

# Annual Report



CYNGOR  
monmouthshire  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
*sir fynywy*

## **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)**

**1st August 2018 - 31st July 2019**

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## **SECTION 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE**

### **1.1 Duty to Establish a SACRE**

All Local Authorities are required to constitute a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) within their local region.

### **1.2 Composition of SACRE**

Representation on SACRE is required as follows:

- Such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the Local authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area
- Associations representing teachers
- The Local Authority

### **1.3 Membership of SACRE**

The list of members of Monmouthshire SACRE is set out in Appendix 1.

During 2018-2019 SACRE recruited representatives of Christian denominations, however some positions remain vacant. Every effort has also been made to maintain representation from a wide range of non-Christian communities. SACRE has written to several organisations including CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales), the Interfaith Council for Wales and the Onyx Link Foundation to maintain representation with limited success to date. During 2018-2019, every effort has been made to fill the vacancies left following the resignation of some long-standing members at the beginning of the summer term 2018. Welsh Government guidance was received from the Cabinet Officer for Education concerning representatives from organisations representing non-religious beliefs such as Humanists to sit on Committee A. A report will be presented to Council to revise the terms of reference and to consider Humanist representative. SACRE were successful in filling vacancies in Committee B representing teaching associations.

### **1.4 Functions of SACRE**

- To advise the Local Authority on worship and the religious education to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus including methods of teaching, advice on materials and the provision of training from teachers.
- To consider whether to recommend to the Local Authority that its current Agreed Syllabus should be reviewed by convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference.
- To consider whether the requirement of religious worship in a county school should be 'broadly Christian in nature' should be varied (determinations)
- To report to the Local Authority and Welsh Government on its activities on an annual basis.

### **1.5 Meetings**

SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2018-19.

- Monday, 15th October 2018, County Hall, Usk
- Monday, 18th February 2019, County Hall, Usk
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019, County Hall, Usk

SACRE has resolved that, where possible, meetings will be held at alternative venues such as schools.

### **1.6 Circulation of the Report**

Copies of this report are circulated electronically to those organisations and establishment listed in Appendix 3. It is also available on the Local Authority and WASACRE website.

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## **SECTION 2:**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ADVICE GIVEN BY SACRE**

Summary of the advice given to the local authority by SACRE

#### **2.1 ADVICE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

##### **Monitoring the provision and standards in RE**

###### **School Inspection Reports**

Monmouthshire SACRE considers and analyses school inspection reports. If there are any issues regarding RE, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up. During 2018-2019, there were no issue of non-fulfilment of statutory requirements for RE identified in the reports and follow up action was necessary. SACRE wrote to the schools congratulating them on their success and to offer additional advisory support.

###### **Self-Evaluation Reports**

SACRE has continued to request self- evaluation reports from schools outlining the range and quality of provision for Religious Education and Collective Worship.

###### **Analysis of Examination Results**

SACRE analyses examination results over a three-year period and identifies trends in performance benchmarked against all Wales data. Schools are informed of the outcomes of this analysis and SACRE raises any issues schools should be addressing because of this analysis.

###### **Agreed Syllabus**

Date of adoption of current Agreed Syllabus:	September 2008
Agreed Syllabus implementation date:	September 2008
Last Review date:	September 2013

The LA is required to fulfil the legal requirement to review the agreed syllabus for RE on a five yearly basis and ensure the agreed syllabus is being implemented in schools

Monmouthshire SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments with the Curriculum review and the development of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience. SACRE have responded to the Welsh Government consultations on the white paper and the draft Curriculum for Wales 2022. SACRE are awaiting the publication of the Curriculum for Wales 2022 in January 2020 and further details from Welsh Government on the national RE Framework. SACRE will give due regard to the Curriculum for Wales 2022 when reviewing the Monmouthshire Agreed Syllabus.

### **TEACHING MATERIALS**

SACRE has a duty to ensure that schools are informed of suitable resources

All schools within Monmouthshire were informed of the 2019 Holocaust Memorial Day theme of 'Torn from home' and that free Holocaust resources can be found on their

## THE ANNUAL REPORT OF MONMOUTHSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) - 1ST AUGUST 2018 – 31ST JULY 2019

website [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk) – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.

1. SACRE distributed copies of RE Ideas to all schools, which were kindly provided by REMW free of charge.
2. A SACRE RE News Bulletin was produced during the Summer Term and distributed to all schools and interested parties this included information on the new Curriculum for Wales, the RE Framework, the Estyn Thematic Report, WJEC updates, Interfaith Week and places of worship as well as articles submitted by teachers and SACRE members from several Local Authorities. The LA continued to support the SACRE RE News Bulletin and distributes this to all schools via the Monmouthshire Headteachers' Association.
3. Inter Faith News Bulletins were shared with schools <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/ifn-e-bulletin>
4. Information on visits and visitors in South Wales is available to schools.
5. The CYTŪN POLICY BULLETIN was shared with schools.
6. The Newsletter of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales.
7. Information about the evaluation of the Diversity of Religion and Belief: A guidance resource pack for primary schools in England and Wales published by Cardiff University School of Social Science was made available to schools.
8. Monmouthshire SACRE is privileged to have a wonderful group of representatives of religion and belief on its Council who are willing to visit schools to talk about aspects of their faith and belief with pupils.

### TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

**SACRE has a responsibility** to ensure that teachers are able to access appropriate CPD.

The Education Achievement Service provides Professional Learning to schools within Monmouthshire on behalf of the Local Authority. During 2018-2019, the EAS provided RE specific training to secondary school practitioners via Learning Network Schools and the Professional Learning Adviser for and SACREs. The focus of the training was improving standards in GCSE Religious Studies. However, the practitioners attending also received training on the new curriculum and updates on the work of SACREs, WASACRE and other relevant bodies. There was also a focus on moderation of marking, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources for Religious Studies.

### 2.2 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Monmouthshire SACRE endeavours to ensure that schools fulfil statutory requirements for collective worship and provide a worthwhile experience for pupils.

Monmouthshire SACRE monitors the sections of inspection reports that are concerned with collective worship and SMSC and the LA follows up on any non-fulfilment of statutory requirements by requesting their action plan. The provision for collective worship had positive comments stating that schools were promoting pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development well. SACRE has written to the schools to offer support

and guidance with regards to collective worship. All other schools inspected meet statutory requirements in relation to collective worship.

Schools have been informed by SACRE of appropriate resources and websites that support collective worship in schools e.g. HMD 2019.

### **2.3 OTHER ISSUES:**

**Aim:** To ensure a more informed SACRE through providing regular updates on local and national issues.

1. SACRE has maintained its membership of WASACRE and receives termly feedback from the meetings of the Association.
2. The RE Adviser to SACRE is a member of NAPfRE and regularly attends meetings on SACRE's behalf.
3. SACRE has received regular updates on the development of the new curriculum and the implications for religious education.
4. Members have received presentations this year from their Professional Learning Adviser Ms. P. Webber, to update them on the review of the Curriculum for Wales and its implications for RE, including the development of the national RE Framework.

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## **SECTION 3: ADVICE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **3.1 The Locally Agreed Syllabus**

**Date of adoption of current Agreed Syllabus:** September 2008

**Agreed Syllabus implementation date:** September 2008

**Last Review date:** September 2013

#### **2008 Agreed Syllabus**

In 2008, SACRE endorsed and adopted a new Agreed Syllabus for Authority's schools with effect from September 2008. The concepts and skills based Agreed Syllabus is fully in line with the National Exemplar Framework for RE and the Foundation Phase. Printed copies of the Agreed Syllabus were distributed to schools and supporting guidance materials.

Training opportunities have been provided to support the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus for the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2. Secondary schools have been advised of other training opportunities including for transition between phases.

Teacher representatives on SACRE reviewed the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus in 2013 in line with the five-year requirement and reported to SACRE. It was felt overall the programmes of study remained effective but with some revision to the Level descriptors. SACRE endorsed the re-adoption of the Agreed Syllabus and agreed that any changes should be in line with the Curriculum for Wales review.

#### **Agreed Syllabus Review**

During 2018-19, Monmouthshire SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments with the new Curriculum for Wales. In the Autumn Term SACRE representatives attended consultations with Welsh Government to receive an update on progress being made with the Curriculum for Wales 2022 and the RE Framework.

SACRE are awaiting further details from Welsh Government on the RE Framework that will support the Curriculum for Wales 2022. The LA will convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference during 2019-2020 following the final publication of the curriculum guidance.

### **3.2 Standards in religious education**

SACRE analyses school inspection reports and gleans what information it can in relation to religious education. SACRE has established a process of asking schools to provide their own evaluation of the provision of religious education shortly after the school is inspected by Estyn. Estyn did not identify any instances of non-compliance from this inspection with statutory requirements. Whilst there is often mention of aspects of the curriculum that could potentially link to RE there are often no specific comments on the subject. There is direct reference to Religious Education in the inspection report from Caldicot School where "religious education lessons provide beneficial opportunities for pupils to discuss a range of moral issues and to celebrate diversity and equality. Activities such as trips to Geneva, artwork to commemorate the first world war, an annual school eisteddfod and participation in the BBC's 'Big Questions' programme develop pupils' understanding of culture and the wider world effectively.



### **3.2b Examination Results 2018**

Examination results for GCSE and GCE AS /Advanced Level achieved by pupils at secondary schools within the Authority have been analysed and were considered during the Spring Term SACRE meeting. A three-year analysis was conducted so that a comparison could be made, and trends identified. Cohort entry numbers were also analysed, and a comparison made to Consortia and All -Wales figures (where available).

A detailed table of examination results can be found in Appendix 4.

#### **GCSE Full Course Religious Studies**

##### Based on a Three-Year Trend 2015 – 2018

The percentage of entries decreased by 3.7pp from 34.4% to 30.7%. A decline of 41 entries.

However, the results for A\* - A grades increased by 21.2pp from 22.3% to 43.5%. The results regionally and nationally fell by 5.3pp to 22.9% and 4.6pp to 26.1% respectfully. With results above the regional and national level.

The results for A\* - C grades increased by 14.6pp from 62.6% to 77.2%. The results regionally and nationally decreased by 7.5pp to 64.6% and 6.9pp to 68% respectfully. With results above the regional and national level.

The results for A\* - G grades increased by 1pp from 98.2% to 99.2%. Whereas at regional and national level results have declined by 2.5pp to 95.1% and 0.8pp to 97.4% respectfully. With results above the regional and national level.

#### **GCSE Short Course Religious Studies**

##### Based on a Three-Year Trend 2015 – 2018

The percentage of entries increased by 7.6pp from 14.6% to 22.2%. An increase of 53 entries.

The results for A\* - A grades decreased by 22.3pp from 30.5% to 8.2%. There is a declining picture regionally and nationally by 9.6pp to 4.6% and 6pp to 8.1% respectfully. With results above the regional and national level.

The results for A\* - C grades decreased by 26.5pp from 61% to 34.5%. There is a declining picture regionally and nationally by 17.3pp to 32.8% and 13.1pp to 39.2% respectfully. With results above the regional level but below the national level.

The results for A\* - G grades decreased by 4.7pp from 90.7% to 86%. There is a declining picture regionally and nationally by 5.6pp to 84.7% and 5.3pp to 87.8% respectfully. With results above the regional level but below the national level.

#### **A Level Religious Studies**

##### Based on a Three-Year Trend 2015 – 2018

The percentage of entries increased by 3.6pp from 10.3% to 13.9%. An increase of 17 entries.

The results for A\* - A grades increased by 6pp from 26.8% to 32.8%. Whereas the results at regional and national level have declined by 0.9pp to 21.6% and 0.6pp to 22% respectfully. Results are above the regional and national levels.

The results for A\* - C grades increased by 17.9pp from 68.3% to 86.2%. The results at regional level remain stable at 77.5%. Whereas the results at national level have declined by 3.9pp to 77.1%. Results are above the regional and national levels.

The results for A\* - E grades remain stable at 100%. Which is above the regional and national results of 99.6%.

### **AS Level Religious Studies**

#### Based on a Three-Year Trend 2015 – 2018

The percentage of entries decreased by 1.2pp from 6.5% to 5.3%. An increase of four entries.

The results for A grades increased by 6.7pp from 11.5% to 18.2%. There is a declining picture regionally, where results decreased by 1.6pp to 8.8%. Whereas nationally results increased by 1.6pp to 18.3%. Results above the regional level and in line with the national level.

The results for A - C grades increased by 4.5pp from 50% to 54.5%. There is a declining picture regionally and nationally by 3.1pp to 35.3% and 6.2pp to 58% respectfully. With results above the regional level but below the national level.

The results for A - E grades increased by 2.4pp from 88.5% to 90.9%. There is an improving picture regionally and nationally by 4.2pp to 79.4% and 1.3pp to 91.6% respectfully. With results above the regional level but below the national level.

In considering the data, gathered Monmouthshire SACRE members made the following observations:

- Entries in GCSE full course decreased from the previous year, but pass rates saw an increase. It was noted that some schools previously putting forward whole cohorts had moved to an options system. SACRE will need to consider the impact of the new specification in the next year. As the new specification is more challenging for learners, a national dip in performance might be expected.
- Results in Monmouthshire compared well to EAS and Wales and results have risen significantly.
- Short course results compared well with previous years.
- A Level numbers had increased and there were no major concerns. Results were above national and regional performance

### **3.3 Methods of Teaching, Teaching Materials and Teacher Training**

#### **Continuing Professional Development**

The authority provides comprehensive advice on methods of teaching and the choice of teaching materials. Schools also have access to the RE Adviser to SACRE via the EAS for individual school support.

The EAS appointed Ms. Paula Webber as a full time Professional Learning Adviser for RE and SACRE from September 2018. The EAS provides a range of training courses for schools, which are advertised centrally through CPD on-line. This has included RE specific training to secondary school practitioners via Learning Network School leads and the Professional Learning Adviser for RE and SACREs.

During 2018-2019, the following Professional Learning relevant to RE was offered within the region:

The EAS appointed two Learning Network Schools leads for RE during 2018-2019. Three Learning Network meetings for secondary HODs of RE were held during the academic year. The focus of the network meetings was improving standards in GCSE Religious Studies. However, the practitioners attending also received training on the new curriculum and updates on the work of SACREs, WASACRE and other relevant bodies. There was also a focus on moderation of marking, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources for Religious Studies.

#### **Estyn Updates**

SACRE and schools were reminded of the recommendations of the RE Thematic Report on KS2 and 3 that had been undertaken by Estyn in June 2018. SACRE members considered and discussed the recommendations during SACRE meetings.

#### **Teaching Materials**

A wide range of teaching materials has been made known to schools by SACRE as follows:

#### **Holocaust Memorial Day 2019 Resources**

SACRE were informed of the 2019 Holocaust Memorial Day and that Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27 January each year and is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides, which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Schools were reminded that Holocaust Memorial Day is a time to learn the lessons of the past and recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own - it is a steady process, which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented. Monmouthshire schools were informed that the theme for 2019 was 'Torn from home' which encouraged audiences to reflect on how the enforced loss of a safe place to call 'home' is part of the trauma faced by anyone experiencing persecution and genocide.

Schools were informed by SACRE that further information about the theme and free educational Holocaust resources can be found on their website [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk) – these

include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.

### **LNS Schools for RE**

Practitioners involved in the LNS meetings worked collaboratively to produce and share resources for GCSE Religious Studies.

### **Managing the Right to Withdraw from Religious Education**

Upon request, Adviser to SACRE continues to advise schools to use the WASACRE publication on Managing the Right to Withdraw from Religious Education. A copy of this was provided to every school in Wales during 2017-2018. The document is available bilingually is available in hard copy form. The document is subject to copyright and for sale so therefore a PDF copy is not available for download or distribution.

**SACRE RE News Bulletin:** a SACRE RE News Bulletin was shared with all schools during the Summer Term. The Bulletin contained information in the following:

- Curriculum for Wales 2022: An Update
- The Humanities Area of Learning and Experience
- A new framework for Religious Education
- Learning Network Schools - Religious Education
- The Inter Faith Network for the UK
- WASACRE Update
- Estyn Thematic Report on Religious Education
- RE: ONLINE Email a believer
- KS3 Challenging Extremism Erasmus+ Project being undertaken by the Religious Studies department at Caldicot School
- Church in Wales Schools News: Prayer and reflection spaces
- Newport SACRE visit to The Onyx Link Foundation: Wales Interfaith Conference
- Invitation from the Inter Faith Council for Wales: Faith and Sacrifice
- WJEC Religious Studies Update
- AREIAC Summer Conference 2019
- EFTRE Conference 2019

### **Visits and Visitors**

A list of suggested useful websites as was information on visits and visitors in South Wales was distributed to schools.

Monmouthshire SACRE, through its members, is very proactive in supporting schools by regularly advising on and distributing resources to schools. In addition, many of its representatives of religion and belief make individual visits to schools to support with RE lessons. SACRE will continue to consider further ways in which it can support schools through its work.

### **Artefact Loan Service**

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



comprehensive school lends artefacts, information and resources to cluster primary schools.

### **RE Conferences**

Schools have received information about the annual Association of Religious Education Inspectors and Consultants (AREIAC) and European Forum for Teachers of Religious Education (EFTRE) conferences.

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## **SECTION 4: ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **4.1 School Inspection Reports**

During the Autumn Term SACRE meeting the local authority and its SACRE scrutinised relevant sections of Estyn school inspection reports for July 2017-January 2019. Nine schools in Monmouthshire were inspected consisting of six primary schools, two secondary schools and a PRU. If any issues emerge regarding collective worship, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, this is followed up by the LA in conjunction with the EAS Professional Learning Adviser. Estyn made no recommendations concerning collective worship.

Monmouthshire SACRE members were provided with information about spiritual development, collective worship and any comments made in relation to religious education in the inspection reports of schools inspected in the local authority during September 2017- January 2019. SACRE considered the inspection findings of six primary schools and two secondary school and one PRU.

#### **Main findings Spiritual Development**

Comments in relation to spiritual development are evident in seven inspection reports. There is an emphasis on learning experiences, enrichment activities, and acts of collective worship contributing positively to pupils' spiritual and moral development in four report. There is also implicit reference to opportunities for spiritual development in all reports. Where spiritual development is directly referenced, it is often linked directly to collective worship e.g., "Pupils' spiritual, moral and social development is addressed through suitable assemblies." However, in one primary school the report stated that, learning experiences also provide good opportunities for pupils to develop their moral, cultural, social and spiritual awareness. Monmouthshire SACRE suggest that it might be beneficial is Professional Learning signposts opportunities where schools could provide spiritual development across the curriculum and not just in RE. The Adviser informed SACRE that she had delivered as series of Professional Learning sessions on spiritual development and well-being to practitioners attending the EAS Well-being forum.

#### **Collective Worship**

The Estyn Common Inspection Framework notes that inspectors should only report on instances where the school does not comply with statutory requirements. All schools inspected during September 2017 and March 2019 meet statutory requirements in relation to collective worship.

There is reference to the quality of collective worship in inspection reports and good features are highlighted.

Acts of collective worship:

- develops spiritual, moral and social development.
- are sometimes pupil-led
- provide good opportunities for pupils to develop their moral awareness
- promote morals and values
- promote pupils' understanding of religious and moral issues effectively.





- enables pupils to develop well as ethical and informed citizens
- improve learner's performance skills
- based on themes such as anti-bullying,
- share information and to set new eco challenges.
- are stimulating

### **Recommendations**

SACRE noted that Estyn made no recommendations with regards to spiritual development, collective worship or Religious Education. However, it was noteworthy that schools did not consistently utilise opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum well enough. SACRE noted that Professional Learning around this would be beneficial.

#### **4.2 Applications for Determinations**

No applications were received from schools for determinations to be made on the lifting of the requirements for collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

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## **SECTION 5: OTHER ISSUES**

### **WASACRE**

Monmouthshire SACRE is a member of the Welsh Association of SACREs and its representatives regularly attend meetings. The LA funds supply cover and travel expenses for teacher representatives to attend WASACRE meetings.

During the 2018-19, academic year issues considered at WASACRE meetings have been fully reported back to SACRE and full discussions have taken place. SACRE welcomes the pro-active work of WASACRE in taking up issues that have implications for RE and keeping member SACRE's fully informed. The PL Adviser to SACRE holds the position of Secretary to WASACRE and sits as an officer on the WASACRE Executive Committee. Monmouthshire SACRE has received regular feedback from Ms Webber and those representing SACRE at WASACRE meetings.

### **NATIONAL ADVISORY PANEL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (NAPfRE)**

The RE Adviser to Monmouthshire SACRE, Paula Webber, is Vice Chair of NAPfRE and regularly attends meetings on SACRE's behalf. In this way, SACRE can keep abreast of developments in Wales and play a crucial role in informing decisions and policies that affect religious education. NAPfRE have been consulting closely with Welsh Government and other stakeholders during the development of the new curriculum.

### **CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

Monmouthshire SACRE received timely updates on the developments being made concerning Religious Education and the new Curriculum for Wales 2022. SACRE participated in a face-to-face consultation with Welsh Government during the Autumn Term. Representatives attended a presentation in Cardiff led by Manon Jones from Welsh Government, Paula Webber and Libby Jones who represented WASACRE. Representatives were provided with the opportunity to discuss the key approaches to the curriculum recommended by the Humanities group. SACRE followed this up by submitting a written response to the proposals, which included the proposed intention that a RE Framework be developed by Welsh Government.

Welsh Government produced the draft Curriculum for Wales 2022 on 30th April. Monmouthshire SACRE members participated in the consultation on the draft guidance in collaboration with the other Local Authorities within the South East Wales consortia. This contained information on the structure and components of Curriculum for Wales, the approach to progression, and how the curriculum must be inclusive for all learners. The Curriculum for Wales 2022 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.

The Welsh Government consultation on *The White Paper Our National Mission: A Transformational Curriculum* set out the legislative proposals for the new curriculum.

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Monmouthshire SACRE provided feedback following discussion in the Spring Term SACRE meeting held on 6th March 2019.

SACRE were made aware that the work on the new supporting framework is underway. This is being developed to provide further detail about the relationship between religious education, the agreed syllabus, and the Areas of Learning and Experience. It is being written 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 RE Adviser to Monmouthshire SACRE has acted as Regional Vice Chair of the Humanities AoLE working group in her role as Professional Learning Adviser at the Achievement Service (EAS). SACRE members have been updated on the progress in terms of Religious Education within the Humanities and the development of the RE Framework at termly SACRE meetings. Paula Webber and Libby Jones (RE Adviser Wrexham) continue to lead the development of the RE supporting framework.

SACRE collaborated with the other four SACREs throughout the South East Wales region to provide feedback to Welsh Government on the draft curriculum during the Summer Term. This response to the consultation was submitted by the RE Adviser.

SACRE are monitoring the progress of the RE framework in order to consider the local responsibility to produce an Agreed Syllabus that pays due regard to the Curriculum for Wales 2022. It is anticipated that the RE Framework might in due course be adopted or adapted in a Monmouthshire Agreed Syllabus Conference as the Monmouthshire Agreed Syllabus.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL**

The RE Adviser to Monmouthshire 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 be kept informed of national developments across England and Wales. The REC for England and Wales have been working closely with WASACRE and Welsh Government during the curriculum development process.

SACRE received and considered the Executive Summary of the Final Report from the Commission on Religious Education in England and its relevance to Wales. Members were informed that the Final Report of the Commission on Religious Education, Religion and Worldviews: the way forward. A national plan for RE had been published. It sets out a National Plan for RE comprising of 11 recommendations and calls on the Government in England to consider and adopt it.

The report is the result of two years' work from Commissioners who listened to evidence from a wide range of concerned parties including pupils, teachers, lecturers, advisers, parents and faith and belief communities. The Commission received over three thousand submissions, all of which have been carefully considered. SACRE were informed that WASACRE had been considering the findings of the report and had sent copies of the report to Welsh Government and to the Education Secretary Kirsty Williams for consideration as some of the recommendations might equally apply to

## **THE ANNUAL REPORT OF MONMOUTHSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) - 1ST AUGUST 2018 – 31ST JULY 2019**

Wales. SACRE were informed that Rudi Lockhart CEO of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales gave a presentation on the CoRE report at the WASACRE meeting on 20th November 2018.

### **WASACRE WITHDRAWAL FROM RE QUESTIONNAIRE**

SACRE considered the WASACRE withdrawal from RE questionnaire and reminded of the WASACRE guidance document “Managing the Right of Withdrawal from RE” which was circulated by to all schools across the county borough. A short questionnaire had been included with the document to help WASACRE gain an accurate awareness of the instances of withdrawal from Religious Education across schools in Wales. Overall, there were very few instances of full or partial withdrawal from RE. WASACRE examined the results and forwarded the response findings to Welsh Government. Monmouthshire SACRE responded to questions relating to withdrawal from RE in the Welsh Government consultation on the white paper on changes to legislation.

### **TRAINING OF SACRE MEMBERS**

Monmouthshire SACRE members received training on the Roles and Responsibilities of SACRE during the Autumn Term meeting. As part of its training for members in 2018-2019 SACRE received updates on the development of the Curriculum for Wales 2022 and its implications for RE. SACRE is very appreciative of the opportunities to become more informed on RE and Collective worship issues in schools.

### **MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE**

**The current membership list showing the position as of July 2019 is included at Appendix 1.**

SACRE members have been kept up to date with the progress being made in filling vacant positions and changes of membership of the committee at SACRE meetings. During 2018-2019 SACRE recruited representatives of Christian denominations, however some positions remain vacant. Every effort has also been made to maintain representation from a wide range of non-Christian communities. SACRE has written to several organisations including CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales), the Interfaith Council for Wales and the Onyx Link Foundation to maintain representation with limited success to date. During 2018-2019, every effort has been made to fill the vacancies left following the resignation of some long-standing members at the beginning of the summer term 2018. Welsh Government guidance was received concerning representatives from organisations representing non – religious beliefs such as Humanists to sit on Committee A. A report will be presented to Council to revise the terms of reference and to consider Humanist representative. SACRE were successful in filling vacancies in Committee B representing teaching associations.

The Local Authority received the letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams, regarding the right of Humanists to have a full Committee A status. Monmouthshire LA are reviewing its Terms of Reference considering this guidance.

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During the Autumn Term, meeting the Chair to SACRE welcomed Ms. P. Webber who had recently been appointed through the EAS as the new RE Adviser to Monmouthshire SACRE. Ms, Webber's appointment as a full time dedicated RE Adviser by EAS means that schools, as well as SACREs, within the South East Wales region can now be supported in issues related to RE and collective worship.

A special note of thanks is extended to the Clerk to SACRE Wendy Barnard for all her hard work during the past year.

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## **SECTION 6: APPENDIX**

### **APPENDIX 1:**

#### **MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL: Membership of SACRE as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019**

##### **LOCAL AUTHORITY:**

County Councillor R. John (Chair)  
County Councillor T. Thomas  
County Councillor M. Lane  
County Councillor A. Webb  
County Councillor P. Pavia  
Vacancy

##### **FAITH REPRESENTATIVES**

###### **Committee A**

Dr. A. Daly (Church in Wales)  
Vacancy (Roman Catholic Archdiocese)  
Revd. Peter Baines (Free Church Council)  
Dr. L. Brown (Free Church Council - Methodist Church)  
Suzanne Gooding (Free Church Council)  
Nick Pryor (Salvation Army)  
Mrs. S. Cave (Bahá'í Faith)  
Ngakpa Namgyal Chatral (Buddhist Faith)  
Mr S Sharma (Hindu Faith)  
Vacancy (Jewish Faith)  
Vacancy (Muslim Faith)  
Vacancy (Sikh Faith)

##### **TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS**

###### **Committee B**

Mr A. Jones (NASUWT) (Vice Chair)  
Ms. K. Christofi (NAHT)  
Ms. M. Millington (NASUWT)  
Mrs R. Davies (NEU)  
Mrs. S. Hamar  
Ms. K Wilding  
MS. C. Smith

##### **CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Vacancy  
Vacancy

##### **OFFICERS**

Sharon Randall-Smith – Head of Service Children and Young People Directorate  
Paula Webber – EAS Professional Learning Adviser (RE and SACRE)

##### **CLERK TO SACRE**

Wendy Barnard

**APPENDIX 2:  
AND AGENDA OF MEETINGS**

**Date: Monday, 15th October 2018**

**Venue: County Hall, Usk.**

**Main Agenda Items**

- Election of Chair and Vice Chair
- Welcome and apologies for absence
- Minutes and matters arising from last meeting held Friday, 9th February 2018
- SACRE Membership
- SACRE Annual Report 2017-2018
- Roles and Responsibilities of SACRE members
- Curriculum development update - to consider the Welsh Government consultation with SACREs
- Estyn Thematic Report
- SACRE News Bulletin
- Monitoring provision and standards - RE and Collective Worship inspection reports and school self-evaluation
- Update on the Withdrawal from RE survey
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2019
- The Final Report from the Commission on Religious Education in England (see attached)
- WASACRE business
  - To receive and note draft minutes from WASACRE *meetings (attached)*
  - To receive revised WASACRE constitution *(attached)*
  - To note dates of future WASACRE meetings and confirm representation:  
Autumn – Vale of Glamorgan (20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at Llantwit Major School)

**Date: Monday, 18th February 2019 at 1.00pm**

**Venue: County Hall, Usk.**

**Main Agenda Items**

- Minutes of the meeting (held on 15th October 2018) and to consider matters arising.
  - SACRE Annual Report 2017-2018 (matters arising)
  - Holocaust Memorial Day update
- Membership update
- SACRE News Bulletin
- New Curriculum development update (to include verbal updates on the progress with the Humanities AoLE and the supporting framework for religious education, the review of legislation and the white paper and Prof. Donaldson's Video)
- Monitoring of Religious Education and Collective Worship
  - GCSE and GCE Examination Results
  - Estyn Inspection Reports
  - Self-Evaluation Reports

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- Discussion on Effective SACREs and the REQM - to include discussion on the recommendations made by Estyn and feedback from the 20:20 RE Conference workshop in Effective SACREs from Paula Webber
- Discussion on the Final Report of the Commission on Religious Education
- WASACRE business
- To receive and note draft minutes from WASACRE meeting 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017
- To consider possible nominations from Monmouthshire SACRE members to join the WASACRE Executive Committee
- To note dates of future WASACRE meetings
  - Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – Cardiff
  - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – Colwyn Bay, Conwy

**Date: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 at 1.00pm**

**Venue: County Hall, Usk.**

### **Main Agenda Items**

- Minutes of the meeting (held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019) and to consider matters arising.
- Public open forum
- Membership update
- Curriculum development update: Welsh Government Consultation on the draft Curriculum for Wales 2022, the Humanities AoLE and the supporting framework for religious education.
- Monitoring of Religious Education and Collective Worship
  - GCSE and GCE Examination Results
  - Estyn Inspection Reports
  - Self-Evaluation Reports
- WASACRE business
  - To receive and note draft minutes from WASACRE meeting held 26<sup>th</sup>
  - To consider nominations for the WASACRE Executive Committee
  - To note dates of future WASACRE meetings - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – Colwyn Bay, Conwy
- SACRE News Bulletin – To consider information briefings from members for inclusion in next SACRE News Bulletin
- Effectiveness of SACRE (to include discussion on the recommendations made by Estyn)
- Correspondence update



### **APPENDIX 3: Circulation of the Report**

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

- Members of Monmouthshire County Council
- Chair of Children and Young People Select Council
- All Monmouthshire County Council maintained primary, secondary and special schools
- Voluntary Aided Schools in Monmouthshire
- All members of SACRE
- Regional Director of the Education Achievement Service
- Welsh Government / DfES
- Wales Association of SACRES's (WASACRE)
- Cabinet Secretary for Education Welsh Assembly
- Estyn
- Available to all Local Education Authorities in Wales via the Welsh Association of SACRE's website.

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**Appendix 4:**

**Religious Education Examination Results 2016 – 2019**

GCSE Full Course Religious Studies

<b>Monmouthshire - GCSE Full Course KS4</b>				
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Cohort Size</b>	799	749	772	811
<b>Number of Entries</b>	394	441	237	379
<b>Percentage of Entries</b>				46.7%
<b>A* - A</b>	49.3%	58.9%	30.7%	
<b>A* - C</b>	26.9%	26.3%	43.5%	33.2%
<b>A* - G</b>	73.4%	68.7%	77.2%	73.9%
<b>A* - G</b>	97.0%	97.7%	99.2%	98.9%

