

DATE: 3rd JUNE 2019

REPORT TO: Monmouthshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

SUBJECT: CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update SACRE of the developments being made with regards to Religious Education and the new Curriculum for Wales.

B BACKGROUND

Welsh Government produced the draft Curriculum for Wales 2022 on 30th April and are currently conducting a consultation on the Curriculum. The guidance contains information on the structure and components of Curriculum for Wales, the approach to progression, and how the curriculum must be inclusive for all learners. It also includes information on elements of learning that span the whole curriculum. This is part of Welsh Government's national mission to raise standards, reduce the attainment gap, and deliver an education system that is a source of national pride and public confidence. At the heart of the Curriculum are the four purposes which set out the aspirations for all children and young people by the age of 16.

Welsh Government have recently consulted on The White Paper consultation [Our National Mission: A Transformational Curriculum](#) set out the legislative proposals for the new curriculum. Monmouthshire SACRE provided feedback following discussion in the Spring Term SACRE meeting.

Religious Education will be placed within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE). Schools will still be expected to deliver the agreed syllabus. Voluntary aided schools with a religious character will continue to be able to deliver their denomination syllabi and parents/carers of learners attending voluntary controlled schools can continue to request that their child studies the denominational syllabus rather than the locally agreed syllabus if they wish.

A new supporting framework is being developed to provide further detail about the relationship between religious education, the agreed syllabus, and the areas of learning and experience. This is being developed by a group of religious education practitioners, curriculum pioneers, academics, and representatives from Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACREs) and the National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (NAPFRE).

It is the intention also that religious education reflects our historical and contemporary relationship in Wales to philosophy and religious views, including non-religious beliefs. Therefore, the current legislation will be amended to ensure the agreed syllabus for religious education takes account of non-religious world views which are analogous to religions (e.g. humanism).

The RE consultant to Monmouthshire SACRE, Paula Webber, has acted as Regional Vice Chair of the Humanities AoLE working group in her role as Adviser at the

Education Achievement Service (EAS). A verbal update detailing progress in terms of Religious Education will be given to members at the SACRE meeting. Paula Webber and Libby Jones (RE Adviser Wrexham) continue to lead the development of the RE supporting framework. Paula Webber will provide a verbal update to SACRE on the progress of the RE writing group.

Welsh Government are seeking the views of organisations and individuals on the draft curriculum <https://hwb.gov.wales/draft-curriculum-for-wales-2022>. *The proforma for feedback can be found at <https://hwb.gov.wales/draft-curriculum-for-wales-2022/have-your-say/>.*

Welsh Government are also consulting on the Assessment and Evaluation Framework <https://hwb.gov.wales/draft-curriculum-for-wales-2022/assessment-and-evaluation-framework/>

C RECOMMENDATION

SACRE to receive a verbal update on the progress made in the Humanities AoLE, the draft Curriculum for Wales with a focus on Religious Education and the Humanities AoLE.

SACRE to consider and respond to the draft Curriculum for Wales. The deadline for feedback is 19th July 2019. SACRE to discuss forming a working party to consider this important feedback or to seek to work collaboratively with SACREs in neighbouring authorities.

SACRE to receive a verbal update on the progress being made with regards to the RE supporting framework.

D SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Draft Humanities Curriculum –

Interactive Online version - <https://hwb.gov.wales/draft-curriculum-for-wales-2022/humanities/>

Draft Curriculum for Wales - <https://hwb.gov.wales/draft-curriculum-for-wales-2022>.

Have your say - Feedback forms - <https://hwb.gov.wales/draft-curriculum-for-wales-2022/have-your-say/>.

The Assessment and Evaluation Framework - <https://hwb.gov.wales/draft-curriculum-for-wales-2022/assessment-and-evaluation-framework/>