

Annual Report
of
Denbighshire
Standing Advisory Council
for Religious Education

2018 - 2019

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

<i>Topics/Issues:</i>	<i>Advice given:</i>	<i>Implemented By LEA:</i>
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 2017. 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 378 in 2017. The full course results were slightly below the national average, 66% compared to 68%, and below last year's LA results by 9.9%.

216 pupils sat the short course in 2017, 100 less than the year before. The overall A*-C was 47%, 8% above the national results for all candidates, and a 7.8% increase on last year's local figures.

In 2017, 66 pupils sat an 'A' level in Religious Studies, 10 fewer than in 2015. For Advanced Level, the overall A* – C rate was 80.3%, 2.2% above the national average, and a 4% increase when compared with last year's 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 received a presentation on Estyn's inspection report into Religious Education at key stage 2 and key stage 3.

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 2018-19.

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.

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.

No Estyn reports were analysed for specific references to Collective Worship or SMSC in 2018-19.

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 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

SACRE members met twice during the academic year, taking place in LA meeting rooms. Members received a presentation from local high school to consider the provision of Religious Education and review the progress made by the pupils in the school.

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:

Members received a presentation on Estyn's inspection report into Religious Education at key stage 2 and key stage 3.

(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 one of the 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, 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

Jennie Downes

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 Ellie Chard

Councillor Tony Flynn

Councillor Emrys Wynne

Councillor Rachel Flynn

Councillor Tony Thomas

Co-opted Members:

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

b) Number and dates of meetings

SACRE meetings:

5th February 2019

26th June 2019

c) Organisations receiving the report

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