult circumstances. She felt the challenge was to find a way to capture the excellent work going on in schools and sharing it for the benefit of others. The Chair queried whether that information could be sought when circulating the newsletter and the RE Adviser agreed to invite informal responses within his email to schools both in terms of the newsletter and in that regard. Jennie Downes also suggested the use of twitter to highlight and share good practice carried out in schools.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) *the report be received and noted;*
- (b) *a letter be sent to the schools inspected informing them that their Inspection Report had been considered, congratulating them on the good features identified and reminding them of the services of the RE Adviser and School Improvement Officers in relation to any areas for development or key issues needing addressing, and*
- (c) *the Local Authority be requested to distribute the above letters.*

7 CURRICULUM FOR WALES 2022

The RE Adviser provided a verbal update on progress as follows –

- **Consultation on the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill** – members' attention was drawn to two particular aspects arising from the consultation. The first related to the proposal to remove the right of parents to withdraw their child/ren from RE which was of specific concern. The second element related to the opportunity for pupils to receive state school RE in Church in Wales and Catholic schools which would have huge implications for those schools. The general feeling was that the syllabus in those schools should be diverse enough to allow pupils to receive a pluralistic Religious Education without the need for a second syllabus. WASACRE would be meeting with the Children, Education and Young People Committee to put forward their arguments and discuss the Bill in greater detail. Members were encouraged to read the consultation responses and feedback on the Welsh Government website.
- **Curriculum for Wales/RE Framework** – the draft framework regarding the new curriculum had yet to be published by the Welsh Government. WASACRE had requested that SACREs have sight of the supporting framework prior to it going through the Senedd so that it could be agreed and WASACRE continued to lobby WG to remind them that SACREs were an integral part of the development of the draft framework. If SACRE disagreed with the framework there could be major consequences – SACRE could create its own framework or readopt the current Agreed Syllabus indefinitely.
- **RE GCSE Qualification** – discussion had been ongoing over recent years regarding the difficulty of some pupils accessing the GCSE qualification which had prompted some members of the NAPfRE (National Advisory Panel for Religious Education) to develop their own examination qualification which would be of GCSE standard to meet statutory requirements for pupils at Key Stage 4. The intention was to create a formal GCSE in RE via Agored Cymru to be endorsed by Qualification Wales with the potential for the new GCSE for RE starting in September 2021.

Jennie Downes thanked the RE Adviser for his clear and simple explanation of the very complex issues arising from the consultations and for all his work in that regard. She also highlighted her own concerns regarding the implications for Church in Wales's schools and Christianity arising from the proposals.

The RE Adviser added that WASACRE had met the previous week via video conference and he reported upon the outcome of the elections – the two executive positions had been filled by him and John Meredith (Powys SACRE), and Tania ap Sion (Wrexham SACRE) had been voted Vice Chair.

RESOLVED that the verbal update from the RE Adviser be received and noted.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The dates of future SACRE meetings in 2021 had been confirmed as follows –

2 February (Tuesday), 24 June (Thursday) and 20 October (Wednesday).

In closing the Chair thanked the RE Adviser for all his hard work in supporting SACRE and she also thanked members for their attendance and contributions.

The meeting concluded at 10.45 a.m.

This page is intentionally left blank

<p>Denbighshire County Council Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)</p>		
Date of Meeting:	2 nd February 2021	
Agenda Item:	5	Report Details
<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Background to the Report:</i></u></p> <p>Denbighshire SACRE has already agreed to send schools a questionnaire about the provision and quality of RE. Due to the lock down and ongoing COVID restrictions schools are under a great deal pressure. This may not be the best time to a) send the questionnaire and b) for schools to fill it in.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Purpose of the Report:</i></u></p> <p>To discuss deferring sending out the questionnaire and agree an appropriate time to send the questionnaire to schools.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Recommendations:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The questionnaire be deferred until the summer term at the earliest. 		

This page is intentionally left blank

Denbighshire County Council Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)		
Date of Meeting:		2 nd February 2021
Agenda Item:	6	Report Details
<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Background to the Report:</i></u></p> <p>WG conducted 2 consultations during the summer term 2020. WG are publishing a supporting framework for RE for SACREs to consider when creating a new Agreed Syllabus. WASACRE has asked WG how they will train teachers as to the requirements of RE in the curriculum.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Purpose of the Report:</i></u></p> <p>To update members on developments regarding the new curriculum, the supporting framework and teachers' professional learning.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Recommendations:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To receive the report 		

This page is intentionally left blank

Denbighshire County Council Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)		
Date of Meeting:		2 nd February 2021
Agenda Item:	7	Report Details
<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Background to the Report:</i></u></p> <p>Schools are working in different ways due to the lock down and current crisis. Blended learning and distance learning resources have been made available to schools to support the new way of working.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Purpose of the Report:</i></u></p> <p>To provide SACRE members with an awareness of the resources that are available to schools.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Recommendations:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To receive the verbal report		

This page is intentionally left blank

<p>Denbighshire County Council Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)</p>		
Date of Meeting:		2 nd February 2021
Agenda Item:	8	Report Details
<u><i>Background to the Report:</i></u>		
<p>SACRE continues to be a member of the Wales Association of SACREs, and receives reports on meetings from members attending, copies of minutes of meetings and any other reports from the Association.</p>		
<u><i>Purpose of the Report:</i></u>		
<p>For members to be informed as to the focus and main outcomes of the previous meeting.</p>		
<u><i>Recommendations:</i></u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To receive the minutes of the last meeting of the Association on 7th October 2020 – Online. ▪ To agree attendance to the next WASACRE Online - Date TBC. 		

This page is intentionally left blank