

Annual Report



Standing Advisory Council On Religious Education (SACRE)

1st August, 2016 - 31st July, 2017

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Annual Report Of Monmouthshire County Council Standing Advisory Council On Religious Education (SACRE)

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1. Executive Summary

- **SACRE Members Workshop Sharing**

The LA supported the proposal by SACRE for faith representatives to share their pupil workshops with one another and possibly develop this as a training event for teachers.

- **SACRE RE News Bulletin**

The LA continued to support the termly SACRE RE News Bulletin and distributes this to all schools via the Monmouthshire Headteachers' Association.

- **Farmington Fellowship 2016 – 2017**

Opportunities provided through the Farmington Fellowship were distributed to all schools with the LAs support.

- **Holocaust Memorial Service**

All schools were provided with details of the 2017 Holocaust Memorial Service.

- **Withdrawal Clause**

A guidance document for schools on managing the parental right of pupil withdrawal from RE is being prepared by the RE Consultant and will be available for distribution soon.

- **RE and the Welsh Baccalaureate**

On SACRE's advice, the LA continued to monitor how schools are managing the provision of RE alongside the introduction of the new Welsh Baccalaureate.

- **Curriculum Review and Development**

Regular updates on the curriculum review were considered by members.

- **CYTUN Bulletin**

Editions of the CYTUN News bulletin were distributed to members on a regular basis.

- **Summary of Inspection Reports**

SACRE considered a summary of inspection reports in order to monitor standards in Religious Education and Collective Worship.

- **Self Evaluation Reports**

SACRE has continued to request self evaluation of Religious Education and Collective Worship from schools.

- **Hosting of WASACRE Meeting**

Monmouthshire SACRE was pleased to host the Spring 2016 meeting of WASACRE.

- **Artefact Loan Service**

The comprehensive collection of Monmouthshire's RE Artefacts is now located at five schools around the county and this facility was promoted to schools.

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2. Advice To The LA

2.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus.

Date of adoption of current Agreed Syllabus: September 2008
Last review held: 24th January, 2008
Agreed Syllabus implementation date: September 2008

2008 Agreed Syllabus

Printed copies of the Agreed Syllabus were distributed to all schools within the authority. Each primary school received 2 copies with each secondary school receiving four copies. This is in addition to the electronic copy previously distributed.

The concepts and skills based Agreed Syllabus is fully in line with other curriculum subject documentation and the Foundation Phase. It is supported by comprehensive guidance material.

Training opportunities have been provided to support the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus for Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2. A course for Key Stage 2 / 3 was offered but was cancelled due to insufficient number of applicants. Secondary schools have been advised of other training opportunities.

Review

SACRE initiated a review of the 2008 Agreed Syllabus as required within the five year period. Teacher representatives on SACRE have considered the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus and reported back to SACRE at several meetings.

It was felt that overall the programmes of study are effective however, the Level Descriptions need to be reviewed and revised.

It was agreed that any changes made to the Agreed Syllabus for RE should be in line with the National Curriculum and therefore the review of the Agreed Syllabus would be ongoing until the outcome of the WG National Curriculum review and the review of the Foundation Phase was known.

SACRE has received regular updates throughout 2016 – 2017 and will continue to monitor and respond to developments in this area. The RE Consultant to SACRE has been involved in meetings with Welsh Government and is part of the RE curriculum development group which is working alongside the Pioneer Schools. A Welsh Government commissioned paper has been produced by a small delegation of members of NAPfRE and WASACRE to support Pioneer Schools in recognising 'What Matters in RE'. The RE Consultant has been part of this working group.

2.2 Standards in religious education

Monitoring of Provision and Standards

The LA does not have a subject Adviser for religious education. An RE Consultant is employed to support SACRE. This does not allow time for extra activities and support such as visiting schools and monitoring provision. SACRE analyses school inspection reports and gleans what information it can in relation to religious education and collective worship. SACRE has in place a process of asking schools to provide their own evaluation of the provision of religious education and collective worship shortly after the school is inspected by Estyn.

Inspection Reports and Self Evaluation

We received a summary of inspection reports and self-evaluations from three primary schools during this academic year.

In school 1 there was no reference to Religious Education in the inspection report. A detailed and helpful self evaluation report was received from the school which highlighted that the Agreed Syllabus for RE is fully embedded in the school and RE is provided for one hour a week in all year groups. The areas of good practice and areas for further development were noted and a letter was sent to the school commending the positive practice.

In school 2 the inspection report made reference to pupils creating specific QR codes in Religious Education that guide users to enjoy comprehensive presentations on the world's religious leaders. The school submitted a detailed self evaluation report which indicated many excellent features and highlighted appropriate areas for development.

In school 3 there was no reference to Religious Education in the inspection report. A detailed and helpful self evaluation report was received from the school which highlighted many areas of good practice in line with its Voluntary Aided status. Appropriate areas for development were also highlighted.

A letter was sent to each of the schools commending the areas of good practice and providing support and advice regarding the areas for development as applicable.

2.3 Methods of teaching and the choice of teaching materials

Comprehensive advice on methods of teaching and the choice of teaching materials is provided by the authority. Schools also have access to the professional adviser to SACRE on an independent basis for individual school support.

2008 Support Material

Foundation Phase

Comprehensive Foundation Phase support material entitled 'Think Topic' was distributed to all settings and schools within the authority in summer 2008.

The production of the material in the form of a CD and hard copy was a joint project with two other authorities. A working party of teachers, Foundation Phase Training Officers and the RE Consultant developed topic based support material with Religious Education included as appropriate. Additional religious education support material was included in the pack as it was recognised that this area of learning often needs additional guidance.

Key Stage 2 / 3

The Key Stage 2 / 3 Agreed Syllabus Support Material was made available to all schools in autumn 2008. The material includes an updated outline long term plan for Key Stage 2 'straight classes' and a long term plan for 'mixed classes' over a two year cycle. There are twelve units of work, six of which are exemplified with samples of pupils' work. All of the units promote a skills based approach to RE and provide a wealth of activities and specific learning objectives. The units are aimed to be supported by the use of the 'Developing Primary RE' series produced by RE Today Services and schools have been encouraged to invest in the purchase of these publications.

Key Stage 3 teachers should find the support material helpful in providing an insight into the provision of RE at Key Stage 2 and the quality and standards of pupils' work being achieved. Many of the units identify key resources and areas of exploration for Key Stage 3 which will effectively build on prior learning.

Feedback from schools using the support material has been extremely positive. Teachers have found the material easy to use and very effective in supporting a skills based approach to Religious Education. SACRE will continue to monitor the impact of the use of the material across schools within the authority.

RE Today publications

To accompany the locally produced support material, schools were advised that it was highly recommended that they purchase the '*Developing Primary RE*' and '*Developing Secondary RE*'. A significantly reduced cost was negotiated with RE Today Services and schools were invited to place an order via the authority. Sixteen primary schools subsequently purchased the resources which have been cross-referenced with the Agreed Syllabus Support Material units of work.

Teaching materials

Farmington Scholarships

Schools were advised of the opportunity to apply for a Farmington Scholarship and let SACRE know of any successful applications. Scholars are free to study any aspect of Religious Education they wish but preference will be given to applicants whose work can be seen to be of direct value to the teaching of RE in schools. The Scholarship will cover the cost of tuition, board and lodging where appropriate, essential local travel and, by negotiation with the school, the salary of a replacement teacher up to point 6 of the main pay scale.

School/home-based Scholarships may be taken in the form of day release, for instance for one day a week over a term or over the year or for continuous periods up to a maximum of 30 days. University-based Scholarships may be taken as a block of up to eight weeks or in the form of day release up to 30 days. For more information schools can visit www.farmington.ac.uk or E-mail: farmington@hmc.ox.ac.uk

Holocaust Memorial Service

All schools were provided with details of the 2017 Holocaust Memorial Day and that Holocaust resources can be found on their website www.hmd.org.uk – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship materials and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.

Holocaust Memorial Day is an annual event that takes place on January 27th. HMD was established in the UK in 2000 and the first HMD was held in January 2001. January 27th marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz- Birkenhau concentration camp by soviet troops in 1945. Holocaust Memorial Day seeks to change the future by learning from and remembering the past. Schools are encouraged to participate in Holocaust Memorial Day in order to remember the victims of the Holocaust and more recent genocides. It provides a framework to explore issues of morality, human reactions, individual experiences, responsibilities and larger questions of the role of governments and democracies. The government, including the Welsh Government, encourages schools and LAs to commemorate this event in some way.

Further information and **free educational materials** for primary to post 16 students specific to the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day can be accessed online at <http://education.hmd.org.uk>

Guidance on Managing the Withdrawal of Pupils From RE

The RE Consultant has written a guidance document for schools on managing the right of withdrawal from RE. In consultation the document has received the support from headteachers and many faith communities. It is to be published bilingually by WASACRE and will be made available to all schools across Wales.

RE Celebration Days

SACRE worked with Caldicot School to provide an RE day for all Y6 pupils from its cluster secondary schools. Following this event, SACRE members suggested taking the opportunity to share their workshops with each other in order to learn more about each others' faiths. This idea is being pursued and will be open to teachers who may also wish to attend.

Artefact Loan Service

Following the closure of the Schools' Library Service the comprehensive collection of Monmouthshire's RE Artefacts is now located at five schools around the county. Whilst there is no formal system for loaning the resources, informal arrangements can be made by contacting the host schools on an individual basis. Schools hoisting the resources are: Cross Ash Primary, Goytre Fawr Primary, Llantilio Pertholey VC Primary, Undy Primary and Osbaston VC Primary. To date, few schools have requested to loan the artefacts, however, each of the host schools is making good use of the resources with their pupils in their own schools.

RE News

The previously published magazine RE News is now available freely from <http://www.religious-education-wales.org/> and is a good resource to keep up to date with developments and good practice in RE across Wales.

SACRE RE News Bulletin

The termly SACRE RE News Bulletin is distributed to all schools via the Monmouthshire Headteachers' Association. It contains useful information about teaching resources and local and national support and initiatives.

2.4 Teacher training

WASACRE

It was noted that WASACRE had agreed to provide training courses for teachers across Wales and that a programme of possible courses was being considered.

These would be made known to schools as soon as details have been finalised.

Local Consortium Training

It was agreed that as training courses for RE had not been provided locally for the last two years, the RE Consultant would consider arranging some courses for the next academic year. These would be facilitated by the South Wales Education Achievement Service and details would be made known to schools as soon as available.

SACRE faith representative members have offered to provide training for each other with an open invitation for teachers to attend. Details will be provided as soon as available.

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2.5 Collective Worship

Inspection Findings

SACRE continued to analyse inspection reports in order to monitor the provision of collective worship in schools within the authority although evidence is limited. Self evaluation reports are requested from schools in order to provide details of collective worship provision.

We received a summary of inspection reports and self-evaluations from three primary schools and one secondary school.

The inspection reports indicated that all of the schools inspected meet statutory requirements in relation to collective worship.

In school 1 there was no reference to Collective Worship in the inspection report. A detailed and helpful self evaluation report was received from the school which highlighted many areas of good practice including the range of visitors from different Christian denominations who support Collective Worship sessions. The school has identified, as an area for further development, the inclusion of members from other faiths to support Collective Worship.

In school 2 there was reference to regular Collective Worship promoting pupils' spiritual, moral, cultural and social development appropriately. The school submitted a self evaluation report which indicated good provision is made for Collective Worship providing opportunities for reflection on core themes of values and respect. Through regularly asking pupils opinions about Collective Worship sessions, the school aims to ensure that assemblies are interesting for a wide range of pupil ages.

In school 3 there was no reference to Collective Worship in the inspection report. A detailed and helpful self evaluation report was received from the school which highlighted many areas of good practice which reflects the Voluntary Aided status of the school. Positive areas for development were also identified.

Collective Worship Guidance

In 2010, locally produced guidance on the provision of collective worship was distributed to all schools within the authority together with Estyn's Collective Worship Guidance document and the WASACRE guidance on sixth form provision.

On the recommendation of SACRE faith representatives, schools have also been advised that the guidance should prove useful to visiting clergy who contribute to the school's collective worship. In July 2012 the WASACRE Guidance on Collective Worship was distributed to all schools.

Determinations

SACRE did not receive any requests for determinations this year.

2.6 Advice to the LA on other issues

Local Issues:

Chair of SACRE

At its summer meeting 2017, SACRE members were sorry to hear that Liz Hackett Pain who had been Chair of Monmouthshire SACRE foryears, had not stood for election and would therefore no longer be chair of the committee. Members acknowledged the huge contribution that Liz had made to the committee during her time as Chairperson and commended her dedication and enthusiasm in supporting schools with the provision of RE. Liz had been instrumental in establishing the RE Days for Year 6 pupils which have proved hugely successful over recent years. She was totally committed to ensuring that SACRE was fully inclusive, embracing membership from a range of faiths and all those who could offer other valuable contributions to the work of SACRE. Under Liz's guidance, SACRE became a valuable and worthwhile body of members working team with a common aim to support one another and our schools. Her leadership and involvement in the committee will be greatly missed.

Monmouthshire Inclusion Group

SACRE is represented on the Monmouthshire Inclusion Group by the RE Consultant who regularly attends meetings.

CYTUN Policy Bulletin

SACRE members regularly received the Cytun Policy Bulletin for information.

Lead Practitioners for RS GCSE Specification

SACRE members and schools have been kept informed of developments to support the new RS GCSE. Rhian Davies who is one of the practitioners appointed by the EAS to carry out this work is also a member of Monmouthshire SACRE.

Hosting of WASACRE Meeting

Monmouthshire SACRE was pleased to host the Spring 2017 meeting of WASACRE which took place in County Hall, Usk on 3rd March 2017. A welcome was extended by the Chairman of the Council and also the Chair of SACRE.

The following article was featured in the RE Newsbulletin:

Monmouthshire County Council recently hosted a meeting of the Wales Association of SACREs (Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education) attended by 45 representatives from different faith groups as well as teachers and councillors. The meeting took place at the council's headquarters in County Hall, Usk.

The Wales Association of SACREs meets each term in different venues across the country and religious education consultant Gill Vaisey who coordinated the gathering

said: “Monmouthshire was delighted and privileged to host the event and welcome SACRE colleagues from the other 21 Welsh local authorities”.

The Chairman of Monmouthshire County Council, Councillor Jim Higginson welcomed delegates and opened proceedings before handing over to Councillor Liz Hacket Pain. Councillor Hacket Pain talked enthusiastically about her role as chair of Monmouthshire SACRE and the importance of its work in supporting schools to deliver effective religious education.

Three presentations were made on the development of the new curriculum, in line with the Welsh Government’s report, *Successful Futures*: Sharon Perry-Phillips of Monmouth Comprehensive School on teaching religious education within a humanities curriculum, Manon Jones of Welsh Government on the work of the pioneer school network and the humanities and Owain ap Dafydd of Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni on enriching the modern curriculum from a pioneer school perspective. All were well-received.

As well as the formal meeting a number of colourful displays were provided by faith representatives, the council’s Flying Start initiative and Goytre Fawr, Shirenewton and St Mary’s RC Primary Schools.

In addition, delegates were greeted by singing on arrival from the Shirenewton and Cantref Primary School choirs while the Monmouth Comprehensive School musical ensemble provided a lunchtime performance.

Councillor Hacket Pain who is also Monmouthshire’s cabinet member for schools and learning said: “This was a particularly stimulating and vibrant meeting and it was good to network with colleagues from across Wales”.

Paula Webber, secretary to WASACRE added: “It’s been a brilliant day; welcoming and very well-organised”.



National Issues:

WASACRE

Monmouthshire SACRE is a member of the Welsh Association of SACREs and its representatives regularly attend meetings. Nominated representatives of Monmouthshire SACRE at WASACRE meetings are Bahá'í representative Mrs. Sue Cave, Mrs. Sharon Perry-Phillips, teacher representative and Gill Vaisey, RE Consultant.

The LA funds supply cover and travel expenses for teacher representatives to attend WASACRE meetings.

Gill Vaisey was appointed as Vice Chair of WASACRE at its AGM in Summer 2017.

National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (NAPfRE)

The RE Consultant to Monmouthshire SACRE, Gill Vaisey, is a member of NAPfRE and regularly attends meetings on SACRE's behalf. In this way SACRE is able to keep abreast of developments in Wales and play a crucial role in informing decisions and policies that affect religious education.

REC

Gill Vaisey represents the Wales Association of SACREs on the Religious Education Council for England and Wales and attends its biannual meetings where she can represent SACREs across Wales and also be kept informed of national developments across England and Wales.

AREIAC

The Association of RE Inspectors, Advisors and Consultants is a national organisation across the UK. Gill Vaisey represents the Wales members on the executive committee of AREIAC.

Curriculum Review

SACRE has received regular updates throughout 2016 – 2017 and will continue to monitor and respond to developments in this area. The RE Consultant to SACRE has been involved in meetings with Welsh Government and is part of the RE curriculum development group which is working alongside the Pioneer Schools. A Welsh Government commissioned paper has been produced by a small delegation of members of NAPfRE and WASACRE to support Pioneer Schools in recognising 'What Matters in RE'. The RE Consultant has been part of this working group.

3. Annexes

Annex A) **Number of meetings**

Monmouthshire SACRE met on three occasions this year:

15th November, 2016

10th February, 2017

9th June, 2017

Annex B) **The Composition Of Monmouthshire SACRE**

6 Representatives of the Local Education Authority

12 Representatives of Religious Denominations

7 Representatives of Teachers' Associations

2 Co-opted Places

The committee is also supported by the following officers:

Clerk to SACRE

School Improvement Officer responsible for RE

RE Consultant

Annex C) **Membership Of Monmouthshire County Council
Standing Advisory Council On Religious Education**

As at 31st July, 2017:

Representatives of the Local Education Authority:

Councillor P. Pavia
Councillor M. Lane
Councillor A. Webb
Councillor J. Watkins
Councillor A. Easson
Councillor L. Brown

Representatives Of Religious Denominations

Free Churches (4 places):

Gwent Baptist Association	The Reverend Dr. P. Baines
The Salvation Army	Major S. Wilson
2 vacancies	

Church In Wales

Roman Catholic Church

Bahá'í

Buddhist

Hindu

Jewish

Sikh

Muslim

Dr A. Daly

Mr. B. Cotrell

Mrs. S. Cave

Ngakpa Namgyal Chatral

Mr. S. Sharma

Mr. A. Davidson

Mrs. N. Baicher

Mrs. F. Jilani

Representatives Of Teachers' Associations

NASUWT	Mr. A. Jones
NUT	Mr. S. Oram
ATL	Mrs. R. Davies
NUT	Mrs. C. Cooper
ATL	Mrs. S. Perry Phillips
NUT	Ms. M. Millington
NUT	Mr. J. Thomas

Co-option

Mrs. K. Fitter
Mr. T. Thomas

Officers:

Ms G. Vaisey	RE Consultant
Mrs. S. Randall-Smith	School Improvement Officer
Mrs. R. Williams	Clerk to SACRE

Annex D) **Distribution of the Annual Report**

A copy of this annual report has been sent to the following organisations:

- Monmouthshire County Council Full Council
- All Monmouthshire County Council maintained primary, secondary and special schools
- Voluntary Aided Schools in Monmouthshire
- University of Wales, Newport
- Welsh Government / DfES
- National Library of Wales

It has been made available to WASACRE and all Local Education Authorities in Wales via the Welsh Association of SACRE's website.

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