

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

Date: 9 October 2023

Direct Dial: 01824 712568

e-mail: democratic@denbighshire.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

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, 17 OCTOBER 2023** in **BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**.

Yours sincerely

Gary Williams
Monitoring Officer

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 5 - 6)

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 7 - 14)

To receive and approve the minutes of the Denbighshire SACRE meeting held on 15 June 2023 (copy enclosed).

- 5 CURRICULUM FOR WALES, UPDATE** (Pages 15 - 16)
To receive a verbal update on the role out of the Curriculum for Wales, the Denbighshire Agreed Syllabus for RVE and the RVE supporting guidance.
- 6 SACRE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23** (Pages 17 - 34)
To consider and approve the draft SACRE Annual Report 2022-23.
- 7 RVE AND RE OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES** (Pages 35 - 36)
To receive a presentation on the range of material available to support teachers of RVE and RE.
- 8 WASACRE** (Pages 37 - 48)
To receive the minutes of the meeting held online 19th June 2023.
- 9 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**
Spring - 22/2/24
Summer - 26/6/24
Autumn - 15/10/24

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors Representing Denbighshire County Council

Ellie Chard
Cheryl Williams
Ann Davies
Gill German

Merfyn Parry
Huw Williams
Delyth Jones
Emrys Wynne

Representing Religious Denominations and Non-Religious Philosophical Convictions

Suzy Sturley
Mr. Dominic Oakes
Rev. B H Jones

Rev. Martin Evans-Jones
Jennie Downes
Collette Owen

Representing Teacher Associations

Leah Crimes
Sarah Griffiths

Susan Williams

Co-opted Members

Ms. Tania Ap Siôn

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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'.

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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Minutes of a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held by video conference on Thursday, 15 June 2023 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Representing Denbighshire County Council

Councillors Ellie Chard (Chair), Delyth Jones and Cheryl Williams

Representing Religious Denominations and Non-Religious Philosophical Convictions

Jennie Downes and Collette Owen

Representing Teacher Associations

Leah Crimes and Susan Williams

ALSO PRESENT

RE Adviser (PL), Principal Education Manager (JB) and Committee Administrators (KEJ and NPH [Zoom Host])

SILENT REFLECTION

The meeting began with a few minutes' silent reflection.

1 APOLOGIES

Councillors Gill German and Emrys Wynne together with Reverend Brian H Jones, Dominic Oakes, Sarah Griffiths and Tania Ap Siôn

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Jennie Downes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 8 WASACRE in so far as it related to Nominations for the WASACRE Executive Committee because she was a nominee.

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

The Chair advised that she intended to include for discussion the following matter requiring urgent attention –

Nominations for the WASACRE Executive Committee

It was agreed to consider this item during agenda item 8 as it related to WASACRE.

4 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) meeting held on 8 February 2023 (previously circulated) were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 8 February 2023 be received and approved as a correct record.

5 CURRICULUM FOR WALES

The RE Adviser gave a presentation regarding Welsh Government's Professional Learning Playlist for Religion, Values and Ethics, via a web link to the Hwb website.

Members were advised that Welsh Government had recently published professional learning resources to support teachers and senior leaders' understanding and planning for Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE), and the purpose of the presentation was to aid members' understanding of the requirements and planning implications of RVE on schools, and to raise awareness of those resources within schools, etc.

During the presentation members were shown how to access the professional learning page which focused on five modules relevant to a variety of stakeholders: (1) Early Years, (2) Primary Schools, (3) Secondary Settings, (4) Additional Learning Needs, and (5) Headteachers. For the purposes of the presentation, members were guided through the Headteachers Playlist.

Areas covered as part of the Headteachers Playlist included –

- Welcome – to provide support with the changes to RVE within the Curriculum for Wales and transition to a new way of thinking, planning and delivering RVE
- Critical Engagement – provision of case studies and examples to offer inspiration and ideas for planning for individual school settings
- Aims – to develop a greater understanding of the changes to RVE to support the approach to implementing changes in specific school settings
- detailed the main changes arising from the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 as it related to RE and RVE and what had stayed the same
- Self-Evaluation – provided the opportunity to undertake a self-evaluation
- Quiz – members took part in an interactive quiz to test their knowledge
- Implications – detailed the implications relating to the curriculum design model; staff; communicating to stakeholders, and conversations with parents who may be concerned that there was no right to withdraw their child from RVE
- Summary – provided a summary of the key points and things to consider.

Members welcomed the comprehensive resource material provided which would be a valuable support for practitioners, and agreed that a letter of commendation be sent to the authors of the material in that regard.

There was further discussion on the conversations with parents who may be concerned that there was no right to withdraw their child from RVE, and implications of the staggered roll out of the removal of the right to withdraw, given that a child may be withdrawn from RE but not RVE. The RE Adviser indicated that he had

already been contacted by one school seeking advice in that regard and also reported on work to be carried out in collaboration with WASACRE, NAPfRE and the Welsh Government on producing some formal guidance in the future. However, it was noted that those concerns and conversations were current and it was agreed that some guidance/bullet points be developed in the interim with a view to providing early support in addressing those issues and concerns. Any subsequent formal guidance issued by the Welsh Government would naturally supersede the interim guidance produced by Denbighshire. To that end, it was agreed that the RE Adviser and Principal Education Manager, together with representatives from the two Dioceses and school representatives, work together with a view to formulating that interim guidance for Denbighshire's schools.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) *the presentation by the RE Adviser be received;*
- (b) *members to make schools they are connected to aware of the professional learning resources;*
- (c) *a commendation letter be sent to the authors of the learning resources on the excellent material provided and its value to the education sector, and*
- (d) *the RE Adviser to work with the Principal Education Manager together with representatives from the Church in Wales Diocese (Jennie Downes) and Roman Catholic Diocese (Colette Owen) and school representatives (Susan Williams, and the school who had sought advice on the matter) with a view to formulating guidance on the removal of the right to withdraw from RVE.*

6 PLANNING FOR THE NEW CURRICULUM

Leah Crimes, Headteacher of St. Brigid's School, Denbigh gave a presentation on how the school had planned and implemented Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) within the Curriculum for Wales to date, together with next steps.

Ms. Crimes provided some context to St. Brigid's, which was a voluntary aided 3-19 through faith school with a designated religious character which was Roman Catholicism. RVE was currently statutory up to Year 6 and from September it would be statutory up to year 8. The school had mapped and trialled their whole RVE scheme from nursery to Year 7 which had been working well.

The following elements were included in the comprehensive presentation –

- St. Brigid School's Curriculum Vision – provided some history to the school, ethos and values and mission statement and work to ensure the school had been able to be pluralistic whilst promoting the teachings of the Catholic Church
- combining the Four Purposes and Catholic Learner Profile to create the Brigidine Learner Profile on which to base the Curriculum for Wales
- the vision of excellent RVE to turn out global citizens, critical thinkers, empathetic individuals, self-reflective practitioners as well as religious experts

- the journey so far – mapping through the 7 lenses in line with wider topics, and retaining the Catholic ethos and Brigidine way alongside the RVE curriculum
- provided detailed examples of Lower School RVE mapping through the school terms and topics for Nursery and Reception through to Years 1,2 3 and 4
- the next steps to think about ‘what is the Golden Thread’ that runs through the stories for children linked to concepts with further mapping and audit work
- mapping the RVE curriculum in Years 7,8 and 9 and range of topics considered
- to endeavor to equip learners with the skills to determine the truth
- pupils to study topics exploring the diversity of belief in the modern world
- provided some ‘taster’ resources from the Year 7 lessons
- explained the aim of the St. Brigid’s RVE curriculum to fulfill Welsh Government legislation, meet the Brigidine Learner Profile, equip exploration in the Humanities What Matters Statement, and offer opportunities to develop transferable skills and form links with other disciplines.

The Chair thanked Ms. Crimes for the interesting and informative presentation which had been well received by members who acknowledged the hard work carried out in planning and implementing RVE in the school together with the collaborative approach taken for the benefit of all pupils. It had been particularly interesting to see how, as designated faith school, RVE had been implemented.

In response to questions, Ms. Crimes explained the involvement of the Trustees and Governors within the process which had thus far satisfied all stakeholders, and also explained how information had been shared with parents, with regular updates on activities via Seesaw and Google Classroom.

At the close of debate, the RE Adviser added his thanks, advising that he had asked Ms. Crimes to deliver the presentation at Monday’s WASACRE meeting. It was interesting to note that as a voluntary aided faith school, St. Brigid’s had not previously been included in the scope of SACRE and WASACRE.

RESOLVED that the presentation be received and noted.

7 ANALYSIS OF INSPECTION REPORTS

The RE Adviser submitted a report (previously circulated) analysing the results of recent Estyn inspections in terms of RE provision and Collective Worship in twelve schools between May 2022 and May 2023.

Inspections had been carried out at Ysgol Gynradd Pentrecelyn; Ysgol Pendref; Ysgol Penmorfa; Ysgol Caer Drewyn; Ysgol Gwynrad Carrog; Ysgol Castell; Ysgol Borthyn VC Primary School; Ysgol Llewellyn; Ysgol Frongoch; Prestatyn High School; Rhyl High School, and Ysgol Uwchradd Glan Clwyd.

The RE Adviser had provided a brief resume of the findings relating to each school and comments which related to Religion, Value and Ethics. Due to changes in the inspection process the number of comments relating directly to the provision of RE and Collective Worship in schools had reduced and reports to SACRE had subsequently been submitted on an annual basis as opposed to a termly basis as in previous years. No inspections had taken place during the Covid pandemic and the

report detailed inspections undertaken since then. Some contextual information relating to each school had also been provided as previously requested by SACRE.

Members had been pleased to note the resumption of the annual analysis of inspection reports following the pandemic and the positive comments made which provided an insight into RVE within Denbighshire's schools and work undertaken.

At this point the RE Adviser reported on a meeting on 14 February 2023 between Estyn and WASACRE Executive members regarding monitoring of standards and progress (WASACRE minutes of 21 March 2023 referred) which covered topics such as: Monitoring the provision of RVE in schools and regard to the Agreed Syllabus; Monitoring standards and progression in RVE; Collective Worship, and Effective practice. It was noted that schools would not be specifically inspected in relation to the quality of RVE provision, only to ensure that RVE was being taught and meeting the statutory requirements. In terms of Collective Worship, the 2017 Estyn guidance was still relevant. Both Estyn and WASACRE had considered the meeting beneficial and agreed to meet twice a year in future, with Estyn colleagues invited to provide updates at the main WASACRE meetings as and when needed. The RE Adviser added that the new Estyn Inspection Framework due in 2024 would likely be piloted from the Spring term onwards. Given the relevance of the new inspection framework further details would be provided to a future SACRE meeting.

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 letters to the schools involved.*

8 WASACRE

- **Minutes of WASACRE – 21 March 2023**

The draft minutes of the Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE) held via Microsoft Teams on 21 March 2023 (previously circulated) were submitted.

The RE Adviser guided members through the minutes. Particular attention was paid to Minute No. 9 Conversations with England colleagues (NASACRE, REC, Regional RE Hubs) given that education in Wales was becoming increasingly different to England with the introduction of the new Curriculum for Wales, and how those organisations worked together. Further discussions were to take place with those organisations to develop the relationship between NASACRE and WASACRE; enable better communication and collaboration with REC over the long term and potentially set up a REC Wales forum, and address issues raised

regarding the development of Regional RE hubs without direct communication with WASACRE or NAPfRE, and the way forward. The RE Adviser also referred to the EFTRE Conference and encouraged members to visit EFTRE's website which provided an insight into RE across Europe.

RESOLVED that minutes of WASACRE held on 21 March 2023 be received.

- **WASACRE Meeting – 19 June 2023**

The next WASACRE meeting would be held virtually via Zoom on 19 June 2023 'hosted' by Denbighshire. It was noted that the Head of Education, Geraint Davies would be giving a welcome speech. Members were asked to contact either the RE Adviser or Democratic Services for a link to the meeting if they wished to attend.

- **Nominations for the WASACRE Executive Committee**

[This item was considered as a matter of urgency, notice having been given by the Chair at the commencement of the meeting.]

Having a declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this matter, Jennie Downes left the meeting at this point and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

The RE Adviser reported on three nominations received for the two positions on the Executive Committee, namely Jennie Downes, Denbighshire SACRE/SAC, Councillor Arfon Wyn, Anglesey SACRE/SAC together with Marged Williams and Tyler Saunders, Vale of Glamorgan SACRE/SAC (job share), and sought members' views on those candidates.

Members considered the background and experience of the candidates and agreed all had merit. Following a brief discussion, it was –

RESOLVED that Jennie Downes, Denbighshire and Arfon Wyn, Anglesey receive Denbighshire SACRE's vote for election to the WASACRE Executive Committee.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Denbighshire SACRE would be held on 17 October 2023.

The meeting concluded at 11.40 am.

Denbighshire County Council Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)		
Date of Meeting:		17 th October 2023
Agenda Item:	5	Report Details
<u><i>Background to the Report:</i></u>		
<p>Denbighshire published its agreed syllabus Summer 2022. The Curriculum for Wales become statutory for all primary schools Sept 2022 and for year 7 and 8 pupils this September. Schools have had a year to trial, plan and evaluate their practice regarding the new curriculum.</p>		
<u><i>Purpose of the Report:</i></u>		
<p>To allow SACRE members to discuss how schools are adapting to the new curriculum. An opportunity for Governors and those working in schools to share their experiences.</p>		
<u><i>Recommendations:</i></u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To possibly share good practice within the DCC RVE network. 		

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<p>Denbighshire County Council Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)</p>		
Date of Meeting:		17 th October 2023
Agenda Item:	6	Report Details
<p><u><i>Background to the Report:</i></u></p>		
<p>It is a statutory requirement on the SACRE to produce and Annual Report of its work, and that this Annual Report be made available to DfES by December 31st.</p>		
<p><u><i>Purpose of the Report:</i></u></p>		
<p>To identify and record the work of the SACRE for the year from September 2021– July 2022</p>		
<p><u><i>Recommendations:</i></u></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To approve the report, subject to any amendments, as an accurate account. ▪ To request the LA to have the report 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. 		

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Annual Report

of the

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

2022-23



The Role of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education:

The principal roles of SACRE are:

- Advising the Local Authority on matters to do with Religious Education and collective worship, or Spiritual and Moral Development;
- Consider applications from Headteachers that their school be released from the statutory requirements for Collective Worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character (such applications are known as 'Determinations');
- Require a Local Authority to review its Agreed Syllabus;
- Monitor the provision of RE, collective worship and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in the schools of the Local Authority;
- Give advice on teacher agreed syllabus RE, including the choice of teacher materials;
- Advising the Local Authority on the provision of training for teachers (in RE);
- Considering complaints about the provision and delivery of RE and collective worship made to the Local Authority.
- To publish an Annual Report on its work.

The Composition of SACRE:

The statutory requirements for the setting up of SACREs require three committees of members:

- Representatives of Christian denominations or other religions and their denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions of the locality;
- Teacher representatives;
- County Council representatives.

There is also the right to co-opt members.

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d) Constitution	
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ii. DfES (Education Wales)	
iii. WASACRE	
c) Complaints	
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b) Number and dates of meetings	
c) Organisations receiving the report	
d) Newsletter	

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Executive Summary

<i>Topics/Issues:</i>	<i>Advice given:</i>	<i>Implemented By LA:</i>
RE: Agreed Syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denbighshire Local Authority convened an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) on 14th March 2022. The ASC advised the LA to adopt the Religion, Values and Ethics Guidance as the basis of the Local Agreed Syllabus for RVE. The Denbighshire Agreed Syllabus for RE is still applicable for secondary school years 9-11. 	✓
RE: Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following consideration of Inspection Reports, schools are sent letters congratulating them for the good features. 	✓
RE: Learning and teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Guidance has been created to support schools' understanding and planning for RVE within the Curriculum for Wales 2022. The LA should continue to promote and make schools aware of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Agreed Syllabus for RVE The Agreed Syllabus for RE Supplementary guidance for RVE GwE's Unpacking the Humanities AOLE (Secondary) Comprehensive Guide for RE RE in the Foundation Phase RE Quality Mark North Wales RE Hwb Network The annual newsletter contains reference to useful teaching materials Agored Cymru level 2 award in exploring worldviews Diversity and anti-racism professional learning (DARPL) National Association for Teachers of Religious Education Anti Racism resources Post 16 Challenging Religious Issues (E-Journal) 	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
RE: Provision of ITT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No presentations have been received from ITT providers. 	
Collective Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WASACRE published guidance on the withdrawal of pupils from Collective Worship – October 2021. 	✓

Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An additional member representing a non-religious world view to be added to the group on SACRE representing Faiths and non-religious philosophical convictions in line with the advice provided by the Welsh Government. Humanist representation to be sought for Committee Group A. 	✓
Other Matters: Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A second newsletter has been published – the LA will distribute it to all schools. 	✓
Other Matters: National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members receive regular updates of Estyn Inspection Reports or documents relating to RE and Collective Worship. WG released the Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) guidance. The SACRE maintain its membership of WASACRE. Representatives attend and report back on the meetings of the association. Denbighshire hosted the Summer WASACRE meeting. 	✓ ✓ ✓
Other Matters: additional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other additional matters. 	
Complaints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No complaints received. 	

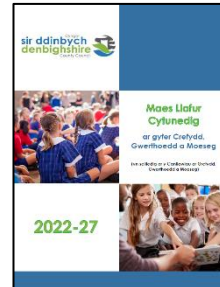
2. Advice Given to the LA

a. Religious Education and the Agreed Syllabus

i. The Agreed Syllabus

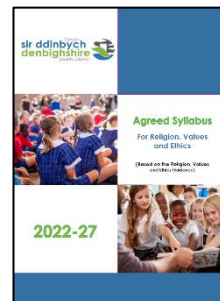
Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics (Curriculum for Wales 2022)

Denbighshire Local Authority Published its Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics during the summer of 2023. The Agreed Syllabus is based on Welsh Governments' [Religion, Values and Ethics Guidance](#). Changes have been made to ensure that the document can be read as a Denbighshire Agreed Syllabus for RVE and each section is numbered to allow it to be navigated with ease.



In accordance with the changes to the Curriculum for Wales 2022, Religion, Values and Ethics will be taught to all primary school children and years 7 & 8 learners (during the academic year 2023-24).

Secondary schools will continue to teach the pre 2022 curriculum (called Curriculum for Wales 2008), including the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, to pupils in years 9 to 11 in Sept 2023.



To download a copy of the Denbighshire Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics please go to...

English –

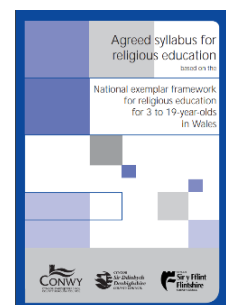
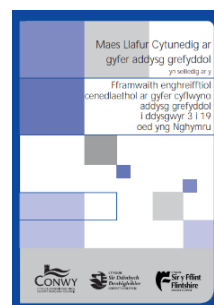
https://1drv.ms/b/s!Ai7Z9WAeWMNXhd8mIfgDThYuSHs_Hg?e=mHIWCW

Welsh –

<https://1drv.ms/b/s!Ai7Z9WAeWMNXhd9HfvczJ5abJjroPA?e=bugpZd>

Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (Curriculum for Wales 2008)

The Agreed Syllabus, conforming to the requirements of the new Curriculum for Wales 2022, relates the subject titled 'Religion, Values and Ethics'. The previous Agreed Syllabus, still applicable for secondary schools for the reasons described above, relates to the subject titled 'Religious Education'. This is an important distinction.



Denbighshire adopted the 'National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education for 3-19 year olds' as the Locally Agreed Syllabus for 'Religious Education' in 2008. To download a copy of the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education please go to:

English - <https://1drv.ms/b/s!Ai7Z9WAeWMNXhJkRqyAGO2b1HtmpnQ?e=D98kuj>

Welsh -

<https://1drv.ms/b/s!Ai7Z9WAeWMNXhJkPk7GnR4j8dGRkWQ?e=WUXJSs>

ii. Standards

Examinations Reports

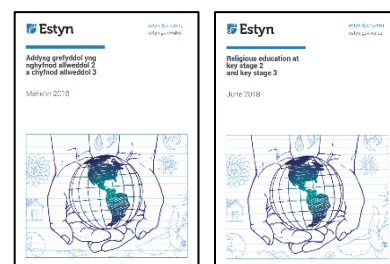
Due to continued guidance from Welsh Government on the way data is presented and to avoid arbitrary comparison of schools, members were not presented with and were unable to discuss the comparative examination data for examinations awarded in 2021/22.

The principal education officer for Denbighshire has attended all SACRE meetings this year. There has been and will continue to be a much closer relationship between the LA and SACRE. The principal education officer will be able to identify schools requiring additional support as a result of a schools' own self-evaluation, Estyn inspections and collaboration with the regional consortia.

Inspection Reports

There are no subject judgments in the current Estyn inspection framework. Instead, members receive information from the reports relating to Estyn's comments of a schools' provision of SMSC. See part c Collective Worship - Monitoring provision - Inspection reports.

Estyn conducted a thematic review of Religious Education at key stage 2 and key stage 3. Estyn published its findings June 2018. The report provided recommendations as a result of its findings. Click image to see report:



The current attached report outlines recommendations summarised below.

Schools should:

R1 Ensure that more able pupils achieve in line with their ability in religious education.

R2 Strengthen monitoring and self-evaluation arrangements in key stage 2 to focus on improving pupils' standards and skills in religious education.

R3 Strengthen transition arrangements so that learning experiences in key stage 3 build on those in key stage 2 and avoid repetition of work.

R4 Evaluate their curriculum for religious education to prepare for the development and implementation of the new Humanities Area of Learning and Experience.

Local authorities and regional consortia should:

R5 Work with SACREs to provide:

- a. suitable professional learning opportunities for teachers of religious education.

- b. support for schools to evaluate their curriculum and plan for religious education as an integral part of the development of the humanities area of learning and experience.
- c. advice for schools on how to address sensitive issues with pupils and how to deal with parental concerns on visiting places of worship.

R6 Ensure that all leaders fulfil their responsibilities under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

R7 Provide schools with guidance on approved places of worship to visit.

The Welsh Government should:

R8 Work with local authorities, regional consortia and SACREs to ensure that there is clarity over the place of religious education within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience.

b. Learning and Teaching

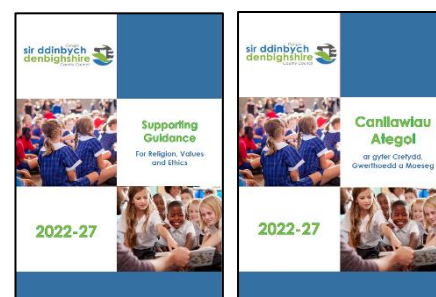
Curriculum for Wales 2022

For information about the Curriculum for Wales 2022 please watch this 35 minute [training session](#) organised by Denbighshire Local Authority.

Religion, Values and Ethics – Supporting Guidance

Supporting Guidance has been created to support the understanding and planning of RVE within context of the curriculum for Wales 2022. The guidance contains information about:

- RVE concepts
- Concepts cross-referenced with the Humanities AOLE Statements of What Matters and Descriptions of Learning
- RVE Lenses
- RVE Journeys
- Points to consider for schools and settings.



Download a copy using the links below:

English - <https://1drv.ms/b/s!Ai7Z9WAeWMNXhd9Fsz8MOiglHzmFSw?e=Ft4QkH>

Welsh - <https://1drv.ms/b/s!Ai7Z9WAeWMNXhd9Yj5eNwB9YBEA2XA?e=KaQ8Cr>

GwE – Unpacking the Humanities AOLE (Secondary)

During the summer term 2022, GwE provided two training sessions for secondary school humanities teachers providing key messages regarding this AOLE.

The first session focus:

- An understanding of the mandatory elements of the Curriculum for Wales framework in relation to the Humanities
- The principles of planning and key considerations for the Humanities

- The pedagogical considerations within the 'Designing your curriculum' section outlined in the AoLE guidance

Presentation English - <http://cefnogaeth.gwegogledd.cymru/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Humanities-Session-1.pdf>

Presentation Welsh - <http://cefnogaeth.gwegogledd.cymru/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Dyniaethau-1.pdf>

Video English - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3LpzxDCERw>

Video Welsh - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3LpzxDCERw&t=7s>

The second session focus:

- Developing a shared understanding of the learning continuum
- Considering approaches to planning and assessment
- Exploring effective pedagogical approaches within and beyond the AoLE

Presentation English - <http://cefnogaeth.gwegogledd.cymru/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Session-2-Humanities-eng.pdf>

Presentation Welsh http://cefnogaeth.gwegogledd.cymru/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Sesiwn-2-Dyniaethau_-CYFRWNG-CYMRAEG.pdf

Video English - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZuE-HbpwB1Y&t=3s>

Video Welsh - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1gemVVRzZQ>

Religious Education

SACRE and the LA have previously provided comprehensive documents and materials in support of the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, and these contain advice on methods of teaching and delivery of RE.

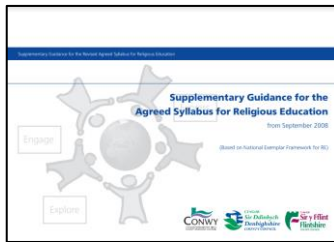
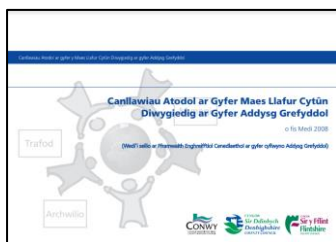
The planning documents, 'Comprehensive Guide to RE' and 'RE in the Foundation Phase', which complement the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, continue to be accessed and used by schools. These resources may be adapted for the delivery of RVE in the primary sector and will continue to be relevant to year groups being taught Religious Education. The resources are available on a Hwb Network - North Wales Religious Education Network. To download a copy of these resources please see below:

Comprehensive Guide to RE

English -

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1G9jCYby8XQJgg9m8JN6HYA3sr_jR5E18/view?usp=sharing

Welsh - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OsNQ-UtnolkWTIWzxBuJQfz7tVLohhml/view?usp=sharing>

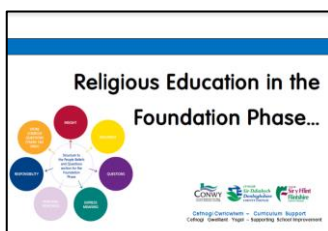


RE in the Foundation Phase

English - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X-9J8auJglQ-GzGk12o-002s81gdQ8tV/view?usp=sharing>

Welsh -

https://drive.google.com/file/d/17itLQaqOsQ6WjLdk_ee1AlaigdqwKW0w/view?usp=sharing



Religious Education Quality Mark

Self-evaluation materials continue to be promoted and are available on the REQM website. The RE Quality Mark recognises, celebrates and publicises outstanding religious education in all primary and secondary schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland through its three levels of award, bronze, silver and gold. More information about the quality mark can be found on <https://www.reqm.org/>

North Wales RE Hwb Network

Teaching and research materials are available for teachers accessible through Hwb's - North Wales RE network - <https://hwb.gov.wales/go/d8tfh3>. Only those with a Hwb account will be able to access the materials on this network. The network contains teaching resources and research material relevant to Religious Education. Key research material available is:

- [Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward for RE](#) (English only)
- [Big Ideas for Religious Education – Edited by Barbara Wintersgill](#) (English only)
- [Signposts – Policy and practice for teaching about religions and non-religious world views](#) (English only)

AGORED CYMRU LEVEL 2 AWARD IN EXPLORING WORLDVIEWS

SACRE members received a presentation about Agored Cymru's development of 'Exploring Worldviews', a suite of level 1 and 2 qualifications supporting an understanding of religious and non-religious worldviews. The qualification meets the three core skills set out in the exemplar framework (current curriculum), and it provides opportunities for exploring the concepts for RVE through the statements of what matters in the Humanities area of learning and experience in the Curriculum for Wales (new curriculum). It is not designed to replace the current Religious Studies GCSE, however, it will provide an accessible recognised qualification whilst allowing a school to meet its statutory obligation at Key Stage 4. More details can be found by visiting

English - <https://www.agored.cymru/Units-and-Qualifications/Learning->

[Core/Exploring-Worldviews](#)

Welsh - <https://www.agored.cymru/Unedau-a-Chymwysterau/Craidd-Dysgu/Archwilio-Bydolygon>

Diversity and anti-racism professional learning (DARPL)

DARPL's website contains a range of training material to support this important aspect of the Curriculum for Wales 2022.

English - <https://darpl.org/>

Welsh - <https://darpl.cymru/>

National Association for Teachers of Religious Education

Schools have been informed of anti-racist resources made available by NATRE. Unfortunately, these resources are only available in the English language. They can be accessed here... <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/anti-racist-re/>

Post 16 Challenging Religious Issues (E-Journal)

Challenging Religious Issues is a journal for students and teachers of AS and A-level Religious Studies. It is also a useful resource for anyone who wants to develop or refresh their subject knowledge. Over 65 open access journal articles have been published in the journal so far including articles written by leading scholars and practitioners. The articles are linked to Religious Studies A-level specifications. The articles are interactive through the use of 'discussion points' and live links to relevant external websites. All issues are available in English and Welsh. The St Giles' Centre has funded and managed the Welsh language version from issue 14 onwards. Please click the link below to access the Challenging Religious Issues from the St Giles website.

English - <https://stgilescentre.org/16-2/>

Welsh - <https://stgilescentre.org/cy/16-2/>



European Forum for Teachers of Religious Education

Teaching of RE differs greatly across Europe. For a greater insight into RE in neighbouring countries visit www.eftre.net



Provision of Initial Teacher Training

No presentations were received by ITT institutions this year.

c) Collective Worship

Monitoring provision

Inspection Reports

The Estyn supplementary guidance on inspecting collective worship was updated in November 2017 and continues to state that Estyn requires inspection teams to consider the provision for pupils' spiritual development and daily acts of Collective Worship in all non-denominational schools. Inspection teams must consider these aspects on each inspection and each report is likely to contain some comment of these aspects of pupils' development. However, it is not expected that inspectors will report on the quality of Collective Worship. It is up to each inspection team to weigh up the significance of any strengths and weaknesses in each inspection area.



There is no expectation for inspectors to report on whether a school meets the statutory duty to provide a daily act of collective worship, there would be an expectation of a comment in the report if a school were to be found in breach of its statutory duty.

As part of the process of monitoring, Estyn Inspection Reports are analysed for comments on collective worship and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC). These are compiled and noted by SACRE. Letters are sent to schools following the consideration of them in SACRE, commending good practice. Estyn restarted inspections during the summer 2022. 12 Inspection reports were analysed and presented to SACRE members during the Summer Term meeting.

Positive Comments in Inspection Areas:	No of schools
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	3
Teaching and Learning Experiences	2
Care, Support and Guidance	10

INSET for Collective Worship

WASACRE published guidance on the withdrawal of pupils from Collective Worship – October 2021.

English -

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u4lRhIHGeDrKC2EYU3LpypJdsussTX0/view>

Welsh -

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/149OtijKIL4F3qYbLXUVYzv4cRGhyk4IL/view>

Determinations

No Determinations have been made.

d) Constitution

Due to changes in Welsh legislation, there is a place for a Welsh Humanist representative on Group of the committee.

Religious Education has been replaced or used alongside Religion, Values and Ethics.

3) Other Matters

a) Local

SACRE members met three times during the academic year. All three meets were held virtually.

Newsletter

Conwy and Denbighshire published its second newsletter. It provides schools with news related to RE/RVE and is especially important during the preparation for the new curriculum. The second edition contains information about the Curriculum for Wales. It also contains useful information regarding the Agored level 1 and 2 qualification, links to Wexham's St Giles centre for RVE, information about up and coming Welsh Government professional development resources for RVE and information about a post 16 RE E-Journal called 'Challenging Religious Issues'. The LA has distributed the newsletter to all schools and it is hosted on the North Wales Religious Education Hwb Network. It was presented to SACRE members Autumn 2023.



RVE Network

Denbighshire County Council created a Microsoft TEAMS during the summer 2022. The network 'DCC Religion, values & ethics 2022' allows teachers to access the Agreed Syllabus, the Supporting Guidance and other useful material. To access the network please use the following link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/team/19%3aSJHouQczzZxDrh7YWAFgk1FKtFzQ-A5hN8e8y856Zfg1%40thread.tacv2/conversations?groupId=aac98823-0b35-48fa-ab2a-5e711bb714c6&tenantId=4f3f0e52-b734-4164-9409-1b601d147993>

b) National

i. Estyn:

Estyn Inspection Framework 2024 onwards:



Estyn conducted a consultation in the Autumn Term 2020 on new inspection arrangements originally to be implemented after the suspension in inspections - Autumn 2021 but as a result of the pandemic school inspections had been suspended until Spring 2022. Due to capacity, SACRE was unable to submit a response, but members previously discussed the consultation document in detail. The Consultation responses and other information regarding Estyn's inspection processes from 2024 to 2030 can be accessed here:

English – <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/inspection/inspecting-future-2024-2030>
Welsh - <https://www.estyn.llyw.cymru/inspection/arolygu-ar-gyfer-y-dyfodol-2024-2030>

ii. Welsh Government - Education and Skills:

Supporting framework for RE

SACRE members were informed of Professional Learning resources supporting the roll out of the new curriculum, created by a Welsh Government and WASACRE collaboration. These resources were published Summer 2023:

Welsh Medium Playlist -

<https://hwb.gov.wales/repository/resource/eef7e399-93bb-4d7c-ab68-145c93f4c6d3>

English Medium Playlist - <https://hwb.gov.wales/repository/resource/eef7e399-93bb-4d7c-ab68-145c93f4c6d3>



iii. WASACRE

Members of SACRE and the LA were represented at three meetings of WASACRE and received some of the presentations that had been made. SACRE continued to receive reports from representatives attending the meetings of the Association. Minutes and papers from WASACRE have also been presented at SACRE meetings. Minutes and presentations can be found on WASACRE's website <http://wasacre.org.uk/>.



Denbighshire LA hosted the Summer WASACRE (Virtual) meeting. The education director provided an opening welcome and members received a presentation titled 'Planning for The New Curriculum' from St. Brigid's School, Denbigh on how they have planned and implemented RVE within the Curriculum for Wales.

c) Complaints

No complaints were received by the SACRE.

4. Appendices:

a) Composition of SACRE

Representing Religious Denominations:

Church in Wales
Jennie Downes

Roman Catholic
Collette Owen

Baptist Union
Nomination awaited (Welsh)
Nomination awaited (English)

Presbyterian
Rev. Brian H Jones (Welsh)
Christine Thomas (English)

Methodist
Rev. Martin Evans-Jones

United Reformed
Nomination awaited

Union of Welsh Independents
Nomination awaited

Religious Society of Friends
Dominic Oakes

Nomination awaited

Representing Teacher Associations:

Secondary Headteacher
Leah Crimes

Junior Headteacher
Nomination awaited

Secondary RE Specialists
Sarah Griffiths

Infant Headteacher
Nomination awaited

Special School Teachers
Ali Balentine

Junior Classroom Teacher
Susan Williams

Infant Classroom Teacher
Nomination awaited

Representing Denbighshire County Council

Councillor Ellie Chard
Councillor Cheryl Williams
Councillor Ann Davies
Councillor Gill German

Councillor Merfyn Parry
Councillor Huw Williams
Councillor Delyth Jones
Councillor Emrys Wynne

Co-opted Members:

Tania Ap Sion – Director of the St. Mary's Centre

b) Number and dates of meetings

SACRE Meetings:

- 19th October 2022
- 8th February 2023
- 15th June 2023

Denbighshire Hosted the WASACRE Summer (Virtual) Meeting – 19th June 2023

c) Organisations receiving the report

- DFES
- Denbighshire Schools
- The report is available on the WASACRE website for interested organisations.

Denbighshire County Council Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)		
Date of Meeting:		17 th October 2023
Agenda Item:	7	Report Details
<u><i>Background to the Report:</i></u>		
The Annual report highlights supporting material and opportunities available for RVE and RE teachers.		
<u><i>Purpose of the Report:</i></u>		
To raise awareness of these opportunities and allow SACRE members to include others for the benefit of teachers.		
<u><i>Recommendations:</i></u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To receive the presentation.• The LA to communicate these materials and opportunities to Denbighshire Schools.		

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<p>Denbighshire County Council Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)</p>		
Date of Meeting:		17 th October 2023
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 meeting held online 19th June 2023 (hosted by Denbighshire). ▪ To agree attendance to the next WASACRE meeting 25th October 2023rd. 		

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Attendance

<p>Ynys Môn / Anglesey Owen Davies (OD)</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent Chris Abbas (CA) Hayley Jones (HJ)</p> <p>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend Alice Parry (AP) Donna Graves (DG)</p> <p>Caerffili/ Caerphilly John Taylor (JT) Marina Chacon-Dawson (MCD) Hayley Jones (HJ)</p> <p>Caerdydd / Cardiff John Taylor (JT) Donna Graves (DG)</p> <p>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire Jennifer Harding Richards (JHR)</p> <p>Ceredigion Keith Evans (KE) Mary Davies (MD)</p> <p>Conwy Phil Lord (PL) Collette Owen (CO) Ellie Chard (EC)</p>	<p>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire Phil Lord (PL) Geraint Davies (GD) Leah Crimes (LC) James Brown (JB) Ruth Thackray (RT)</p> <p>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire Vicky Barlow (VB) Lyn Oakes (LO)</p> <p>Gwynedd Paul Rowlinson (PR) Eurfryn Davies (ED)</p> <p>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil Donna Graves (DG)</p> <p>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire Louise Brown (LB) Hayley Jones (EAS) Suzanne Gooding (SG)</p> <p>Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot Nia Jenkins (NJ) Rachel Samuel (RS)</p> <p>Casnewydd / Newport Hayley Jones (HJ) Huw Stephens (HS)</p>	<p>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire Jennifer Harding Richards (JHR)</p> <p>Powys John Mitson (JM)</p> <p>Rhondda Cynon Taf Mathew Maidment (MM) Donna Graves (DG)</p> <p>Abertawe / Swansea Jennifer Harding Richards (JHR)</p> <p>Torfaen Hayley Jones (HJ)</p> <p>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan Kathy Riddick (KR) Donna Graves (DG)</p> <p>Wrecsam / Wrexham Tania ap Siôn (TS) Libby Jones (LJ)</p> <p>NAPfRE Paula Webber (PW)</p>	<p>Observers:</p> <p>REMW</p> <p>WJEC Chris Owens (CO)</p> <p>Estyn Aranwen Morgans-Thomas (AMT)</p> <p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Church in Wales</p> <p>Catholic Education Service Angela Keller (AK)</p> <p>Minutes (from recording) Jo Nicholls (JNI)</p>
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Minutes of the meeting

1. Introduction and welcome

TaS welcomed everyone to the summer meeting and thanked the Denbighshire Local Authority and SACRE/SAC for hosting the meeting. TaS welcomed and introduced the Head of Education Service for Denbighshire, Geraint Davies.

Geraint Davies formally welcomed everyone to the meeting. Geraint introduced the meeting with the following:

The curriculum has gone through a great deal of change over the last few years. Religion, Values and Ethics has taken the place of Religious Education. The law has formalised the inclusion of non-religious philosophical convictions and the voluntary aided sector now must have regard to a locally agreed syllabus also.

These changes have been a challenge to our schools, with every challenge comes exciting opportunities for staff to be creative to provide a truly local curriculum. The opportunities to ensure that RVE feeds into the four purposes is integral to the new Curriculum for Wales. These changes allow our pupils to be healthy confident individuals and have secure values and establish their spiritual and ethical beliefs. These opportunities help shape them to become ethically informed citizens and to respect the rights and needs of others in our diverse society.

Geraint Davies gave examples of Denbighshire's history with regards to faith and belief and reflected on how it will change in the future.

The 21st century has seen great advancement in technology and that has impacted and continues to impact on our lives.

There is a need to equip our young people with the skills to critically engage with beliefs and the benefits from the society they live in and embrace the increasingly intercultural communities that we all serve.

TaS thanked Geraint Davies for his introduction and for hosting the meeting.

2. Quiet reflection

In May 2023, LJ and TaS represented WASACRE at the NASACRE conference in London. NASACRE were celebrating 30 years of the Association, supporting the SACREs of England.

Even though it is clear that the education systems in Wales and England are becoming increasingly different there is a distinctive common history which is worth celebrating. A history centred on the significant local role given to SACREs and SACs for RVE and collective worship. A history in which during the last 3 decades a national association has been formed to the work for SACREs and SACs recognising both the value of the local but also the strength and support that comes with working together at a national level.

TaS led a quiet reflection, when members were asked to pause briefly and bring to mind their own local authorities that they were representing today. What have they got to offer to this meeting and the AGM today? What is that they can take back home with them to share?

3. Apologies

Apologies from the Executive Committee member, Edward Evans, Elin Stock and Kate Russell from Qualification Wales.

4. Minutes of the last meeting held on Zoom on 21st March 2023

Amendments to be made:

Page 1 Change Microsoft TEAMS to Zoom.
Page 2 JHR to be included as representing Carmarthenshire.
Page 9 Regional RE Hubs – changes to be made, TaS to forward exact details to Alice:

- Delete first sentence of the second paragraph.
- Misspelling of AREIAC and AULRE
- RE Today needs to be removed from the list of steering group organisations. (RE Today has not been on the steering group, rather 'the Regional RE Hubs is enable and supported by RE Today).
- NATRE can be added to the list as can TRS-UK and Culham St Gabriels.

With the above amendments, the minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting held on 21st March 2023

RS proposed to accept the minutes and HS seconded.

TaS will sign the final minutes and AP will file the minutes.

5. Matters arising from minutes of the last WASACRE meeting.

The name 'Regional RE Hubs' has changed to Regional RE Hubs UK.

Any other matters arising will be addressed in the agenda items of the meeting.

6. Welsh Government matters:

- 1) The only meeting since the last report was about the informal agreed syllabus review which was completed at the end of March. Welsh Government (WG) has put on record its thanks to WASACRE for undertaking the review of the agreed syllabi and are now in the process of responding to it.

We have a date scheduled to meet with Welsh Government colleagues about this and about specific matters such as the changes that WASACRE have asked for the legal section on Hwb.

- 2) National professional learning update – WASACRE are producing national resources in partnership with the Welsh Government. WASACRE presented the first batch of the national professional learning playlists at the Policy Insight Event on 25th April 2023. These have now been published on the WG Hwb. This event was well attended with over 100 attendees. It is recommended that all members visit the WG Hwb to view the playlists.

Work is continuing on the next batch of RVE resources and will soon be published in the early Autumn term. These will include RVE and cross-curricular skills – literacy, numeracy and digital competence, as well as a playlist for school governors.

A third batch of resources will cover pedagogy within RVE and RVE within the humanities.

7. NAPfRE presentation: Emerging practice from a 'faith' school perspective [Leah Crimes – Headteacher, St Brigid's School, Denbigh]

Phil Lord, the Advisor for Denbighshire introduced the NAPfRE presentation. Leah Crimes (LC) is the Headteacher of St Brigid's School, Denbigh. St Brigid's is a school for 3-18 year olds, located on the outskirts of Denbigh. It is a faith school with a designated religious character. The school's trust designates the school's character as Roman Catholic, but it is not associated with the Catholic Education Service nor the Diocese of Wrexham. As a result, the school does not follow the Catholic Education Service's religious education curriculum directly.

St Brigid's has been working with Denbighshire SACRE/SAC and PL and the school has planned RVE with regard to the Welsh Government's guidance on RVE and Denbighshire's agreed syllabus and its own designated religious character.

LC presented a sample of work in relation to the RVE curriculum. She stressed that it was a work in progress and was not suggesting that it is best practice. It has been created having regard to the agreed syllabus and looking at the history of St Brigid's School. They are basing the school's Curriculum for Wales and RVE curriculum on their cynefin with the history of school and beyond Denbighshire, and including a range of pluralistic views. LC will be working with PL to refine and improve the curriculum for September. It is a new way of teaching and has been well received by learners up to year 7 who have enjoyed the authentic experience.

A copy of the presentation will be sent to the WASACRE members. LC is also happy to share resources.

TaS thanked LC for the inspiring presentation.

LW: Thanked LC for the presentation. Suggested that manmade climate change would be better linked with stewardship rather than veganism. In relation to the sanctity of life, as pro-life is considered to be a non-religious philosophical conviction in the European Court, this could be included accordingly. Although currently Humanism is secular, in the past there have been Christian Humanists, worth considering looking at this in more depth.

LC: Thanked LB and agreed that climate change would sit well with stewardship and agreed to look into pro-life. LC thanks LW for raising these two points and explained that certain aspects have been condensed in the presentation. Good points to help us to refine our curriculum.

PW: Thanked LC for the presentation and the deep thought that has been put into the curriculum design. PW asked, how, in a practical way, did they unpack the statements of what matters during the curriculum design process?

LC: They planned backwards and looked at how their children could understand those statements and made sure that they provided them with the skills and experiences in order to hit those statements. They use a program called Taith360 but are still deciding whether it is of benefit. It is a program that displays all curriculum areas and it is used as a planning tool. It assesses your curriculum and produces a colour-coded output of coverage of the statements of what matters.

KE: Requested a copy of the slides.

LC: Happy to share the slides with the members and happy to talk with KE's school in Ceredigion.

LB: Is St Brigid's School under voluntary control rather than voluntary aided?

LC: St Brigid's School is a Voluntary aided school.

TaS: Wished LC all the best as they continue on their journey.

ACTION: LC to send a copy of slides to the secretary for onward distribution to WASACRE members.

TaS explained that there was difficulty with the Welsh translation and the meeting was paused while a solution was found.

8. Qualification Wales (QW)

RS: The consultation closed on 14 June. To prepare for this the WASACRE Executive Committee produced a short video and shared the Executive Committee's draft response with SACREs/SACs. SACREs/SACs were encouraged to respond and to share the information with teachers within their local authorities.

The Executive Committee responded to the consultation on behalf of WASACRE using opinions and comments previously shared. The main foci of the response were:

- Noting that a specific qualification is needed for Religion, Values and Ethics for a number of reasons, such as those shared within the draft distributed to the SACRES/SACs.
- The importance of obtaining a qualification within a mandatory subject and its value to the learners was emphasised.
- It was shown how it would support the Curriculum for Wales and the four purposes.
- It was emphasised that it would also provide an opportunity for progression within Religion Values and Ethics up to the age of 16.
- Attention was drawn to the problem that the new GCSE starts in 2025 and there will be a box until 2027 until the full proposal starts to be taught. What can be done to respond to the gap?

The next steps will be to wait to hear the results of the consultation. It will depend on the number of responses and their comments whether a qualification is suggested by Qualifications Wales. If they were to develop a qualification it will be a short qualification on Religion, Values and Ethics which will sit within the foundation qualifications. We have emphasised that if such a qualification is developed it will need to be available from entry level standard up to level 2 to ensure opportunities for all learners. If such a qualification is developed we are sure that Qualifications Wales will be in touch to receive help and support from the members of WASACRE as they develop the qualification. We will update you on any developments when we hear more.

The final design of the new GCSE will be published for development by WJEC on the 26 June.

TaS: Hopefully QW has received a large number of responses, and this will affect the outcome. TaS emphasised the importance of responding to consultations. WASACRE provides support to SACREs and SACs when responding to consultations.

9. EFTRE conference [August 2023]

In March WASACRE agreed to fully fund one teacher to attend the conference in August. TaS confirmed that one expression of interest was received from Alice Parry, WASACRE Secretary. TaS delighted that AP would be able to attend and asked AP to report back to the members after the conference.

10. Up-dates:

- **Report from the Executive Committee held on 17 May 2023**

TaS – most things are covered on the agenda.

The Executive Committee agreed to hold a WASACRE conference in the coming school year. Planning has commenced and will involve national professional learning and case studies. WASACRE's aim is to create an exciting, cutting-edge event. As is usual practice, WASACRE will work with NAPfRE with regards to planning. WASACRE will fully fund the conference. It won't just take the form of a full conference day but there will be a series of online seminars in the lead up to the conference. These will all be free to member SACREs/SACs and their schools / practitioners. More information to be shared in the autumn term.

It had been agreed to award the WASACRE Assistant Secretary an honorarium in recognition of the enormous amount of work being conducted in this role.

- **Estyn**

TaS: In the spring meeting Estyn provided a helpful briefing paper on Estyn inspection guidance for schools.

AMT: Thanked WASACRE for inviting Estyn to the meeting and pleased to hear that the briefing paper was useful. AMT reported that Estyn is in the process of preparing the new inspection framework for 2024. The consultation is open on the Estyn website and AMT encouraged responses. Estyn will be happy to provide a brief update at the next meeting.

TaS expressed thanks to AMT and accepted Estyn's offer to feedback at the next meeting. TaS reinforced the importance of responding to consultations.

- **WJEC**

CO: Thanked WASACRE for the invite to the meeting. WJEC is in full examination mode until the end of July and cannot speak to the current examination summer series 2023.

CO confirmed that there has been a fall in the number of candidates across GSCE, AS and A level for Religious Studies.

CO's responsibility is only GSCE RS, and the results will be released on August 24th, 2023.

Following up from RS's QW item, WJEC are waiting for the recent materials from QW from June 26th, 2023.

Worth noting that WJEC is in the process of appointing a subject advisor for RS and also looking for support to help with the writing of materials. The advert is displayed on the WJEC website. Looking for subject writers for the new specification. The remit is to help produce specification content in line with the qualification outline to produce assessment tasks, mark schemes etc. The deadline for applications is Friday 7th July 2023.

In the Autumn Term, the Professional Learning (formally known as CPD) will include face-to-face events scheduled for Cardiff and Llandudno and there will be a **Cardarg** (1.25.53 mins) PL event schedule to take place in North Wales.

TaS thanked CO for the helpful update.

- **REC**

KR: It was the REC's 50th anniversary at the start of May. A big event was held at Conway Hall in London, home of The Ethical Union. There was a presentation from the Children's Commissioner for England who was an RE teacher herself.

At the meeting KR presented on the progress in Wales with the new curriculum and recognised that most of the RE community in England would like to be moving in the same direction as Wales and have strong support from the Government acknowledging the importance of SACREs and SACs.

At the end of April, the REC had a meeting with representatives from Welsh Organisations who are part of the REC: that is, WASACRE, REMW and Church in Wales. We were able to give them our perspective on whether we believe that the REC is a place for Wales to be represented as the two countries' curriculums are diverging so much. It was noted that it is important that the REC recognises Wales in everything it does and that it does not become an England-centric organisation.

REC will now work on how Wales can be represented more fully in the work that the REC does.

TaS thanks KR for the update.

- **EFTRE**

PL encourages everyone to look at the website; there are interesting country reports available. The one for Wales has been finalised and is waiting for upload to the website. There are also training videos available on the EFTRE website.

TaS: Thanked PL for representing WASACRE on the EFTRE board.

- **REMW**

No representative present.

- **NAPfRE**

NAPfRE met last week. It was PW's first meeting back and PL has been covering for her.

NAPfRE have also responded to the QW consultation in line with WASACRE's response. NAPfRE is delighted and excited that WASACRE are going ahead with the conference and is looking forward to fully participating in the planning process.

The working party groups were reinstated last week to look at the most pressing issues. As well as the termly meetings, NAPfRE are going to trial a meeting once a month with additional twilight sessions to work on projects. If there is anything that WASACRE members would like NAPfRE to look at, then please contact PW.

Four issues are identified for WASACRE to consider:

- 1) The group met last week to discuss the SACRE/SAC Annual Reports. NAPfRE would like WASACRE to write a letter to Welsh Government asking for an update on the status of the current 1996 and 2006 versions of the annual report guidance document produced by ACCAC. NAPfRE considers this document to be out of date in terms of language content, current practice, curriculum etc.

The WASCRE members agreed to this request.

- 2) WASACRE has a meeting with WG on a termly basis, with a NAPfRE representative. PW asked whether there is a meeting planned before the end of term to discuss the annual reports.

TaS mentioned that WASACRE have a meeting scheduled with a specific agenda but will be in touch with PW to see what can be included in the time limit of that meeting.

- 3) NAPfRE recently discussed the nature of RVE in the new curriculum and how it was developed in the writing process and how it was written to be a rigorous subject discipline which has parity with the other humanities disciplines. This led NAPfRE to consider undertaking a piece of work which would tackle the myths and misconceptions which have risen, or potentially could arise around RVE. PW wondered whether WASACRE would be interested in this document 'myths and misconceptions' maybe an FAQ to be displayed on the website?

TaS stated that WASACRE would be interested to see the document once developed. WASACRE members agreed.

- 4) During the recent meeting DG in liaison with HJ produced a playlist for members of SACRE/SAC in order to help them to provide PL on their roles and responsibilities. DG asked NAPfRE to quality assure the playlist. PW wondered whether it would be of interest for WASACRE to house this on the website or share with other SACREs/SACs so they can access this playlist.

TaS: This sounds like a very welcome resource. It might also be useful to look at whether it can join a relevant area on the Welsh Government Hwb.

LB: Recalls the question of the Free Church Council guidance and the discussion about whether WASACRE could put this on its website also. It will be useful to look at the playlist first.

It is recognised that there is a whole process of quality assurance for Hwb and WASACRE would play a role in this given the playlist focus.

NAPfRE also discussed the document 'So you are thinking of joining your local SACRE' this was updated by RS and PW a while ago, but it requires a rewrite because legislation has been changed. Is it the right time to update this document.

TaS: Agrees that this is the right time and suggests going ahead.

ACTION: WASACRE members to contact PW with anything they would like NAPfRE to work on.

- IFN

LJ reported that the [Interfaith week](#) takes place from 12th - 19th November 2023. IFN are keen to have schools and organisations preparing early and to start thinking about how to use this week as a platform to highlight and deepen interfaith religion and belief dimensions of their work. Lots of activity ideas on the [Interfaith](#) website.

The Development of Levelling up Housing Communities will no longer be funding IFN and hasn't since April 2023. IFN's Board of Trustees and staff are working to address this challenging situation and the Board has met on a weekly basis to carefully review the financial position taking appropriate steps so that IFN's vital work can continue. They have asked for member bodies to write to ministers and other public figures to show support for the IFN.

TaS: This request will be taken back to WASACRE Executive Committee to consider writing a letter and to whom.

CA: Suggested to contact Interfaith Council for Wales for more localised news on Interfaith week.

11. Correspondence

- Email from CA with a flyer about a short video pilot project for young people.

CA: This is an initiative from the Interfaith Council for Wales requesting young people to create short films around service to community, in anyway way they wish. The endeavour is to show these at some stage to celebrate the organisation's 20+ anniversary this year.

TaS: Thanked CA for sharing this initiative and suggested that advisors might want to take this to their local SACREs and SACs and identify schools that might want to take part in it.

- Email from NAPfRE regarding the 4 points raised in item 6.

12. Any other business (to be agreed in advance of the meeting with the Chair)

HS: On behalf of the Committee, HS thanked TaS as Chair and the Executive Committee members for their representation at meetings and reporting on behalf of WASACRE. This all involves considerable time and it is very important that this expertise is been given on their behalf.

TaS: Thanked HS for his support and acknowledgment.

13. Date for next meeting: Autumn Term,

This will be a Zoom meeting on Wednesday 25th October 2023 hosted by RCT.

TaS thanked Denbighshire local authority for hosting the meeting. The meeting ended at 11.50pm.

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