

Annual Report
of
Denbighshire
Standing Advisory Council
for Religious Education

2017 - 2018

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.

CONTENTS

	Page No:
1. Executive Summary.	2
2. Advice given to the LA:	3-5
a) Religious Education and the Agreed Syllabus	3
b) Methods of teaching, choice of teaching materials and provision of Initial Teacher Training	3-4
c) Collective Worship	4-5
3. Other Matters:	5-6
a) Local matters	5
b) National matters:	5-6
i. Estyn	
ii. DfES	
iii. WASACRE	
c) Complaints	6
4. Appendices:	7-11
a) Composition of SACRE	7
b) Number and dates of meetings	8
c) Organisations receiving the report	8

Executive Summary

Topics/Issues:	Advice given:	Implemented By LEA:
RE: Agreed Syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agreed syllabus conference continues to be deferred on the advice of WASACRE, due to the current curriculum reform. 	✓
RE: Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following consideration of Inspection Reports, schools are sent letters congratulating them for the good features. Results of the previous year's examinations for Religious Studies GCSE short course, full course and A level are presented and discussed. 	✓
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"> SACRE continued to meet in local secondary schools this year. Members continue to discuss how best to monitor standards in schools. SACRE members received details regarding the Lead Practitioner programme facilitating secondary RE teachers to plan and prepare for the new WJEC GCSE specifications (first teaching 2017). 	✓ ✓ ✓
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 Skills. The SACRE maintain its membership of WASACRE, representatives attend and report back on the meetings of the association. 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)

The planning document 'Comprehensive Guide to RE' and 'RE in the Foundation Phase', which complement the Agreed Syllabus, continue to be requested and used by schools.

ii. Standards

Examination results

The SACRE received details of the examination results for 2018. All GCSE full course and short course results relate to pupils that have sat an RE examination and left compulsory Education.

345 pupils sat the full course in 2018, compared with 399 in 2017. The full course results for 2018 is 66.4% compared to 78.7% in 2017, a decline of 12.3%.

216 pupils sat the short course in 2018, compared to 781 pupils in 2017. The overall A*-C was 47.2% compared to 48.3% in 2017, a 1.1% decrease on last year's local figure.

In 2018, 65 pupils sat an 'A' level in Religious Studies, 21 fewer than in 2017. For Advanced Level, the overall A*-C rate was 56.9%, which is below the 2017 result of 70.5%.

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 school's provision of SMSC. See part c Collective Worship - Monitoring provision - Inspection reports.

b. Methods of teaching

The SACRE and the 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 2017-18.

Choosing teaching resources

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

The Lead Practitioner programme, funded by Welsh Government and organised by the local consortium (GwE) have continued to encourage schools to share resources to support the planning and preparation for the current WJEC GCSE specification.

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.

The inspection profile is good across the primary sector in Denbighshire during academic year 2017-2018, no secondary schools were inspected last year. One Estyn undertook an inspection in 9 schools (8 primary schools, no secondary schools and 1 special school). In 8 schools [%], it was announced that no follow-up action was needed and one schools required intensive follow-up category of Estyn Review.

The judgement profile across the 5 inspection areas are indicated below:

Primary Profile	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
IA1: Standards		7	1	
IA2: Well-being and attitudes to learning	1	6	1	
IA3: Teaching and learning experiences		6	1	
IA4: Care support and guidance		8		
IA5: Leadership and management	1	6	1	

Special School Profile	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
IA1: Standards		1		
IA2: Well-being and attitudes to learning		1		
IA3: Teaching and learning experiences		1		
IA4: Care support and guidance		1		

IA5: Leadership and management		1		
--------------------------------	--	---	--	--

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’.

A small number of schools have worked collaboratively to develop guidance for all schools in the LA on aspects of monitoring and curriculum planning.

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 continue to be 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

From September 2018 GwE will no longer be providing support for SACRE’s across North Wales, this function is returning to local authorities.

SACRE has conducted its business in one high school this year. Two further meetings have taken place in LA meeting rooms.

In 2017 SACRE is continuing to support school to school collaborative groups that will develop curriculum and monitoring resources that will be shared with schools across the LA.

Local primary and secondary schools have been reminded of the requirements of the Locally Agreed syllabus and it continues to be statutory until the Local SACRE confirmed the new requirements in conjunction with the New Curriculum for Wales.

b) National

The development of the new Curriculum for Wales has continued this year and members have been able to discuss and comment on the draft planning documents provided by Welsh Government.

Members continue to receive presentations regarding the implications of the Donaldson Review on Religious Education and the development of the pioneer network.

(i) Estyn:

Inspection Reports on schools were received and analysed, as reported. Members received a presentation on the current Estyn inspection process.

(ii) DFES:

The SACRE has been informed of developments and initiatives undertaken by or through the Department for Education and Skills. The Agreed Syllabus Conference has been postponed until DFES publishes its planned changes to the 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

Simon Cameron (Autumn term)

Baptist Union

Nomination awaited (Welsh)

Nomination awaited (English)

Methodist

Rev. Martin Evans-Jones

Union of Welsh Independents

Nomination awaited

Salvation Army

Captain Sian Radford

Roman Catholic

Mary Ludenbach

Presbyterian

Rev. Brian H Jones (Welsh)

Christine Thomas (English)

United Reformed

Nomination awaited

Religious Society of Friends

Dominic Oakes

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 Ellie Chard

Councillor Tony Flynn

Councillor Emrys Wynne

Councillor Barry Mellor (Spring/Summer term)

Councillor Tony Thomas

Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts
(Autumn/Spring term)

Co-opted Members:

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

b) Number and dates of meetings

SACRE meetings:

13th October 2017

5th February 2018

4th July 2018

c) Organisations receiving the report

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