

# **SACRE News Bulletin**

Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education in South East Wales

Summer  
2019



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**SACRE News bulletins are produced by Paula Webber. EAS Professional Learning Adviser (RE and SACREs), with contributions gratefully received from SACRE members and pupils across Local Authorities in the South East Wales region. Contents may not necessarily reflect the views of the author.**

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## Curriculum for Wales 2022: An Update

Welsh Government published the draft Curriculum for Wales 2022 on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and are currently conducting a consultation on this guidance. 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. **Religious education** will be placed within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE).

Schools will still be expected to deliver the current locally **agreed syllabus** for religious education until such a time as a new syllabus is produced or adopted by the local authority. 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.

As there are many opportunities to make links with other AoLEs, it is important to review the whole draft curriculum. An example might be the various links between the Humanities and Health and Well-being AoLEs with regards to the concept of identity.

If you scroll to the bottom of the Curriculum for Wales 2022 (which is located on Hwb) you will be able to '**Have Your Say**' by providing feedback to Welsh Government by responding to the questions on the feedback form. 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/>

Religious education will remain statutory within the new curriculum. Welsh Government have recently consulted on the proposed changes to legislation surrounding religious education. These changes were set out the government White Paper **Our National Mission: A Transformational Curriculum Proposals for a new legislative framework** <https://beta.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-01/consultation-document-transformational-curriculum.pdf>. Pages 29-33 of the paper relate to RE.

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## The Humanities Area of Learning and Experience



Welsh Government have produced short presentations and video clips to explain the philosophy behind the 'What Matters' which are key to school-based curriculum design. These include a video clip explaining the 'What Matters' in Humanities delivered by Nicky Hagendyk of the EAS, who is the Regional Lead for the Humanities AoLE working group. are available on the Welsh Government blog:

<https://curriculumforwales.gov.wales/2019/03/07/revealed-the-draft-what-matters-for-areas-of-learning-and-experience-aoles-in-the-new-curriculum/>

## A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

During the Autumn Term Welsh Government held consultation meetings with representatives from SACREs throughout Wales to consult on draft Humanities Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE) and the proposal to produce a supporting framework for religious education.

A framework is now 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). The work is being developed and funded by Welsh Government to support the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience in Curriculum for Wales 2022.

IN her role as RE Adviser at the Education Achievement Service (EAS), Paula Webber, has acted as Regional Vice Chair of the Humanities AoLE working group. Alongside Libby Jones (RE Adviser Wrexham), she is now leading the development of the RE supporting framework.

All SACREs across the region have responded to the Welsh Government consultation on the proposed new supporting framework for religious education. As a result of the national consultation Welsh Government are funding a supporting framework for religious education to support the Humanities curriculum. Paula Webber and Libby Jones (RE Adviser Wrexham) are leading the development of the RE supporting framework.

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## LEARNING NETWORK SCHOOLS Religious Education

The South East Wales Education Achievement Service's Learning Network Schools (LNS) for Religious Education met three times throughout the academic year 2018-2019. Sian Jenkins, who is the Associate Assistant Head at Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllw and Head of Religious Education did an excellent job in supporting the practitioners and Heads of RE who attended the meetings.

LNS explored collaborative ways of working through shared planning for GCSE; moderation of assessments; and sharing of pedagogical approaches. They also received regular updates on the progress being made in the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience throughout the drafting process and about the place of religious education in the new Curriculum for Wales 2022.

Sian Jenkins and Paula Webber (EAS Professional Learning Adviser for RE and SACRE), are keen to see more RE practitioners becoming involved. If you would like information about LNS activities during the forthcoming academic year please sign up to the meetings on the EAS website or contact Paula Webber for advice at [paula.webber@sewaleseas.org.uk](mailto:paula.webber@sewaleseas.org.uk).

**The Inter Faith Network for the UK works to promote understanding cooperation and good relations between organisations and persons of different faiths in the UK.**



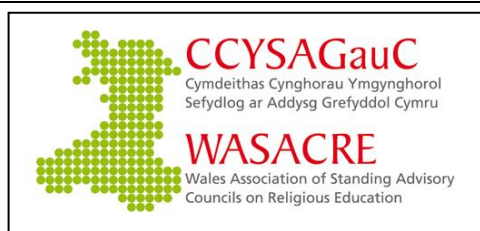
**Inter Faith Network news bulletins, statements and messages and press releases can be accessed on their website at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news>**

Check out the activities they are currently involved with at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/activity>

Don't forget that Inter Faith Week is held during 10-17 November every year. If you'd like to plan some topics in school to correlate with this then you can find some inspiration here: - <https://www.interfaithweek.org/>

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The Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (SACREs) of all 22 Local Authorities in Wales are members of **the Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE)**. The purpose of WASACRE is to provide a forum for the exchange of good practice and to represent the aims, work, and views of its member SACREs. This is achieved by:

- member SACREs sending representation to the termly meetings of WASACRE
- organising relevant national initiatives and projects in the areas of religious education and collective worship
- speaking on behalf of all SACREs in Wales through engaging with relevant bodies and agencies, including the Welsh Government
- collating relevant key SACRE documents
- maintaining working relationships with equivalent bodies in England

**The Wales Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (WASACRE)** has been incredibly busy working with Welsh Government and the National Advisory Panel for Religious Education on religious education in the new Curriculum for Wales. Executive members and Officers of both WASACRE and NAPfRE were involved in planning meetings with Welsh Government. WASACRE was commissioned to write a paper for the Humanities AoLE working group on What Matters in Religious Education which stimulated early discussion in the Humanities AoLE. Executive members of both organisations lead, and form part of, the team leading the work on the new RE Framework alongside other RE practitioners and experts and Humanities pioneers.

WASACRE members have recently agreed to update the **website** so that it is much more accessible and useful to users. Please look out for the new website in the coming academic year. In the meantime, please visit the WASACRE website where you will be able to access the minutes of WASACRE meetings and keep up to date with the latest news from WASACRE <http://www.wasacre.org.uk/>

If you need support or advice from WASACRE please contact:

The Revd Canon Edward J Evans (Chairperson)

Email: [ejevans972@btinternet.com](mailto:ejevans972@btinternet.com)

Telephone: 01656 655511 / 07968 044583

Or Paula Webber (Secretary)

Email: [paula.webber@sewaleseas.org.uk](mailto:paula.webber@sewaleseas.org.uk)

Telephone: 07904 644728

**WASACRE** is a member of, and works closely with, the **Religious Education Council of England and Wales** and the **European Forum for Teachers of Religious Education**. Their websites can be found below and will contain excellent information and resources for teachers of religious education.

<https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/>

<https://eftre.weebly.com/>



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## **Estyn Thematic Report on Religious Education**

Estyn produced a thematic report on religious education provision in 2017 – 2018. A sample of schools across Wales were selected to take part in a review. The review focused on the provision and quality of KS2 and KS3 RE. A separate review on the Foundation Phase was been undertaken which included RE alongside the other areas of learning. The report on these reviews was published in the Summer Term of 2018.

### **Recommendations**

#### **Schools should:**

R1 Ensure that more able pupils achieve in line with their ability in religious education

R2 Strengthen monitoring and self-evaluation arrangements in key stage 2 to focus on improving pupils' standards and skills in religious education

R3 Strengthen transition arrangements so that learning experiences in key stage 3 build on those in key stage 2 and avoid repetition of work

R4 Evaluate their curriculum for religious education to prepare for the development and implementation of the new Humanities Area of Learning and Experience

#### **Local authorities and regional consortia should:**

R5 Work with SACREs to provide:

a. suitable professional learning opportunities for teachers of religious education

b. support for schools to evaluate their curriculum and plan for religious education as an integral part of the development of the humanities area of learning and experience

c. advice for schools on how to address sensitive issues with pupils and how to deal with parental concerns on visiting places of worship

R6 Ensure that all leaders fulfil their responsibilities under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

R7 Provide schools with guidance on approved places of worship to visit

#### **The Welsh Government should:**

R8 Work with local authorities, regional consortia and SACREs to ensure that there is clarity over the place of religious education within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/thematic-reports/religious-education-key-stage-2-and-key-stage-3>

## **RE:ONLINE Email a believer: <http://pof.reonline.org.uk/>**

Have you seen the RE:ONLINE facility for emailing a believer?

Here you can email your questions to a team of believers and ask them about their beliefs and how these affect the way they live.

You simply need to click on the email address of the person you would like to contact with your question, and they will reply as soon as they are able.

There are believers with religious and non-religious worldviews including Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Humanism, Islam, Judaism, Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints, Paganism and Sikhism who will respond to the questions of learners.

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## **KS3 Challenging Extremism Erasmus+ Project being undertaken by the Religious Studies department at Caldicot School**

The project application was to design, over 3 years, a programme of study to challenge extremism and radicalisation at Key Stage 3 working with local partners (Cardiff West Community School and Cathays High School in Cardiff and the GoT Project) and European partners (3 schools in Ferrol, Northern Spain and 3 schools in Warsaw, Poland). Some partner schools are developing the programme through various departments or means, but Caldicot School will be creating a Religious Education focussed programme of study.

The learning objectives for the KS3 Challenging Extremism Erasmus+ programme have since been agreed between the UK, Spain and Poland for the Religious Studies department at Caldicot School to start working on ready for pilot delivery in the Autumn and begin assessment and evaluation in 2020. They are:

1. To examine what is positive and negative extremism
2. To evaluate critically how to respond to information from the media
3. To develop self-awareness and wellbeing
4. To learn how to identify healthy and unhealthy relationships
5. To develop the skills to resolve conflicts
6. To encourage responsible participation in society through shared values

Teachers from all partner schools are currently undergoing intensive training on how to design and deliver these lessons and the teachers are currently visiting each other's schools across Europe and sharing best practice and resources.

Programmes of study already exist at KS2 and KS4, as created by the GoT (Getting on Together) Project, of which I've been an author since 2008, and it is hoped that the KS3 programme of study will ensure progression and continuity across all age groups.

**Article provided by Mr. Andrew Jones Head of RE at Caldicot School and Vice Chair of Monmouthshire SACRE**

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## Church in Wales Schools: News

### How do you feel in your school prayer/reflection space?

Children in Church in Wales' schools, in the Diocese of Monmouth, were asked this question and they conveyed these spaces are important to their well being and mental health.



We asked children in our diocesan church schools to discuss what their prayer/reflection spaces mean to them. Each class group was asked to put forward 5 words/short phrases and these were compiled from each participating school and sent to the Diocesan Office. Here, the words/phrases were entered into a word cloud app. The settings ensured that words mentioned more frequently would show as larger.

There is a clear message coming through here with God at the centre: children are reporting that they are calm, happy and peaceful in their prayer spaces. They feel relaxed and safe and have a quiet place to think. In the current context, with – rightly – more emphasis on children's well being and good mental health, we recognise that the prayer spaces in our church schools contribute significantly and positively. We are engaging with Prayer Spaces in Schools (PSIS <https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/>) to do more work on enabling these spaces to be as impactful as possible for all our school communities and look forward to the extra benefit that will bring.

Dr Annette Daly  
**Diocesan Director of Education**  
**Diocese of Monmouth**



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## Newport City SACRE Visit to the Wales Inter Faith Conference

The OLF is a non-profit organisation based in Newport, South Wales, that acts as an independent think tank. Its aim is to enhance community relations through the values shared by the faith communities as well as the wider society, and to encourage activities that promote citizenship, social wellbeing, and environmental harmony.



Members of Newport SACRE were invited by the Onyx Link Foundation (OLF) to the second Wales Inter Faith Conference held at the Coldra Court Hotel by Celtic Manor on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019. The theme of the conference was '*From our shared values to our shared citizenship*'. The Chair of Newport SACRE, Cllr. Laura Lacey, and the RE Adviser, Paula Webber attended on behalf of SACRE. Vice Chair of Newport SACRE Neeta Baicher was one of the guest speakers at the conference speaking about Faith and Citizenship from a Sikh perspective.

The conference facilitated the debate on the above theme from two perspectives:

- How the concept of citizenship may be redefined/reformed to facilitate peaceful coexistence, equality, and engagement of all communities across Wales? This was discussed in a paper by the OLF on advancing citizenship by our shared values.
- How a person's faith or morality may shape their conduct to be 'good citizens' in state and society? This was discussed on faith-based contributions by faith leaders/experts representing: the Baha'i Faith, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, and Wicca.

Newport City SACRE are continuing to work with the Onyx Link Foundation and are planning a series of events for Newport schools in the Autumn Term. This new collaborative work is the outcome of a very successful planning meeting between the Chair and Vice Chair of Newport SACRE and Dr Abdalla Yassin Mohamed of the OLF. Regular updates on this exciting work will be shared in future News Bulletins.

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## An invitation from the Interfaith Council for Wales:

*On the occasion of the Martyrdom of the Báb, you are invited to this Bahá'í Holy Day event, to discover Who this extraordinary young Man was.*



### *'Faith and Sacrifice'*

*9th July, 7:30 – 9:30  
Community House, Eton Road,  
Newport, NP19 0BL*



*'Faiths in Focus'*

## WJEC Religious Studies



Resources from the WJEC GCSE CPD Training material 2018-2019 for GCSE can be found here:

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/qualification-resources.html?subject=ReligiousStudies&level=gcsefrom2017&cpd=true>

A Level CPD resources here:

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/qualification-resources.html?subject=ReligiousStudies&level=gceAsafrom2016&cpd=true>

The third edition of the WJEC/Eduqas Reconnect magazine is available here:

<https://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rlid=2963>

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## AREIAC Summer Conference

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**AREIAC Agents of Change: RE Leadership In A New World**

**Summer Conference 1st and 2nd July 2019 at the Village Hotel, Hyde, Manchester**

**This is a 1 or 2 day conference for advisers, consultants, inspectors, teachers, faith representatives and anyone interested in promoting excellence in RE.**

**Engaging and inspiring speakers include:**

**Mary Myatt, Ed Pawson, Ben Wood, Luke Donnellan, Richard Kueh**

This year's conference will explore

**National Development, Curriculum Development and School Leadership.**

A thought provoking Monday morning keynote will be followed by sessions around the REvitalise project where both mentors and mentees will be present, leadership in a Secondary RE Department, RE Ambassadors and Humanism in the curriculum as a worldview. Day two will continue the theme of exploring national development, curriculum development and school leadership with input from our three key speakers.

For more information visit the AREIAC website [www.areiacle.org.uk](http://www.areiacle.org.uk)

Bookings via: [areiacleconference@gmail.com](mailto:areiacleconference@gmail.com)

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## The European Forum for Religious Education Conference

The **XIV. EFTRE Conference** will take place at [St Patrick's Campus of Dublin City University](#), Ireland from August 28th-31st, 2019 and will be jointly organised with [CoGREE](#).

**Dublin** (*Baile Átha Cliath*) is the capital and largest city of Ireland. It is in the province of Leinster on Ireland's east coast, at the mouth of the River Liffey. The city has an urban area population of over a million.

You can register for the conference [here](#). If you have questions regarding the event, send an email to [conference2019@eftre.net](mailto:conference2019@eftre.net). Some subsidized places are available to apply.

If you are looking for information about our [keynote speakers](#), the [workshops](#) EFTRE offer or how to best [plan your visit to Dublin](#), please see the website. The official flyer can be downloaded [here](#).

**NEW! OPTIONAL EXTENSION PROGRAMME IN NORTHERN IRELAND** from the evening of Saturday 31st August (the closing day of the Dublin conference) to the evening of Monday 2nd September. [See more](#).