

# Annual Report

of

## Denbighshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

**2019-20**

## 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:
<b>1. Executive Summary.</b>	2
<b>2. Advice given to the LA:</b>	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
<b>3. Other Matters:</b>	5-6
a) Local matters	5
b) National matters:	5-6
i. Estyn	
ii. DfES (Education Wales)	
iii. WASACRE	
c) Complaints	6
<b>4. Appendices:</b>	7-8
a) Composition of SACRE	7
b) Number and dates of meetings	8
c) Organisations receiving the report	8

## 1. Executive Summary

Executive Summary		
<i>Topics/Issues:</i>	<i>Advice given:</i>	<i>Implemented By LA:</i>
RE: Agreed Syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The agreed syllabus conference continues to be deferred on the advice of WASACRE, due to the current curriculum reform.</li> </ul>	✓
RE: Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following consideration of Inspection Reports, schools are sent letters congratulating them for the good features.</li> </ul>	✓
RE: Choice of Teaching Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No formal guidance, but the additional support and guidance for the Agreed Syllabus includes reference to some teaching materials.</li> </ul>	✓
RE: Provision of ITT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members received a presentation from Bangor University Lecturer regarding Chester/Bangor North Wales Partnership training the teachers of tomorrow.</li> </ul>	✓
Collective Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following consideration of Inspection Reports, letters be sent to schools congratulating them for the good features.</li> </ul>	✓
Other Matters: Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SACRE continued to meet in local secondary schools this year.</li> <li>Members continue to discuss how best to monitor standards in schools.</li> </ul>	✓ ✓
Other Matters: National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members receive regular updates of Estyn Inspection Reports or documents relating to RE and Collective Worship.</li> <li>Members be informed about developments and initiatives undertaken by DFES (Education Wales).</li> <li>Members discussed and provided feedback on two Welsh Government Consultations.</li> <li>The SACRE maintain its membership of WASACRE, representatives attend and report back on the meetings of the association.</li> </ul>	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Other Matters: additional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No other additional matters.</li> </ul>	
Complaints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No complaints received.</li> </ul>	

### 2. Advice Given to the Local Authority

#### b. 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. The resources are available on a Hwb Network - North Wales Religious Education Network.

##### ii. Standards

#### Examinations Reports

Due to new guidance from Welsh Government on the way data is presented and to avoid arbitrary comparison of schools members did not discuss the examination data for examinations taken in 2019.

#### 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 were informed of Estyn's intention to cease standard inspections from Sept 2020-21 to allow schools time to prepare for the new curriculum beginning September 2022.

#### 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 2019-20.

## 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.

Support materials including lessons and access to resources for schools were made available on various digital platforms and distributed by GwE during the lockdown beginning in March due to Covid-19.

## Provision of Initial Teacher Training

Bangor University: Lecturer in Education and Post Graduate Lead for the School of Education and Human Development, provided members with a presentation which highlighted how Caban (Chester/Bangor North Wales Partnership) trains the teachers of tomorrow with a focus on Religious Education.

## c) Collective Worship

### Monitoring provision

#### Inspection Reports

As part of the process of monitoring, Estyn Inspection Reports are analysed for comments on 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.

14 Estyn reports were analysed for specific references to Collective Worship or SMSC and discussed by members in 2019-20. Positive comments pertaining to Collective Worship or SMSC were distributed as follows:

<b><i>Positive Comments in Inspection Areas:</i></b>	<b><i>No of schools</i></b>
Standards	1
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	10
Teaching and Learning Experiences	2
Care, Support and Guidance	13

### 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'.

Support materials including lessons and access to resources for schools during the lockdown beginning in March due to Covid-19 were made available on various digital platforms and distributed by GwE.

Teachers can join a Hwb Network – North Wales Religious Education Network. Guidance documents can be accessed from the Networks's Hwb page.

#### **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.

An annual newsletter had been created informing schools of important information regarding Religious Education and the new curriculum, but due to COVID-19 the newsletter had not been sent to schools during this academic year. Links to resources have been included in the newsletter.

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, the Autumn meeting was held in a LA meeting room, the spring meeting took place in Christ the Word Catholic School in Rhyl.

#### **b) National**

##### **(i) Estyn:**

Members received reports on the findings from school inspections. Members were informed of Estyn's intention to cease standard inspections in 2020-21 to allow schools time to prepare for the new curriculum beginning September 2022. Estyn ceased inspections in March 2020 due to schools coping with the COVID-19 pandemic.

##### **(ii) DFES (Education Wales):**

Members received a report on the Draft Religious Education Supporting Framework. The framework is an addition to the Curriculum for Wales.

Members discussed and provided feedback on two Welsh Government Consultations –

- 1) Consultation on proposals to ensure access to the full curriculum for all learners.
- 2) Curriculum for Wales: Religion, values and ethics.

**(iii) WASACRE**

Members of SACRE and the LA were represented at two 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

**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

**Secondary RE Specialists**

Cate Harmsworth

**Special School Teachers**

Ms.Ali Ballantyne

**Infant Classroom Teacher**

Nomination awaited

**Junior Headteacher**

Nomination awaited

**Infant Headteacher**

Nomination awaited

**Junior 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**

2 SACRE meetings:

16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

5<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**c) Organisations receiving the report**

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