

# Annual Report



CYNGOR  
monmouthshire  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
*sir fynwy*

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

**1st August 2020 - 31st July 2021**

**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF MONMOUTHSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
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**A MESSAGE FROM MONMOUTHSHIRE SACRE MEETING**

Monmouthshire SACRE members would like to express their gratitude to all those working within the education sector for their care, support and dedication to the children and young people of Monmouthshire throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2020-2021, like the previous academic year, has been an unprecedented time bringing challenges we could never have imagined. The thoughts of SACRE members are with all those who have been affected by the virus, including those who have become ill, and those who have sadly lost loved ones.

Members would like to remind practitioners that we can provide advice and support for teaching, learning and blended learning resources for Religious Education and for what will hopefully be a return to a more normal way of working during the forthcoming year. We can also provide advice on RE in the Curriculum for Wales 2022 as schools design school level curricular for its implementation. Additionally, support from is available for planning and delivering collective worship during this current climate.

Monmouthshire SACRE welcomes correspondence from schools via:

Wendy Barnard, Clerk to Monmouthshire SACRE  
[WendyBarnard3@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:WendyBarnard3@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

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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 2020-2021 SACRE have continued to endeavour to fill vacancies, however this effort was curtailed due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and some positions remain vacant. SACRE has written to several organisations on a number of occasions in recent years 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 Welsh Government guidance was received from the Minister for Education, Kirsty Williams 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. However, this effort has been delayed due to a variety of circumstances, including the Covid-19 pandemic.

Teaching associations and headteachers have been notified of a vacancy in Committee B.

SACRE began the process of filling co-opted vacancies in the summer term of 2020. It was noted that the Chair can invite anyone to a meeting to make presentations etc. and that this may be a possible way to identify suitable persons for co-option. During the summer meeting of 2021 a decision was made to co-opt a young person to the committee so that learners would be represented. The LA Officer is currently working to action this decision.

SACRE have been awaiting confirmation of the changes to the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) legislation in order to review its constitution and terms of reference. This is now planned for 2021-2022.

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**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 four occasions during the year.

- Friday, 13th November 2020 at 10.00 am via Microsoft Teams
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 10.00- 12.00 via Microsoft Teams
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 10.00- 12.00 via Microsoft Teams
- Wednesday, 23rd June, 2021 at 10.00 am via Microsoft Teams - Special meeting to discuss the Welsh Government consultation on Curriculum for Wales Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) guidance.

SACRE has resolved that, where possible, meetings will be held at alternative venues such as schools. However due to the current situation with the Covid-19 pandemic meetings were held online and will be held in this way until it is deemed safe to hold face to face meetings. Due to increased attendance at meetings and the efficiency of meeting via Microsoft Teams SACRE have decided that they will trial hybrid meetings and a mixture of face to face and remote meetings in the future.

**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.

## **SECTION 2: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ADVICE GIVEN BY SACRE**

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the work of Monmouthshire SACRE during 2020-2021. SACRE has been able to provide support to schools via email and through the partnership work with the South East Wales Education Service (EAS). The EAS Professional Learning Adviser to SACRE, Ms. Paula Webber has been available to provide advice and support to schools on Religious Education and collective worship throughout the national lockdown and has continued to work with both the Wales Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (WASACRE) and the National Advisory Panel on Religious Education (NAPfRE). Additionally, the SACRE Clerk has continued to distribute and receive relevant correspondence to schools.

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 2019-2020 there were no issues of non-fulfilment of statutory requirements for RE identified within the reports and follow up action was unnecessary. However, the SACRE discussion led to an interest in supporting outdoor learning for RE considering the Covid-19 pandemic. SACRE had aimed to set up a working party to begin in 2020-2021, however this has not taken place due to the unprecedented situation that continues because of the pandemic.

Following analysis of inspection reports SACRE usually writes to schools congratulating them on their success in inspections and to offer additional advisory support where necessary.

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

SACRE continue to request self- evaluation reports from schools outlining the range and quality of provision for Religious Education and Collective Worship. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic this work was interrupted, the wellbeing of learners and practitioners being of paramount importance.

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

In past years SACRE has analysed examination results over a three-year period and identified trends in performance benchmarked against all Wales data. Schools are usually informed of the outcomes of this analysis and SACRE raises any issues schools should be addressing as a result of this analysis. During 2020-2021 this analysis did not take place due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Additionally, SACRE is awaiting guidance from WASACRE on the nature of information that can be shared with SACRE

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members because of changes to guidance on the sharing of school data from the Welsh Government.

### 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 on curriculum developments including the development of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience. SACRE have responded to all Welsh Government consultations relating to the the Curriculum for Wales (2022) and the Welsh Government guidance on Religion Values and Ethics. SACRE will give due regard to the Curriculum for Wales 2022 and the RVE guidance when reviewing the Monmouthshire Agreed Syllabus. It is anticipated that SACRE will hold an Agreed Syllabus Conference in the Spring Term of 2022.

### TEACHING MATERIALS

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

1. All schools were informed of the 2020 Holocaust Memorial Day theme and that free Holocaust resources could be found on the 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.
2. Learning Network Schools information and the offer of support for RE was sent to all schools via the EAS.

### TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

SACRE has a responsibility to ensure that teachers can access appropriate Professional Learning.

The Education Achievement Service provides Professional Learning to schools within Monmouthshire on behalf of the Local Authority. During 2020-2021 the EAS provided RVE specific PL to both primary and secondary school practitioners via Learning Network Schools heads of Humanities meetings and the Professional Learning Adviser for RVE and SACREs. The focus of the training provided for Humanities and RVE included the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales 2022, the changes to legislation around RVE, Blended Learning and Diversity, and improving standards in GCSE Religious Studies. Practitioners attending also received updates on the work of SACREs, WASACRE and other relevant bodies. There was also a focus on providing space for practitioners to share their experiences of trying to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic, teacher led assessment for GCSE and A Level, 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.

Schools have been informed by SACRE of appropriate resources and websites that support collective worship in schools e.g. HMD 2021.

### 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 Vice Chair 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.



## **SECTION 2: ADVICE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **2.1 The Locally Agreed Syllabus**

<b>Date of adoption of current Agreed Syllabus:</b>	September 2008
<b>Agreed Syllabus implementation date:</b>	September 2008
<b>Last Review date:</b>	September 2013
<b>Next planned Review:</b>	Spring Term 2022

#### **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.

Teacher representatives on SACRE reviewed the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus in 2013 in line with the five-year requirement and reported back 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 2019-2020, Monmouthshire SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments with the new Curriculum for Wales. In the Autumn Term 2019 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 have responded to the Welsh Government consultation on the Curriculum for Wales Religion Values and Ethics Guidance. SACRE is awaits the publication of the final draft of guidance for Religion Values and Ethics that will support the Curriculum for Wales 2022 and to which Agreed Syllabus Conferences must have regard when producing the Monmouthshire Agreed Syllabus. The LA will convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference during 2022 following the final publication of the guidance.

### **2.2 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. The monitoring of standards via inspection reports has been disrupted during 2019-2020 due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Estyn only inspected schools needing significant improvement.

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Whilst SACRE has no formal role in monitoring provision in Voluntary Aided Schools but can offer support and congratulations. SACRE has a monitoring role in Voluntary Controlled Schools and schools maintained by the local authority. It was further clarified that if there are problems in Voluntary Aided Schools there would be no involvement from SACRE. Intervention would be made by the Diocese or Archdiocese as appropriate. It was emphasised that there is a very good relationship between the local authority, SACRE and the Diocesan Directors of Education. SACRE will always offer support to all schools as appropriate.

## **2.2b Examination Results 2021**

In previous years, examination results achieved by pupils at secondary schools have been analysed and considered during SACRE meetings. A three-year analysis would be 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). The 2020 examination results data were not analysed as there has been a change in national guidance surrounding how results are reported and how data is used. WASACRE is currently awaiting information from Welsh Government about how any analysis of data will be gathered and reported going forward.

Schools were updated on the changes to 2021 GCSE and GCE examinations for Religious Studies by the WJEC and the Education Achievement Service.

SACRE is awaiting further information from Qualifications Wales on the development of qualifications for the new curriculum.

During the spring meeting 2020 formation was provided to SACRE about the Equality and Diversity qualification that awards students 2 B grade GCSEs. The Adviser explained that some Headteachers are seeking to timetable this instead of RE at KS4. It was pointed out that the qualification does not cover the requirements of the locally agreed syllabus. Chief Officers have been written to and schools will be contacted in due course. It was suggested that members research the specification for the course. Welsh Government and WASACRE is monitoring the situation. Monmouthshire SACRE have resolved to commission the EAS to review RE in its secondary schools in light of this.

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

### **Professional Learning**

Comprehensive advice on methods of teaching and the choice of teaching materials is provided by the authority. 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

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specific training to primary and secondary school practitioners via Learning Network School leads and the Professional Learning Adviser for RE and SACREs.

During 2020-2021 the Adviser to SACRE has been employed to support SACREs on a part time basis. She attended Humanities network meetings and the following Professional Learning relevant to RE was offered within the region:

The Education Achievement Service provides Professional Learning to schools within Monmouthshire on behalf of the Local Authority. The EAS appointed two Learning Network Schools leads for Humanities during 2020-2021. This is a move away from the RE specific LNS support that has been offered in previous years. During 2020-2021 the EAS provided PL to both primary and secondary school practitioners via Learning Network Schools heads of Humanities meetings and the Professional Learning Adviser for RVE and SACREs. The focus of the training provided for Humanities and RVE included the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales 2022, the changes to legislation around RVE, Blended Learning, Diversity, and improving standards in GCSE Religious Studies. Practitioners attending also received updates on the work of SACREs, WASACRE and other relevant bodies. There was also a focus on providing space for practitioners to share their experiences of trying to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic, teacher led assessment for GCSE and A Level, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources for Religious Studies.

LNS Humanities network meetings held during 2020 – 2021, always including specific references to RVE, encompassed the following:

- Plans for blended learning and distance learning
- Managing effective T&L in a Covid classroom
- Models of Blended Learning and Accelerated learning
- Supporting years 11 and 13 with catching up and how to manage the delivery of the course, plans to cover content and skills in the remaining time considering the course adaptations.
- Updates on the development of the RVE framework/guidance and locally agreed syllabi
- Change of name to RVE
- RE to be 'objective critical and pluralistic'
- Religious and non-religious worldviews including the sharing of the Theos Think Tank animation on worldviews.
- Removal of the parental right to withdraw children from RE/RVE brought in with the Curriculum for Wales 2022
- Legislation around RVE in different types of schools
- The Welsh Government consultation on the draft RVE guidance and its implications for Humanities in the new curriculum
- Consideration of updates from the WJEC on teacher assessed grades.
- Webinars – focusing on illustrating approaches to curriculum for Wales that could be blended learning opportunities.
- Sessions from LNS schools illustrating your new curriculum journey. Sharing resources that illustrate new curriculum approaches in a blended model.

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- Examples of resources, particularly blended learning approaches and materials as well as revision materials.
- Exploring your locality
- Diversity in Humanities
- Developing a vision for Humanities
- BAME experiences and contributions in the curriculum.
- Updates on qualifications reform

Lead practitioners now cover all humanities subjects and are available to work with schools to provide bespoke support for RE. During 2019-2020 SACRE members expressed concern that Heads of Humanities would need a certain level of understanding of all the subjects to be able to fully support RVE in the new curriculum. SACRE conveyed concern that RVE has an equitable split of the funding for resources and training and questions were asked about the professional staff should address each discipline equally. It is up to schools to decide the approach to curriculum design and implementation, however all five Humanities subjects will need to be visible. As learners move to progression steps 4 and 5, they will need to be more aware of differences between the subjects. It is the role of SACRE to advise the LA. If concerns are raised, and Professional Learning is needed, SACRE can advise that the LA to procure the necessary resources/training from the EAS. In 2020-2021 SACRE have continued to consider this situation and have decided to commission the EAS to review RE provision within its secondary schools.

### **Estyn Updates**

SACRE and schools are aware of the recommendations of the RE Thematic Report on KS2 and 3 that had been undertaken by Estyn in June 2018. SACRE members continue to ensure there is consideration of the recommendations during SACRE meetings when RE is being discussed.

### **Teaching Materials**

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

### **Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 Resources**

Schools were informed of the 2021 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's a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust produces materials specific to the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme for 2020 was "Be the light in the darkness". It

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encouraged everyone to reflect on the depths humanity can sink to, but also the ways individuals and communities resisted that darkness to 'be the light' before, during and after 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. Digital and blended learning resources are available on the EAS website for Humanities including RVE. Resources are available to both primary and secondary schools in the EAS Humanities Teams space and all recordings of meetings are recorded and stored in the files there for practitioners to return to. Bespoke support is also available as required.

### **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 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. Welsh Government are removing the parental right to withdraw their children from RVE in September 2022.

### **SACRE RE News Bulletin**

A SACRE RE News Bulletin is usually composed by the Adviser to SACRE to share with schools. Due to staff long term absence and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic bulletins were not shared with schools during the 2020-2021 academic year. Instead schools were supported and kept informed about resources via regular updates at the EAS Humanities PL sessions.

### **Visits and Visitors**

A list of suggested useful websites as was information on visits and visitors in South Wales has been distributed to schools in recent years and remains available to schools upon request. This has been shared with Humanities schools via the Microsoft Teams.

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**

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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.

## SECTION 3: ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

### School Inspection Reports

It is the practice of Monmouthshire SACRE to consider and analyse school inspection reports to ascertain whether schools are meeting the legal requirement to provide a daily act of collective worship. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic Estyn only carried out minimal inspections. SACRE did not analyse reports. However, as a result of queries from the EAS region WASACRE produced guidance on conducting collective worship during the pandemic which was passed on to schools within the County. Schools were also made aware that the EAS adviser and SACRE members were available to support schools with collective worship. The guidance from WASACRE acknowledged that collective worship might assist with wellbeing during this challenging time.

### Recommendations

If there are any issues regarding RE, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up. SACRE were advised that Estyn has made no recommendations with regards to spiritual development, collective worship or Religious Education during the academic year.

During 2019-2020 SACRE discussion on spiritual development had led to an interest in supporting outdoor learning for RE considering the Covid-19 pandemic. SACRE had aimed to set up a working party to begin in 2020-2021, however this has not taken place due to the unprecedented situation that continues because of the pandemic.

Following analysis of inspection reports SACRE usually writes to schools congratulating them on their success in inspections and to offer additional advisory support where necessary.

### Self-Evaluation Reports

SACRE continue to request self- evaluation reports from schools outlining the range and quality of provision for Religious Education and Collective Worship. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic this work was interrupted, the wellbeing of learners and practitioners being of paramount importance.

## 3.2 Applications for Determinations

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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.

## **SECTION 4: 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 2020-2021 representatives from Monmouthshire SACRE were present at the spring and summer WASACRE meetings hosted by Caerphilly and Powys SACREs through TEAMS. 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 officer on the WASACRE Executive Committee. Monmouthshire SACRE has received regular feedback from Ms Webber and those representing SACRE at WASACRE meetings. Monmouthshire is also represented on the WASACRE Executive Committee by Mrs. Suzanne Gooding.

During 2020-2021 the following activities of WASACRE were noted.

- WASACRE Executive members have met with Welsh Government representatives on numerous occasions including with Kevin Palmer to discuss how and when a professional learning package will be funded and developed. A proposal for a national approach to PL for RVE will be further developed in the coming year.
- WASACRE representatives attended the Children, Young People and Education Committee meeting on behalf of WASACRE to discuss RVE within the Curriculum for Wales and the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill.
- WASACRE contacted with WJEC regarding short course fees, which meant a late payment fee for all centres if they wished to enter a student for the full GCSE following good short course results. WJEC response was extremely positive and resulted in the removal of this issue.

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- WASACRE has written to all RE teachers acknowledging the difficult times and offering its support and that of the local SACRE. SACRE Members were in favour of the letter being sent.
- WASACRE has offered funding for blended learning resources to be produced by NAPfRE members.
- WASACRE has written to local authorities to survey how many have appointed non-religious representatives to its SACRE.
- A research report on worldviews compiled by the RE Council for England and Wales will be sent to SACRE members for information.
- The WASACRE website has been redesigned and a Facebook profile is to be established. WASACRE is trying to build a following on Twitter – Members were invited to follow and tweet @WASACRE. SACRE is looking forward to the new platforms for information sharing that the new website will provide.
- WASACRE prepared a briefing paper for Welsh Government September 2020. The aim of the paper was to make recommendations to support Welsh Government in providing appropriate guidance for ASCs, SACREs and local authorities (LAs), on the development, recommendation and adoption the first RE/RVE Agreed Syllabus.
- WASACRE prepared of a paper for Welsh Government recording all aspects of circular 10/94 that would still be relevant following the new curriculum bill.
- SACRE welcomes the updated WASACRE handbooks such as 'So you are joining your local SACRE;' and Collective worship documentation.
- Monmouthshire SACRE welcome the prospective WASACRE conference to coincide with the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales and RVE guidance. WASACRE set up a small working group to discuss and develop this further. At present the group is waiting for the completion of the consultation on the RVE guidance and the discussions on the Professional Learning package prior to continuing with the development of the concept.
- WASACRE's maintenance of the relationship with the RE Council for England and Wales through meetings with Deputy Chair, Dave Francis and other representatives.

### **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**

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.

Monmouthshire SACRE received termly updates on the developments being made with regards to Religious Education and the new Curriculum for Wales 2022. In the Autumn Term SACRE received and noted the Welsh Government consultation on Religion



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Values and Ethics and the Senedd Children Young People and Education Committee consultation on the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill.

SACRE is updated on the development of the framework for RE. It was noted that the 'framework' has now become statutory 'guidance' with the publication of the draft guidance for Religion Values and Ethics. SACRE members were unaware of the change in status of this document prior to its publication. SACRE continues to monitor the progress of the RVE guidance in order to consider the local responsibility to produce an Agreed Syllabus that has regard to the Curriculum for Wales 2022. It is anticipated that the RVE 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.

### TRAINING OF SACRE MEMBERS

Monmouthshire SACRE members receive regular training on the Roles and Responsibilities of SACRE. As part of its training for members in 2020-2021 SACRE Paula Webber, RE Adviser provided presentations to update members on the following developments:

- Curriculum and Assessment Development: a small number of adjustments were made to the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill following receipt of consultation responses. The Curriculum and Assessment Bill is now law. Agreed syllabus will need to 'have regard' to the Curriculum for Wales and Humanities AoLE.
- National Professional Learning: EAS has begun Senior Leadership professional learning. Middle Leadership training will start after half term. Meetings with Head of Humanities and Heads of RVE are regularly arranged. EAS advisers are available to meet with schools in the County, as are the leads from Learning Network Schools if support is needed with curriculum development.
- Funding for a programme of National Professional Learning for RVE: the news that funding for Professional Learning has been granted by Welsh Government was welcomed by members.
- Regular updates on the RVE supporting framework (guidance). SACRE responded to the consultation on the guidance during the autumn term. SACRE members expressed concern that the 'framework' has become 'guidance' without full consultation by Welsh Government.

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- Qualification Wales development of new qualification in line with the Curriculum for Wales.
- The moving situation with GCSE and A Level qualifications for the 2020-2021 academic year. It was acknowledged that teachers are under significant pressure carrying out assessment at both levels.
- SACRE Role in Monitoring and Supporting RVE: Guidance from Welsh Government is expected. In the meantime Hwb access was requested for SACRE Members who wish to access resources.
- Estyn: Future inspection methods and the role of SACRE in monitoring RVE. Changes to inspection due to the pandemic and to changes in the regulations for collecting and recording data.
- Ministerial Working Party (BAME contributions, community and Cynefin in the new curriculum): 51 recommendations have been accepted by Welsh Government with £500,000 for implementation in Wales. There must be a whole school approach and RVE will form a significant part. During 2021—2022 SACRE agreed to discuss what it can do to support schools with the recommendations.
- EAS Humanities Podcasts relevant to RVE were shared with members
- Resources for Schools: Recommended resources are available from the Interfaith Network (UK). The link was also sent out to schools.

Due to COVID 19, schools are placing high emphasis on blended learning (lesson planning using technology, face to face, virtually or recorded lessons for students self-isolating at home). Information on models for blended learning was circulated to sacre members to update them.

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 2020 is attached 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. Several long-standing vacancies still exist. During 2020-2021 SACRE positions for members of Buddhism, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh organisations remain vacant. Every effort has also been made to maintain representation from a wide range of organisations. 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. SACRE will continue to endeavour to fill these vacancies in 2020-2021.

In 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. However, this

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effort has been delayed due to a variety of circumstances including the Covid-19 pandemic.

SACRE had been successful in filling all but one vacancy in Committee B representing teaching associations however, following a number of resignations due to career development or secondments, SACRE has been left with a number of vacancies at the end of the Summer Term. Associations have been notified of this.

In the summer meeting SACRE discussed the vacancies for two (non-voting) Co-opted Members. Existing members were requested to contribute suggestions of suitable persons. SACRE also considered representation/input from learners. It was noted that the Chair can invite anyone to a meeting to make presentations etc. and that this may be a possible way to identify suitable persons for co-option. SACRE resolved to invite a young person from the Youth Forum to one position and to offer the other place to the the Interfaith Council of Wales.

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

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL: Membership of SACRE as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020**

#### **COMMITTEE A: REPRESENTING ORGANISATIONS OF RELIGION AND BELIEF**

**Revd. J Greaves** (Free Church Council)  
Mrs. S. Cave (Bahá'í Faith)  
Vacancy (Church in Wales)  
Suzanne Gooding (Presbyterian Church)  
Vacancy (Buddhist Faith)  
Mr. N Pryor (Salvation Army)  
Mr. A. Szwagrzak (Roman Catholic Archdiocese)  
Vacancy (Hindu Faith)  
Vacancy (Jewish Faith)  
Vacancy (Muslim Faith)  
Vacancy (Sikh Faith)  
Vacancy (Methodist Church)

#### **COMMITTEE B: TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS**

Mrs. S. Hamar  
Mr N, Jenkins (Vice Chair)  
Ms. K Wilding  
Vacancy  
Vacancy  
Vacancy  
Vacancy

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**COMMITTEE C: LOCAL AUTHORITY**

County Councillor P. Pavia (Chair from June 2021)

County Councillor T. Thomas

County Councillor L. Brown

County Councillor M. Powell

Vacancy

Vacancy

**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: SCHEDULE AND AGENDA OF MEETINGS**

**Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 10.00 am**

**VENUE: Microsoft Teams**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday, 17th June, 2019 at 1.00 pm and matters arising
3. Public open forum
4. SACRE Membership update
5. To receive and consider the SACRE Annual Report 2019-2020
6. To receive and note the Welsh Government consultation on Religion Values and Ethics and the Senedd Children Young People and Education Committee consultation on the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill
7. To consider items for the next SACRE News Bulletin
8. WASACRE business
  - i. To receive and note draft minutes from WASACRE meetings 21st November 2019 Aberaeron
  - ii. To receive and note the report of the activities of WASACRE during 2019-2020
  - iii. To note dates of future WASACRE meetings and confirm representation:  
Spring – Caerphilly (TBC)  
Summer – Powys (TBC)
9. To confirm the date of the next SACRE meetings for 2020 – 2021

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**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 10.00- 12.00**

**VENUE: Microsoft Teams**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday, 13th November, 2020 and matters arising
3. Public open forum
4. SACRE Membership update
5. Update from the EAS RE Adviser:
  - Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill – stage 3
  - RVE Framework
  - EAS - Professional Learning and Humanities Learning Network Schools
  - Supporting Our Schools Playlist
  - Hwb Distance Learning Resources for RE and RS
  - GCE/GCSE external assessment
6. To respond to Qualifications Wales consultation '*Qualified for the future*'
7. WASACRE update and to note dates of future WASACRE meetings and confirm representation:
  - Spring – Virtual meeting welcome by Caerphilly SACRE - Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March
  - Summer – Powys (TBC)
8. To confirm the date of the next SACRE meeting

Further Links for information and consideration

Item 5.

- Stage 3 of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill [St Giles Centre news article](#)
- [WJEC – Information on assessment for 2021](#)
- [WJEC free blended learning resources for RE](#)
- [WJEC Timeline for Teachers](#)
- Estyn <https://youtu.be/wYxlyKL88KA> (short video summing up new approach)
- [Estyn Review and Consultations](#)

Item 6.

[Quals Wales Consultation documents](#) (see particularly p. 22-26 regarding Humanities)  
[Consultation Questions](#)

Webinar - <https://youtu.be/Y78x8Ut4GN8>

Booking form for [Qualifications Wales Humanities Webinar](#) – (March 4<sup>th</sup>)

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**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 10.00- 12.00**

**VENUE: Microsoft Teams**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday, 24th February, 2021 at 10.00 am (attached)
3. Public open forum
4. SACRE Membership update
5. Update from the EAS RE Adviser
6. Update on the Welsh Government Religion, values and ethics supporting guidance (attached)
7. WASACRE business
8. To receive the minutes of the WASACRE meeting held on *Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021* (attached)
9. WASACRE Executive election voting (papers to be sent when received)
10. To note dates of future WASACRE meetings and confirm representation:
  - Summer – Teams meeting hosted by Powys SACRE *16 June 2021*
  - Autumn – Torfaen (TBC)
11. To confirm the date of the next SACRE meeting

Further information for consideration:

- RVE resources from Inter Faith Network UK (Years 7 – 9) - designed for use in England but can be adapted to suit your school level Humanities/RVE curriculum. [Inter Faith Activity in the UK: a teacher resource for secondary pupils aged 11-14 - Resources - The Inter Faith Network \(IFN\)](#)

**Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2021 at 10.00 am**

**County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of interest
3. To consider a response to the consultation on the RVE Framework. <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2021-05/consultationdocument-curriculum-for-wales-religion-values-and-ethics-guidance.pdf> 4
4. To confirm the date of the next meeting as 20th October 2021

### **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
- Wales Association of SACRES's (WASACRE)
- Minister for Education Welsh Assembly

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- Estyn
- Available to all Local Education Authorities in Wales via the Welsh Association of SACRE's website.

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