

Annual Report

of

**Denbighshire
Standing Advisory Council
for Religious Education**

2014 - 2015

Foreword

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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Executive Summary		
Topics/Issues:	Advice given:	Implemented By LEA:
RE: Agreed Syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Agreed Syllabus and Comprehensive Guide for RE continue to be available in schools to inform their planning and preparation. 	✓
RE: Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following consideration of Inspection Reports, schools are sent letters congratulating them for the good features. 	✓
RE: Choice of Teaching Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No formal guidance, but the additional support and guidance for the Agreed Syllabus includes reference to some teaching materials. 	✓
RE: Provision of ITT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No visits possible this year. 	
Collective Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following consideration of Inspection Reports, letters be sent to schools congratulating them for the good features. 	✓
Other Matters: Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members continue to discuss how best to monitor standards in schools SACRE has commissioned the creation of an example case studies document promoting and inspiring good practice regarding local community involvement in Religious Education and Collective Worship that will be available 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; Members be informed about developments and initiatives undertaken by DFES; The SACRE maintain its membership of WASACRE, representatives attend and report back on the meetings of the association. WJEC analysis of Religious Studies examinations WASACRE continues to ask SACRE's to evaluate and improve how they monitor and work with schools 	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Other Matters: additional	No other additional matters.	
Complaints	No complaints received.	

The Annual Report

2. Advice Given to the Local Authority

(a) Religious Education:

i. The Agreed Syllabus

Denbighshire SACRE adopted the 'National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education for 3-19 year olds' as the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Denbighshire in 2008. The framework continues to be the basis of the Agreed Syllabus in Denbighshire. The Agreed Syllabus will be reviewed once the findings of the curriculum review are published.

A SACRE's main function is '...to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit.' Education Reform Act 1988 s.11 (1) (a)

No advice or training has been given on the Agreed Syllabus in the current academic year although many schools had adopted the planning from the 'Comprehensive Guide to RE' and 'RE in the foundation Phase', documents which were designed to complement the Denbighshire Agreed Syllabus.

ii. Standards

Examination results

The SACRE received details of the examination results for 2014

64 more pupils sat the full course in 2015 than in 2014, 391 compared to 456. The full course results were above the national average, 81.1% compared to 73%, 2.3% above last year's LA results.

34 pupils sat the short course in 2015, 259 less than the year before. Results were below national trends, the overall A*-C was 20.6%, 32.4% below the national results for all candidates, and a decrease of 14.6% on last years' local figures.

In 2014, 77 pupils sat an 'A' level in Religious Studies, 9 more than in 2014. For Advanced Level, the overall A* – C rate was 97.2%, some 9.2% above the national average but comparable with last years' local figures.

Inspection Reports

Due to the current Estyn inspection framework there are no subject judgments in the Estyn reports. 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 Members also received a presentation on Estyn's ESDGC (Education for Sustainable development and Global Citizenship) thematic review, with a focus on how Religious Education can support this area of the curriculum.

b. Methods of teaching

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

No advice has been given to schools regarding methods of teaching in 2014-15.

Choosing teaching resources

The SACRE has not formally advised schools in the matter of purchasing teaching resources, deeming this to be a matter for the schools themselves.

Provision of Initial Teacher Training

It had not been possible during the year to make a visit to or receive a visit from an Initial Teacher Training Institute.

c) Collective Worship

Monitoring provision

Inspection Reports

As part of the process of monitoring, Estyn Inspection Reports are analysed in terms of collective worship, 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 and offering support as may be necessary.

Over the year 4+4+3 schools' inspection reports were analysed as follows:

<i>Positive Comments in overall judgements</i>	<i>No of schools</i>
Current performance	4

<i>Positive Comments in quality indicators:</i>	<i>No of schools</i>
Key Question 1: How good is outcomes?	
Wellbeing	2
Key Question 2: How good is provision?	
Learning Experiences	10
Care support and guidance	11
Learning Environment	8
Key Question 3: How good is leadership and management?	
Leadership	1
Partnership working	5

<i>Negative Comments</i>	<i>No of schools</i>
Learning experiences:	
• Global Citizenship	2

iii) Guidance Documents

Guidance documents created in previous years continue to be available to schools including 'A Comprehensive Guide to RE' and 'RE in the Foundation Phase'

iv) Resources recommended

The guidance documents referred to above contain references to resources valued and recommended or evaluated by serving teachers. In addition, advice is offered in response to specific requests. Also schools are informed of resources through the RE News which is available to all schools electronically, they also have access to the Welsh National Centre for RE resources at Bangor University and also the St Mary's Centre for RE.

Self-evaluation materials have been promoted and are available on the REQM website.

v) INSET for Collective Worship

No inset has been provided for Collective Worship in the current academic year.

vi) Evaluation of the effectiveness of guidance

No formal evaluation of the original guidance material has been undertaken, but responses from schools to the materials, and comments offered through school visits have indicated how much the schools have valued the materials and used them in planning and enhancing their provision.

vii) Determinations

No Determinations have been made.

3) Other Matters

a) Local

SACRE has commissioned the creation of a selection of case studies to promote good practice relating to local communities supporting Religious Education and Collective Worship. Schools have submitted examples that will be collated and sent to all schools in the LA to inspire and promote similar activities. Case studies from local faith communities and how they have worked with local schools have also been requested and received.

Members began meeting in local secondary schools, SACRE received a presentation from a local primary school explaining how they work with their local faith communities.

b) National

Members received a presentation created by WJEC explaining the key points from an analysis of the data from the GCSE and 'A' level 2014 examinations in Religious Education in 2014.

Members have also, in response to a presentation regarding 'SACRE and local Consortia Arrangements' agreed to change some of its practices in 2015-16. SACRE will be held, where possible, in secondary schools across the LA. The facilitation of School to school collaborative groups will also be organised to support and promote good practice in both Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Members received a presentation regarding the implications of the Donaldson Review on Religious Education.

(i) Estyn:

Estyn's thematic review of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship was presented to Members. It was noted that Religious Education can support the work of this important area in schools.

Inspection Reports on schools were received and analysed, as reported.

(ii) DFES:

The SACRE has been informed of developments and initiatives undertaken by or through the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills. The Agreed Syllabus Conference has been postponed until DFES publishes its planned changes to the curriculum. WASACRE has met with Professor Donaldson to discuss RE's place in the current curriculum.

(iii) WASACRE

Members of SACRE and the LA were represented at all the 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, and also receiving of minutes and papers from WASACRE.

(iv) Complaints

No complaints were received by the SACRE.

4. Appendices:

a) Composition of SACRE

Representing Religious Denominations:

Church in Wales

Sylvia Harris
Simon Cameron

Roman Catholic

Mary Ludenbach

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

Salvation Army

Captain Sian Radford

Evangelical Movement Wales

Nomination awaited

Representing Teacher Associations:

Secondary Headteacher

Nomination awaited

Junior Headteacher

Nomination awaited

Secondary RE Specialists

Cate Harmsworth

Infant Headteacher

Nomination awaited

Special School Teachers

Ms.Ali Ballantyne

Junior Classroom Teacher

Nomination awaited

Infant Classroom Teacher

Nomination awaited

Representing Denbighshire County Council

Councillor Dewi Owens
Councillor Arwell Roberts
Councillor Ann Davies

Councillor Bill Tasker
Councillor Joe Welch

Co-opted Members:

Mr. Gavin Craigen [gavin@craigen.net]
Tania Ap Sion – Director of the St. Mary's Centre [t.apsion@glyndwr.acuk]

b) Number and dates of meetings

SACRE meetings:

22nd October 2014

13th February 2015

29th June 20145

c) Organisations receiving the report

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

TABLES OF EXAMINATION RESULTS *TABLAU O GANLYNIADAU ARHOLIAD*

Ysgolion Sir Ddinbych – Tabl 1: CANLYNIADAU TAGAU 2013: PAWB – ASTUDIAETHAU CREFYDDOL
Denbighshire Schools – Table 1: GCSE RESULTS 2013: ALL – RELIGIOUS STUDIES

<i>Ysgolion Schools</i>	<i>Cyfanswm /Totals</i>	A*	%	A	%	B	%	C	%	D	%	E	%	F	%	G	%	U	%	% A* - C	% A* - G
<i>Dinbych Denbigh</i>	27	3	11.1%	5	18.5%	9	33.3%	4	14.8%	4	14.8%	2	7.4%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	77.8%	100%
Glan Clwyd	20	6	30.0%	6	30.0%	3	15.0%	1	5.0%	4	20.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	80.0%	100%
Prestatyn	220	16	7.3%	46	20.9%	59	26.8%	60	27.3%	13	5.9%	18	8.2%	4	1.8%	4	1.8%		0.0%	82.3%	100%
Dinas Bran	80	1	1.3%	11	13.8%	23	28.8%	28	35.0%	8	10.0%	2	2.5%	4	5.0%	3	3.8%		0.0%	78.8%	100%
Brynhyfryd	16	10	62.5%	4	25.0%		0.0%	1	6.3%		0.0%	1	6.3%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	93.8%	100%
<i>Y Rhyl/Rhyl</i>	42	1	2.4%	2	4.8%	9	21.4%	11	26.2%	6	14.3%	9	21.4%	2	4.8%	2	4.8%		0.0%	54.8%	100%
<i>Ben Ed Jones/Bl. Ed Jones</i>	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%	0%
<i>Santes Ffraid/ St Brigids</i>	51	15	29.4%	21	41.2%	11	21.6%	4	7.8%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	100%	100%
<i>Cyfanswm AALL/ LA Totals</i>	456	52	11.4%	95	20.8%	114	25.0%	109	23.9%	35	7.7%	32	7.0%	10	2.2%	9	2.0%	0	0.0%	81.1%	100%
<i>Holl Cymru All Wales</i>	11,368		10%		19%		22%		19%		11%		7%		5%		3%		2%	72%	98%

Ysgolion Sir Ddinbych – Tabl 2: CANLYDIADAU TGAU 2013 PAWB – ASTUDIAETHAU GREFYDDOL: CWRS BYR
 Denbighshire Schools – Table 2: GCSE RESULTS 2013: ALL – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SHORT COURSE

<i>Ysgolion Schools</i>	<i>Cyfanswm /Totals</i>	A*	%	A	%	B	%	C	%	D	%	E	%	F	%	G	%	U	%	% A* - C	% A* - G
<i>Dinbych Denbigh</i>	1	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Glan Clwyd	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Prestatyn	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Dinas Bran	3	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	33.3%	2	66.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Brynhyfryd	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Y Rhyl/Rhyl</i>	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Ben Ed Jones/Bl. Ed Jones</i>	30	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	10.0%	4	13.3%	6	20.0%	3	10.0%	5	16.7%	9	30.0%	10.0%	70.0%
<i>Santes Ffraid/ St Brigids</i>	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Cyfanswm AALL/ LA Totals</i>	34	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	5.9%	5	14.7%	4	11.8%	6	17.6%	3	8.8%	5	14.7%	9	26.5%	20.6%	73.5%
<i>Holl Cymru All Wales</i>	12,191		5%		10%		17%		21%		14%		13%		8%		6%		6%	53%	94%

Ysgolion Sir Ddinbych – Tabl 3: CANLYNIADAU SAFON UWCH 2013 – PAWB ASTUDIAETHAU CREFYDDOL
 Denbighshire Schools – Table 3: GCE ADVANCED LEVEL RESULTS 2013: ALL – RELIGIOUS STUDIES

<i>Ysgolion Schools</i>	<i>Cyfanswm /Totals</i>	<i>A*</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>% A* - C</i>	<i>% A* - G</i>
<i>Dinbych Denbigh</i>	5	0	0.0%	1	20.0%	2	40.0%	1	20.0%	1	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	80%	100%
<i>Glan Clwyd</i>	4	0	0.0%	1	25.0%	1	25.0%	1	25.0%	1	25.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	75%	100%
<i>Prestatyn</i>	37	0	0.0%	3	8.1%	15	40.5%	15	40.5%	4	10.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	89.2%	100%
<i>Dinas Bran</i>	4	0	0.0%	1	25.0%	2	50.0%	1	25.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	100%	100%
<i>Brynhyfryd</i>	13	1	7.7%	4	30.8%	6	46.2%	2	15.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	100%	100%
<i>Y Rhyl/Rhyl</i>	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
<i>Ben Ed Jones/Bl. Ed Jones</i>	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
<i>Santes Ffraid/ St Brigids</i>	14	0	0.0%	4	28.6%	6	42.9%	3	21.4%	1	7.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	98.9%	100%
<i>Cyfanswm AALL/ LA Totals</i>	77	1	1.3%	14	18.2%	32	41.6%	23	29.9%	7	9.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	89.6%	100%
<i>Holl Cymru All Wales</i>	1432		3%		15%		32%		29%		14%		5%		2%	89%	98%