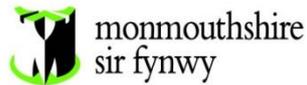


Public Document Pack



County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Thursday, 5 October 2017

Notice of meeting:

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Friday, 13th October, 2017 at 1.30 pm
Rooms 6 & 7, Innovation House, Wales 1 Business Park, Magor.
NP26 3DG

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Election of Chair.	
2.	Appointment of Vice-Chair.	
3.	Apologies for absence.	
4.	Declarations of Interest.	
5.	To confirm the minutes of the SACRE Committee meeting held on 9th June 2017 and to note actions arising.	1 - 8
6.	Feedback from a presentation to Cardiff SACRE: RE Days for Year 6 Pupils in Monmouthshire Schools.	
7.	To consider and approve the draft SACRE Annual Report 2016 - 2017.	9 - 26
8.	Curriculum development update.	
9.	WASACRE:	
9.1.	To receive and note the draft minutes of the WASACRE meeting dated 7th July 2017.	27 - 34
9.2.	To note the appointments made to the WASACRE Executive Committee.	
9.3.	To note the dates of future WASACRE meetings and attendance from Cardiff SACRE.	

10.	SACRE News Bulletin.	
10.1.	To receive the September 2017 News Bulletin.	35 - 40
10.2.	Information briefings from members for inclusion in the next SACRE News Bulletin.	
11.	To agree dates and venue for future meetings.	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillors:

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

Representing the Church in Wales (1)

Dr. A. Daly

Representing the Roman Catholic Church (1)

Mr. R. Cottrell

Representing Free Churches (4)

Baptist: Revd. Dr. P. Baines
The Salvation Army: Major N. Andrews
Vacancy
Vacancy

Representing the Bahá'í Faith (1)

Mrs S. Cave

Representing the Buddhist Faith (1)

Ngakpa Namgyal Chatral

Representing the Hindu Faith (1)

Mr S. Sharma

Representing the Jewish Faith (1)

Mr A. Davidson

Representing the Sikh Faith (1)

Mrs N Baicher

Representing the Muslim Faith (1)

Mrs F Jilani

Representing the Teachers Associations (7)

Mr A. Jones
Mrs R. Davies
Ms C. Cooper
Ms S. Perry Phillips
Ms M. Millington
Mr. S. Oram
Vacancy

Co-opted Members (2)

Mrs K. Fitter
Mr. T. Thomas

Public Information

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Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Outcomes we are working towards

Nobody Is Left Behind

- Older people are able to live their good life
- People have access to appropriate and affordable housing
- People have good access and mobility

People Are Confident, Capable and Involved

- People's lives are not affected by alcohol and drug misuse
- Families are supported
- People feel safe

Our County Thrives

- Business and enterprise
- People have access to practical and flexible learning
- People protect and enhance the environment

Our priorities

- Schools
- Protection of vulnerable people
- Supporting Business and Job Creation
- Maintaining locally accessible services

Our Values

- **Openness:** we aspire to be open and honest to develop trusting relationships.
- **Fairness:** we aspire to provide fair choice, opportunities and experiences and become an organisation built on mutual respect.
- **Flexibility:** we aspire to be flexible in our thinking and action to become an effective and efficient organisation.
- **Teamwork:** we aspire to work together to share our successes and failures by building on our strengths and supporting one another to achieve our goals.

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 5

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)
held at Rooms 6 & 7, Innovation House, Wales 1 Business Park, Magor NP26 3DG on
Friday, 9th June, 2017 at 1.30 pm

PRESENT: County Councillors: L. Brown, A. Easson, M. Lane and J. Watkins

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Church in Wales	-	Dr. A. Daly
Free Church Council	-	Revd. Dr. P. Baines
Bahá'í Faith	-	Mrs. S. Cave
Sikh Faith	-	Mrs. N. Baicher
Teachers Associations	-	Mr. A Jones and Mr. S. Oram
Co-opted Member	-	Mr. T. Thomas

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Gill Vaisey	RE Consultant
Sharon Randall-Smith	Head of Achievement and Attainment
Richard Williams	Democratic Services Officer

GUESTS:

Welsh Government	-	Ms. M. Jones and Ms. P Smith
Humanists UK	-	Ms. K. Riddick

APOLOGIES:

County Councillors: P. Pavia and A. Webb

R. Cottrell, C. Cooper, R. Davies, S. Sharma, F. Jilani, S. Perry Phillips and M. Millington.

1. Election of Chair

Due to the low turnout of SACRE Members, it was agreed that the election of Chair for the year should be considered at the Autumn SACRE Committee meeting.

We therefore elected Neeta Baicher as Chair for today's meeting.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chair

The appointment of the Vice-Chair will be decided at the Autumn SACRE Committee Meeting.

3. Welcome new members and guests

We welcomed to the SACRE Committee the new SACRE Committee Members and also guests Kathy Riddick (Humanists UK) and Manon Jones and Pauline Smith, representing the Welsh Government.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held at Rooms 6 & 7, Innovation House, Wales 1 Business Park, Magor NP26 3DG on Friday, 9th June, 2017 at 1.30 pm

Before commencing with the meeting the RE Adviser outlined the role of SACRE, its members and officers including her role as consultant to the Committee.

The Committee was informed that a representative of (Humanists UK) has been invited to join the SACRE Committee as a co-opted representative. The RE Consultant will liaise with Monmouthshire County Council regarding this matter.

A copy of the handbook for SACRE Members in Wales entitled 'So you're joining your local SACRE will be emailed to all SACRE Committee Members and officers who attend SACRE meetings.

4. Declarations of Interest

County Councillor J. Watkins declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest pursuant to the Members Code of Conduct in respect of agenda item 9 (c) – Summary Inspection report of Archbishop Rowan Williams Voluntary Aided Primary School, as she is the parent of a child attending this school.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 10th February 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chair. In doing so, the following points were noted:

- The teachers' representative, Mrs. J. Thomas had been replaced by Ms. K. Christofi.
- The RE Adviser has met with Debbie Hartevelde of the Education Achievement Service (EAS) who has indicated that she would be willing for an EAS representative to attend a future SACRE Committee meeting.
- SACRE Members were asked to provide a photograph and pen portrait of themselves to be received by 7th July 2017.

6. Feedback on monitoring provision of RE in Primary and secondary schools

We received a verbal update from the Head of Service Achievement and Attainment regarding the monitoring provision of RE in primary and secondary schools. In doing so, the following points were noted:

- The message being received from secondary schools in Monmouthshire is that the curriculum is being delivered. However, it has been difficult implementing the new curriculum.
- From September 2017 officers will be assessing how successful this has been as this will be the first year in which the new specification has been introduced.
- A review, in partnership with the Education Achievement Service (EAS), will be undertaken.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held at Rooms 6 & 7, Innovation House, Wales 1 Business Park, Magor NP26 3DG on Friday, 9th June, 2017 at 1.30 pm

- It was noted that it was easier for challenge advisers to follow the process through at primary level.
- The EAS needs to be contactable to discuss RE provision in Secondary schools.
- There is a need to work with the EAS across the region.

Having received the verbal update, the following points were noted:

- The RE Adviser informed the Committee that she has a good working relationship with Welsh Government via the National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (NAPfRE). We are very active and proactive with the curriculum. Also, WASACRE has a voice within Welsh Government.
- Concern was expressed that the teaching of RE at Key Stage 4 was being affected due to the Welsh Baccalaureate and may be further affected by the new specification introduced in September 2017.
- The RE Adviser informed the Committee that we have a good working relationship with primary school head teachers. They have been informed by email that the Agreed Syllabus for RE will remain statutory until further notice. This will also be noted in the next Newsbulletin.

We resolved to receive the verbal update and noted its content.

7. Summary Inspection report of Ysgol Y Fenni

We received the Summary Inspection report and self evaluation report for Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni.

We noted that the school's RE outcomes and provision were excellent.

We resolved that the RE Adviser should write to the Head Teacher congratulating the school on their achievements and thank them for sharing such a detailed and helpful self-evaluation. The RE Adviser would also provide advice regarding the school's indicated areas for development such as a visit to a mosque.

We also noted the positive comments in relation to collective worship.

8. Summary inspection report of Archbishop Rowan Williams Primary School

We received the Summary Inspection report and self evaluation report for Archbishop Rowan Williams Voluntary Aided Primary School.

We noted the many positive comments regarding the school's RE Outcomes and provision and noted that these appropriately reflected the status of the school as a church aided school.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held at Rooms 6 & 7, Innovation House, Wales 1 Business Park, Magor NP26 3DG on Friday, 9th June, 2017 at 1.30 pm

It was noted that it is not SACRE's remit to monitor RE in Church Aided Schools. However, it was useful to learn of good practice and offer support where appropriate.

It was noted that the school also received a Section 50 report which was publicly available to view.

We resolved that the RE Adviser should write to the Head Teacher congratulating the school on providing such a helpful and positive self-evaluation report and offer advice in relation to the areas for development as appropriate.

9. Curriculum development update: Feedback on various meetings

We received a verbal update by the RE Adviser regarding the Curriculum Development. In doing so, the following points were noted:

- The RE Adviser had had a very positive meeting with Kirsty Williams AM, Cabinet Secretary for Education, in March 2017 as part of a WASACRE delegation of representatives.
- The Minister had expressed her support for the provision of religious education in schools and that it was a statutory requirement for schools to provide religious education.
- The Minister had stated that if there were some schools that were not complying, she needed evidence as to where this was happening.
- Estyn had also indicated that evidence was required and should also be notified. Estyn would like to be forewarned before undertaking an inspection.
- The Committee discussed how to proceed and it was noted that the situation needed to be managed carefully where schools were not complying with the curriculum. Some suggestions raised were for Estyn to identify any shortcomings via their inspections, and for information relating to any potential shortcomings to be forwarded to WASACRE to be passed on to Welsh Government.
- Concern was expressed that the teaching of RE via the humanities programme might have a detrimental effect on students.
- Some schools were pioneering the way the curriculum may look in light of the Donaldson Review. One of these areas is RE provision being provided via the Humanities programme.
- It was noted that Key Stage 4 RE provision in many schools is becoming marginalised.
- The Minister had agreed that schools did require clear guidance with regard to curriculum development.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held at Rooms 6 & 7, Innovation House, Wales 1 Business Park, Magor NP26 3DG on Friday, 9th June, 2017 at 1.30 pm

- Curriculum development will be ongoing. Then legislation can be changed to suit the curriculum.
- Manon Jones informed the Committee that a group of pioneer schools have been meeting since January 2017 and had been focussing on the Humanities provision and what the structure might look like. It was still early in the process and the areas of learning were still being worked through. Discussions were being held with WASACRE.
- The National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (NAPfRE) had compiled a document entitled 'What is good RE'.
- Estyn was undertaking a thematic review of Key Stages 2 & 3.
- The Foundation Phase review is being undertaken separately.

We resolved to receive the verbal update and noted its content.

10. Update on Lead Practitioner work to support the implementation of the new Religious Studies GCSE

We received an update on Lead Practitioner work to support the implementation of the new Religious Studies GCSE.

A network meeting has been organized by the GCSE lead practitioners for 28th June, 2017 at King Henry VIII School in Abergavenny commencing at 2.00pm until 4.00pm. Some of the items on the agenda for discussion include:

1. Discussion of options that schools have chosen with perhaps the grouping of schools together that have chosen the same religion combination so that they can support each other.
2. Preparation of SAMs to create a bank of SAMs materials to share, such as a selection of papers and mark schemes that can be used as examples, tests and assessments.
3. Tracking progress by discussing mechanisms to track progress and identify under achievement.
4. Cost effectiveness by going paperless, as far as possible. Consideration of creating its own resources.
5. Specified texts activities, similar to the SAMs activity to provide activities to help students understand and apply the specified texts.
6. Schemes of Learning – layout, sharing of ideas, division of tasks to create schemes of learning.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held at Rooms 6 & 7, Innovation House, Wales 1 Business Park, Magor NP26 3DG on Friday, 9th June, 2017 at 1.30 pm

The Lead Practitioner was able to work with schools directly by visiting schools for one day every two weeks.

We resolved to receive the report and noted its content.

11. Training event for SACRE Members on learning about each others' faiths

We received details of a SACRE Members' Training Day to learn about each other's faiths.

The Committee was informed that the Education Achievement Service (EAS) had expressed an interest in supporting such an event and making it available to schools across the consortium. Estyn, and the Welsh Government representatives present at today's meeting also expressed support for such an event.

The RE Adviser stated that she would email the SACRE Committee members with some potential dates for the training day, with a view to taking this matter forward.

12. Draft minutes from the WASACRE meeting on 3rd March 2017

We received and noted the WASACRE minutes dated 3rd March 2017.

13. Photo presentation of the meeting hosted by Monmouthshire

We received an interesting and informative photo presentation of the WASACRE meeting hosted by Monmouthshire SACRE on 3rd March 2017.

14. nominations made to the WASACRE Executive Committee

We were informed that there were two nominations for two positions on the Executive Committee, namely: Alison Lewis and Gill Vaisey.

We were also informed that nominations had been received for the position of vice-chair for the Wales Association of SACRE's (WASACRE), namely: Ernie Galworthy of Merthyr Tydfil SACRE and Gill Vaisey of Monmouthshire SACRE.

The Committee nominated Gill Vaisey to become the next vice-chair of WASACRE.

15. Dates of future WASACRE meetings

Details of the next WASACRE meetings are as follows:

- 7th July 2017 – Wrexham.
- 10th November 2017 - Bridgend.

16. Spring 2017 News Bulletin

We received and noted the Spring 2017 SACRE news bulletin.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)
held at Rooms 6 & 7, Innovation House, Wales 1 Business Park, Magor NP26 3DG on
Friday, 9th June, 2017 at 1.30 pm**

17. Draft bulletin for Summer 2017

We received the draft SACRE news bulletin for the Summer 2017.

The RE Adviser informed the Committee that items for the news bulletin should be emailed to the Democratic Services Officer who would then forward the items on to the RE Adviser.

18. Information briefings from members for inclusion in the next SACRE News Bulletin

Sue Cave provided an item for the SACRE Summer news bulletin:

- October 2017 is the bicentenary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith.

The RE Adviser will add this information to the news bulletin.

19. Next meeting

We resolved that the Democratic Services Officer would liaise with the RE Adviser and the Education Adviser to ascertain a date for the next meeting at the end of October / beginning of November 2017.

The meeting ended at 3.26 pm.

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Annual Report



Standing Advisory Council On Religious Education (SACRE)

1st August, 2016 - 31st July, 2017

DRAFT

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

1st August, 2016 - 31st July, 2017

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1. Executive Summary

- **SACRE Members Workshop Sharing**

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

- **SACRE RE News Bulletin**

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

- **Farmington Fellowship 2016 – 2017**

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

- **Holocaust Memorial Service**

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

- **Withdrawal Clause**

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

- **RE and the Welsh Baccalaureate**

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

- **Curriculum Review and Development**

Regular updates on the curriculum review were considered by members.

- **CYTUN Bulletin**

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

- **Summary of Inspection Reports**

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

- **Self Evaluation Reports**

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

- **Hosting of WASACRE Meeting**

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

- **Artefact Loan Service**

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

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2. Advice To The LA

2.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus.

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

2008 Agreed Syllabus

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

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

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

Review

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

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

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

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

2.2 Standards in religious education

Monitoring of Provision and Standards

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

Inspection Reports and Self Evaluation

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

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

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

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

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

2.3 Methods of teaching and the choice of teaching materials

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

2008 Support Material

Foundation Phase

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

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

Key Stage 2 / 3

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

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

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

RE Today publications

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

Teaching materials

Farmington Scholarships

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

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

Holocaust Memorial Service

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

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

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

Guidance on Managing the Withdrawal of Pupils From RE

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

RE Celebration Days

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

Artefact Loan Service

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

RE News

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

SACRE RE News Bulletin

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

2.4 Teacher training

WASACRE

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

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

Local Consortium Training

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

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

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2.5 Collective Worship

Inspection Findings

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

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

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

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

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

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

Collective Worship Guidance

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

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

Determinations

SACRE did not receive any requests for determinations this year.

2.6 Advice to the LA on other issues

Local Issues:

Chair of SACRE

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

Monmouthshire Inclusion Group

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

CYTUN Policy Bulletin

SACRE members regularly received the Cytun Policy Bulletin for information.

Lead Practitioners for RS GCSE Specification

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

Hosting of WASACRE Meeting

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

The following article was featured in the RE Newsbulletin:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



National Issues:

WASACRE

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

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

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

National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (NAPfRE)

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

REC

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

AREIAC

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

Curriculum Review

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

3. Annexes

Annex A) Number of meetings

Monmouthshire SACRE met on three occasions this year:

15th November, 2016

10th February, 2017

9th June, 2017

Annex B) The Composition Of Monmouthshire SACRE

6 Representatives of the Local Education Authority

12 Representatives of Religious Denominations

7 Representatives of Teachers' Associations

2 Co-opted Places

The committee is also supported by the following officers:

Clerk to SACRE

School Improvement Officer responsible for RE

RE Consultant

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

As at 31st July, 2017:

Representatives of the Local Education Authority:

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

Representatives Of Religious Denominations

Free Churches (4 places):

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

Church In Wales

Roman Catholic Church

Bahá'í

Buddhist

Hindu

Jewish

Sikh

Muslim

Dr A. Daly

Mr. B. Cotrell

Mrs. S. Cave

Ngakpa Namgyal Chatral

Mr. S. Sharma

Mr. A. Davidson

Mrs. N. Baicher

Mrs. F. Jilani

Representatives Of Teachers' Associations

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

Co-option

Mrs. K. Fitter
Mr. T. Thomas

Officers:

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

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

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

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

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



Agenda Item 9a

Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru, Wrecsam, 7 July 2017 (10.30am – 3pm)

Wales Association of SACREs meeting, Wrexham, 7 July 2017 (10.30am – 3pm)

Presenoldeb/Attendance

<p>Ynys Môn / Anglesey Bethan James (BJ) Rheinallt Thomas (RT) Mefys Jones-Edwards (M J)</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent Gill Vaisey (GV)</p> <p>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend Edward Evans (EE) Vicky Thomas (VT)</p> <p>Caerffili/ Caerphilly Vicky Thomas (VT) John Taylor (JT)</p> <p>Caerdydd / Cardiff Gill Vaisey (GV)</p> <p>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire Mary Parry (MP)</p> <p>Ceredigion Lyndon Lloyd MBE (LL)</p> <p>Conwy Phil Lord (PL)</p>	<p>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire Phil Lord (PL) Emrys Wynne (EW) Simon Cameron (SC)</p> <p>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire Phil Lord (PL) Roz Williams (RL)</p> <p>Gwynedd Bethan James (BJ)</p> <p>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil Vicky Thomas (VT) Ernie Galsworthy (EG)</p> <p>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire Gill Vaisey (GV)</p> <p>Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot</p> <p>Casnewydd / Newport Vicky Thomas (VT) Sally Northcott (SN)</p> <p>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire Mary Parry (MP)</p>	<p>Powys John Mitson (JM) Margaret Evitts (ME)</p> <p>Rhondda Cynon Taf Paula Webber (PW)</p> <p>Abertawe / Swansea Alison Lewis (AL) Vicky Thomas (VT)</p> <p>Torfaen /Torfaen Vicky Thomas (VT)</p> <p>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan Paula Webber (PW)</p> <p>Wrecsam / Wrexham Libby Jones (LJ) Tania ap Sion (TaS) Liz Davies (LD) Bhupinder Virdee-Lace (BV-L) Samantha Jesson (SJ) Martin Matthias (MM) Rev. James Harris (Rev. JH) Ruth Holden (RH)</p> <p>Sylwedyddion / Observers Dr Farookh Jishi (Wrexham Muslim Association)</p>
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Minutes

1. Cyflwyniad a chroeso / *Introduction and welcome*

Members enjoyed choir performances from Eyton VC School, Ysgol Penrhyn and St. Christopher's School. Members were welcomed to the Chamber by Cllr. John Pritchard, Mayor of Wrexham and Sam Jesson, Chair of Wrexham SACRE. They thanked the children for their performances. Sam Jesson noted that with the introduction of Successful Futures, it is an exciting, creative and innovative time for education. Phil Lord (PL) opened the meeting and also thanked the children for their performances. He expressed gratitude to Cllr. Pritchard and Sam Jesson for their welcome.

2. Adfyfyrion tawel / *Quiet reflection*

PL led a quiet reflection upon the disaster at Grenfell Tower. He spoke about media reports of a catalogue of events leading up to the disaster. PL asked members to consider that what we say and what we do can have an impact on other people in good or in bad ways. He asked everyone working in SACREs and schools to think about how they can do little things to make a difference for the better.

3. Ymddiheuriadau / *Apologies*

Andrew Pearce, Dr Annette Daly, Neeta Baicher, Tudor Thomas, Sue Cave, Christine Abbas, Mathew Maidment, Alwen Roberts, Dafydd Trehearne, Cllr. P. A. Roberts, Rachel Samuel, Rachel Bendall, Pauline Smith, Manon Jones. Huw Stephens, Sharon Perry-Phillips, Leslie Francis. Helen Gibbon, Meinir Wynne Loader, Huw George, Marilyn Frazer.

4. Cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd yng Nghaerfyrddin, 3 Mawrth 2017 / *Minutes of meeting held in Monmouthshire, 3 March 2017*

With the exception of a few minor typing errors and a missing date on p.7 the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Vicky Thomas and seconded by Rheinallt Thomas

5. Materion yn codi / *Matters arising*

P.4 - matters arising p.10 – Edward Evans (EE) wrote to Kirsty Williams - Action completed.

P. 10. VT found no issue within the inspection report. She met with the Challenge Advisor. Caerphilly sent a letter and survey to all secondary schools and had 100% returns. It was pointed out that the issue of schools not fulfilling their statutory obligations in delivering RE is a wider problem. The survey revealed that some schools were delivering RE during thought for the day or registration. The local authority will write to schools to point out that this is not an appropriate vehicle for the delivery of RE.

p.14. Item 11.h. PW attended two study days at the University of Chester. These were geared toward teachers of A Level, but were not board specific. The aim was to give teachers a 'back to university experience' rather than providing CPD. Nevertheless, PW reported that the workshops provided very good CPD for teachers. The university hopes to provide further study days in the future.

RT raised a concern over the protocol for sending out WASACRE minutes. He reminded WASACRE members that traditionally minutes would be received within two weeks of the meeting. The current process is that minutes are checked by the Chair and the Executive Committee for accuracy prior to being sent out because of the national status of WASACRE. Some SACREs need access to the minutes earlier as there are a wide range of dates for SACRE meetings and they are needed in advance of meetings. Welsh speakers expressed concern that they would have to read the minutes twice if they

were initially sent out in English with a translation to follow. There was a suggestion that the translator be given a date in advance. It was recognised that, as a first principle, there should be equality for both languages. A member suggested that the minutes should be written promptly as there was an honorarium paid to the secretary to do so. The role of the secretary and the honorarium were, therefore, discussed. GV raised the question of payment for the role of Secretary. JM reported that the honorarium paid to the secretary hasn't changed since WASACRE was established. Members discussed whether it might be necessary to have a minutes secretary or whether it would be necessary to review the honorarium? The standard and detail of the minutes were discussed and some members felt that it was important that the secretary have subject knowledge.

ACTIONS:-

- i. Minutes should go out before the SACREs are going to meet.**
- ii. Executive meeting to discuss the honorarium paid to the secretary, the issue of translation into Welsh and to consider when Executive meetings are held in order to send WASACRE minutes to SACREs at the earliest opportunity. Minutes to be checked by the Chair and go out to SACREs before the Executive Meeting.**

6. Cyflwyniad NAPfRE / NAPfRE presentation: *Supporting the new GCSE RS specification - The work of GwE Lead Practitioner's for Religious Studies* – Mefys Jones– Lead Practitioner for Religious Education GwE.

Mefys Jones presented on the progress of lead practitioners in N. Wales and their work to provide support for schools delivering the new GCSE specification. Mefys is a member of Anglesey SACRE and regional lead practitioner in N. Wales. The presentation included:

- a. The aim of the three RS Hubs in the north is to ensure consistency across the region and to support teachers. Three meetings were organised during the year. The initial meetings were used to unpack the specification. It had been difficult to access resources for the new GCSE as text books had not been made available in time.
- b. A questionnaire was distributed to identify teachers' concerns. They needed help in areas such as planning schemes of work, developing assessment material and marking of examination answers. Teachers wanted advice on resources and on the new humanist perspective within the specification. The sharing of resources was a main concern. Accessing Welsh resources was a particular problem as the textbook was initially only published in English. Mefys pointed out that the Buddhism A level course book had arrived a month after the examination. There was also a great concern that both the new GCSE and A Level had been introduced at the same time and that WJEC CPD meeting didn't take place until almost the end of the autumn term.
- c. Lead practitioners explored content that was similar in the old specification and identified what was new in order to consider which resources could be reused. Facebook and email were used for sharing information and uploading resources. Hwb was available, but had not been embedded everywhere. GWE is in the process of setting up a website to upload resources. The Save RE Facebook page had been a valuable resource. For teachers using the medium of English Eduqas resources were useful, but they needed to be translated into Welsh. Other resources included Bitesize, especially the video clips, and True Tube for religious and moral issues.
- d. A conference was held in Llandudno. The support from headteachers in releasing teachers for this event had been very welcome. Joy White attended to talk about assessment. Rob Grinter, a humanist, was present to talk to teachers about the humanist perspective.
- e. The third meeting brought everyone together to share resources and share ideas. The process throughout the year created the feeling that help was available. Links will continue. A bank of examination questions will be set up and teachers will moderate marking. All resources will be

available on the website. There will be meetings with Lynda Maddock, WJEC subject officer, and with other lead practitioners from Wales.

Mefys thanked the dedicated teachers for their participation and collaboration. She acknowledged SACREs had supported the work of the lead practitioners.

Discussion following the presentation:

VT thanked Mefys for all the hard work and shared resources. Mefys was aware that some schools are delivering full course RE in one hour a week. She felt lucky that time is given to RE in her school. She expressed concern that teachers had been expected to create their own resources while waiting for the official resources to arrive. She said that the workload of teachers is massive. MP said that it had been a pleasure to listen to what Mefys had to say and that it was clear in ERW that there is a lack of material provided in Welsh. Mary expressed her gratitude for the translated resources being made available. Mefys said that they had written to Heads thanking them for releasing and supporting teachers. She informed WASACRE that there will be a conference for the whole of Wales on 23rd September. A WASACRE member thanked Welsh Government for providing the opportunities and funding for this work.

7. Cyflwyniad WASACRE/WASACRE presentation: Religious Education from a European perspective. – Phil Lord

PL has had the privilege to work with EFTRE, who meet once a year to discuss RE issues across Europe. PL sits on the Executive committee of EFTRE which is open to all countries in the Council of Europe, the 47 member states who have signed the Convention of Human Rights of the European Court of Human Rights. PL has been surprised at how different countries approach RE. Some teach from a phenomenological viewpoint, but in Europe RE is generally confessional and one religion is generally taught. One of the benefits of RE is to bring about tolerance and understanding of others. In 2009 a study on the way religion is presented across Europe was carried out. Whether confessional or non-confessional, RE is a good driver for tolerance and community cohesion. However, the Council of Europe felt that a move towards a multi-religious approach would be better in order to bring communities together. In 2014 the Council of Europe published the *Signposts* document to bring commonality in RE. The European Forum for the Teachers of RE put teaching packs together with a focus upon multi-cultural aspects of RE.

PL gave an overview of RE in Finland and Austria. He had visited primary and secondary schools in Finland where RE is generally of the Lutheran tradition but is non-confessional. Parents can request RE in their own tradition. Secondary school teachers are required to have a Master's Degree and are given a lot of respect as professionals. All advice on RE comes through the Church and is faith based. Early years education is about play and there is no formal transition between pre and statutory schooling. PL observed a secondary school exploring Lutheran History. Teachers set the activity and pupils got on with it. They knew what they had to do. Independent learning was clearly evident in the high school. Phil talked about the demographics of Austria in comparison to Wales. He referred to a video about RE across Europe which can be found on the EFTRE website (<http://www.eftre.net/>). RE in Austria is compulsory and confessional Roman Catholic, but schools have to provide Protestant education to those who request it. In addition Phil visited an Islamic RE training centre. More pupils are now opting out of confessional RE and those that do so are offered Ethics lessons instead. Denise Cush was in attendance at the conference talking about the religious landscape in Europe. She also spoke about how restrictive it is to teach just one religion. The purpose of RE differs depending upon where you are in Europe. One of the purposes of RE in UK including Wales is to create opportunities for multiculturalism and diversity. PL suggested that we need to have these discussions when designing new curriculum.

Questions:

GV had also attended the EFTRE conference and reported that although RE in Europe was confessional RE pupils would still learn about other faiths as well.

8. Diweddariadau/Updates:

i. **Canllawiau ar Reoli Hawl Tynnu'n ôl o Addysg Grefyddol/ *Guidance on Managing the Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education.***

GV reported that the document was finished but has been for translation. GV had sent the translated document to RT to proofread. RT said that the content drew him in and that the translation was excellent.

ii. **Materion Llywodraeth Cymru / *Welsh Government matters* –**

PW reported that the RE planning meeting on 27/3/17 to discuss the development to the new Humanities Curriculum had been very positive. WASACRE and NAPfRE representatives raised concerns with Welsh Government about RE being left out of the curriculum at Foundation Phase during the last curriculum review and that it is important to avoid the same things happening this time. They raised the issue of the right of withdrawal from RE and suggested that RE needed to be identifiable in the curriculum if legislation on withdrawal is to remain. Welsh Government requested a copy of the WASACRE withdrawal document to help them identify issues that this could raise. Manon Jones produced a timeline to show how the planning of the Humanities AoLE would develop over the academic year and so that regular meetings with WASACRE/NAPfRE could be scheduled. Welsh Government requested information on the procedure for commissioning work from WASACRE. Welsh Government expressed an interest in commissioning a paper from WASACRE on how 'What is Good RE?' fits with the work pioneers were doing. The pioneers would be looking at a number of approaches, including the approach of the Big Ideas Science model. WASACRE/NAPfRE representatives were invited to attend a Humanities pioneer group workshop to contribute to discussions about the group's proposals regarding the scope and structure of the Humanities AoLE from an RE perspective. Representatives raised the issue of assessment and the concern that the new GCSE specifications did not seem to align with Donaldson's Successful Futures. Welsh Government confirmed that Qualifications Wales would be involved throughout the process of developing the new curriculum. Curriculum developments will be shared via a newsletter to SACREs which will be sent from WG to SACRE clerks. SACREs will be able to then respond to the Newsletter by email to Manon Jones. Paula Webber as Secretary to WASACRE is to be copied into responses.

MP said that the pioneers were currently working on strand 2 of curriculum development. WASACRE/NAPfRE representatives have attended meetings with teachers from pioneer schools. This group have been discussing a common way forward. Once this is officially decided WASACRE representatives will receive the agreed proposals. Planning on the way ahead will carry on over the summer period. In September Strand 3 will look at the content of the Humanities AoLE.

Discussion from members also raised the following issues:

SACREs will have to adopt the new curriculum if there is no change in legislation. There may not be a need to change the legislation; however, changes to legislation could be positive as well as negative. Change could also support good RE. It was positive that WASACRE was able to work together with Welsh Government in order to develop a curriculum that works for RE.

iii. **RE stakeholder meeting 12/4/17**

A concern was raised that the term Religious Education would be removed from the new curriculum and that RE would be absorbed with the Humanities completely. PL said that Manon did not confirm or discount this, however RE skills would certainly need to be identifiable within the new curriculum.

Humanities AOLE group meeting 02/05/17- Report by BJ. MP and BJ attended the meeting of teachers from pioneer schools in Wrexham as observers. The teachers were at the beginning of the process and were asked to 'define humanities.' They also looked at the current curriculum, content

and skills and discussed whether there were aspects worth keeping. Teachers were also invited to identify the major things pupils needed to know by the time they reached the age of 16. This approach has developed from Science Big Ideas. So teachers were asking - What are the major Big Ideas for RE? What is important in RE and how can we share these ideas?

- iv. **New Curriculum Stakeholder meeting 24/5/17** – PL reported that assessment procedures currently create competition that is detrimental to the child. Problems arise when students want to transfer schools. If they are not attaining assessment grades Headteachers sometimes don't want them in the school. PL reported that with the development of the Donaldson Successful Futures curriculum the eyes of the world are looking at Wales. He explained that no education system in the world has changed this significantly. Therefore, Welsh Government wants to get this right. PL felt that Manon Jones and Steve Davies were sincere in wanting to create an inclusive, teacher led, bottom up system. VT commented that it is, therefore, important it is to have Manon Jones present at WASACRE meetings.
- v. **Meeting with Estyn 05/06/17** - VT reported that the meeting had been requested by WASACRE and NAPfRE and that four HMI had attended. She said that the meeting had been positive and mutually beneficial. Representatives enquired about the thematic review of RE. There will be a specific report produced by three HMI and one peer inspector. Mark Champion will have an editing role. Between twenty and twenty-one schools will be included and visits to schools will be made. The focus will be upon standards and provision; assessment; links with the community (community cohesion) and staffing of RE. The team will also look at preparation for the Four Purposes as well as transition between Primary and Secondary. If the inspectors see non-fulfilment of the statutory requirements for RE they will definitely take it up with the school. Upon WASACRE representative's suggestion, Estyn officers agreed to consider whether provision at Foundation Phase appropriately lays the foundation for work at KS2. Additionally, there will be a review of the Foundation Phase and at the suggestion of WASACRE representatives, Estyn officers agreed to ensure that RE will be included in that review alongside other areas of learning. WASACRE was asked to let Estyn know of schools that have good practice in RE.

Representatives explained how monitoring of RE was conducted by SACREs in order to fulfil their monitoring role and that it was becoming more difficult now to get evidence to provide a baseline on RE in schools especially with System Leaders having little or no responsibility for subjects e.g. RE. They discussed the importance of Estyn reports in this process. It was noted that there are more instances of inspectors noting in primary school reports, fulfilment or non fulfilment of statutory requirements for RE, than there were in secondary schools reports. Estyn officers confirmed that the same criteria for primary and secondary should be followed and thanked the delegation for bringing this to their attention and agreed they will look more closely at this issue.

Issues at KS4 were also discussed, including timetables being squeezed due to the Welsh Baccalaureate. Schools find they have insufficient time available to meet requirements of the agreed syllabus. Representatives enquired whether there was a way that Estyn and WASACRE could work together to halt this diminishing status of RE.

Estyn suggested that individual Advisers/ SACREs or LAs can 'tip them off' to good practice in schools or refer to schools which are not following statutory requirements. The delegation and Estyn also felt that really it was the place of the LA to inform Estyn of this in their LA Report before a school is inspected. In reality, Estyn's experience has led to an acceptance that LAs are unlikely to identify schools in this way as it does compromise good working relationships with schools. GV suggested this was an area of real concern and a dilemma which should be given further consideration.

Representatives asked whether through the new Inspection Framework Estyn reports would continue to give qualitative statements in terms of SMSC. It was confirmed that this was the case. It was also noted that the new Framework will have an additional focus in different schools and that RE may be the focus in some schools.

Discussion with Estyn also included the role of RE in promoting community cohesion. WASACRE raised its concerns about withdrawal from RE sometimes being linked to reasons of prejudice. Estyn informed WASACRE that Mark Campion is heading up reporting on Prevent.

An Estyn representative suggested that there was a need for teachers to have training about religions from meeting with faith representatives. GV referred to one LA which is currently planning this type of training opportunity. We will consider how widely this could be shared and whether this could be facilitated by WASACRE and if there are any funding streams available.

PL acknowledged that it is good that WASACRE has a positive relationship with Estyn.

ACTION: To discuss funding of training at the next Executive Meeting.

9. Adroddiad ar gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith a gynhaliwyd ar Mai 19, 2017/ *Report from the Executive Committee held on 19 May 2017*

WASACRE members received the draft report from the Executive Committee Meeting.

P2. Protocol for people doing work for WASACRE. WASACRE will publish the intention of commissioning on the Website. PL explained the commissioning process. Copyright was also discussed. This process is to be passed in Autumn Executive meeting.

Training opportunities will be discussed in the Autumn meeting of the Executive Committee.

WASACRE received correspondence from Christine Abbas which was discussed in the Executive meeting. PL has sent a response, and a discussion ensued. There is a growing concern that religious groups that were once included in the creation of an agreed syllabus are increasingly feeling marginalised. GV suggested that this could be something discussed by the executive.

PL informed members that the WASACRE Website – will be on the autumn agenda. RT raised the issue that not all documents commissioned by WASACRE were on the Website.

Action: The whereabouts of the missing documents will be investigated.

10. Gohebiaeth /*Correspondence*

- i. WASACE received a request from the Education Workforce Committee for a member to apply to sit on the committee. They have until 21 July to apply.
- ii. Interfaith Network UK – advertising events. SACREs will receive this in the future. Interfaith week is 12-19th November.
- iii. WASACRE received a request for information from Alun Charles, the co-ordinator of a church magazine in Carmarthenshire, concerning withdrawals from collective worship in Wales.

It was also noted that Edward Evans is currently writing a paper concerning collective worship for discussion at the next Executive Committee meeting.

ACTION: PL to phone Alun Charles.

- iv. Correspondence from Annette Daly giving her apologies and expressing concern about Humanist representation on SACREs. Officers noted that this issue has been discussed in recent meetings of WASACRE and the legal situation remains the same.

11. U.F.A. / A.O.B.

- i. 'Show and Tell' - GV spoke about her new book, *Puddles and the St Francis Service*, which is currently with the printer. This resource is appropriate for Animal Welfare Sunday on 8th October. Gill has been matching RE with the Foundation Phase Areas of Learning and popular topics or themes. Electronic classroom resources have now been added. Additionally, Gill is vetting and selecting non-fiction books because she has found inaccuracies and misinformation within some published books. She is concerned that non-specialists might not be aware of these errors. Therefore, Gill will be putting the vetted resources onto her website. GV enquired whether we could reinstate Show and Tell as a regular feature of WASACRE meetings.
- ii. Humanists for UK have put on a free course for teachers in London. AL has contacted them to ask whether there can be a conference organized in Wales.

12. Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf Dydd Gwener 10 Tachwedd, 2017 / Date for next meeting: Bridgend Autumn Friday 10th November, 2017. At the Civic Centre.

Spring Meeting March 9th Civic Centre in Swansea.

Curriculum Review Update

Welsh Government has published a document providing six executive summaries of the latest thinking of each of the Area of Learning and Experience working groups. The End of Strand 2 Report for the Humanities AoLE- Executive Summary explains how the AoLE promotes the four purposes.

'The Humanities working group has developed a statement outlining how the Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE) promotes the four purposes:

Through exploring big ideas about the Humanities, pupils will study the past and present, and by imagining possible futures, will learn about people, place, time and beliefs. Pupils will:

- understand historical, geographical, political, economic and societal concepts.
- explore their environment to further develop their sense of place and wellbeing.
- engage in learning experiences about rights, values, ethics, beliefs, religion, philosophy and spirituality.
- consider, explore and make informed choices regarding sustainability and the impact of their actions.
- positively contribute to their community and critically engage with local, national and global issues to become a responsible citizen of Wales and the wider world.

By exploring big ideas, pupils will gain a solid base of knowledge and understanding of different times, places and beliefs to become ambitious, capable learners. To become enterprising, creative contributors, they will develop enterprising skills and dispositions, in order to improve the everyday lives of people in their local community and in the wider world. Through understanding and respecting different beliefs and understanding how to exercise their democratic rights and responsibilities, pupils will become ethical, informed citizens.

By developing personal stances on matters of faith, spirituality, sustainability and social inclusion they will become healthy, confident individuals. This is an initial draft and a working statement that will be reviewed and updated regularly as the AoLE itself is developed.

The rest of the Humanities report and the report as a whole can be seen at:

<http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/170707-new-curriculum-for-wales-story-so-far-en.pdf>

Agreed Syllabus for RE and the Curriculum Review

SACRE would like to take this opportunity to assure schools that the 2008 Monmouthshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education remains the statutory curriculum document for the teaching of religious education for all maintained and Voluntary Controlled schools across the authority. This document will remain in place until further notice and whilst the development of the curriculum for Wales is continued.

An electronic copy of the Agreed Syllabus is being provided with this newsletter.

Schools should note that the Welsh Government National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education was provided to SACREs for them to consider when writing their Agreed Syllabus and that document is not intended for use by schools.

Religious education must be provided according to the Monmouthshire Agreed Syllabus and sufficient time must be allocated to deliver the programmes of study.

Estyn Thematic Review of Religious Education

Estyn plan to carry out a thematic review of religious education provision in 2017 - 2018 and a sample of schools across Wales will be selected to take part in the review. The review will focus on the provision and quality of KS2 and KS3 RE. A separate review on the Foundation Phase will be undertaken and this will include RE alongside the other areas of learning.

Minibeast RE-Think Topic Pack Early Years Excellence Award



"RE-Think Topics Packs" are a complete resource to provide teachers with the tools to deliver, easy, meaningful and topic based RE.

Each of the topic packs comes complete with a cross-curricular topic web linking all areas of learning from either the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum for England, the Foundation Phase curriculum for Wales or the Curriculum for Excellence for schools in Scotland. At least three pupil activities (sent by email) have also been created specifically for the pack together with the particular resources (books and / or soft toys) relevant to the topic.

If you are using published schemes of work, topic packs or imaginative learning projects, be careful as often the RE is missing! You will therefore need to add RE to ensure your curriculum fulfils statutory requirements.

To support and enable teachers to make these links and provide excellent RE, Gill Vaisey (Books at Press) has identified appropriate and meaningful RE for a wide range of popular topics used in schools across the UK.

The fabulous cross-curricular Minibeast RE-Think Topic Pack has been awarded Early Years Excellence 2017 finalist by Teach Early Years Magazine.



For more details and support with linking RE to topic work go to <http://www.booksatpress.co.uk/rethinktopicpacksspage16.html>

The Bahá'í Faith – Bicentenary Celebration of Prophet Founder's Birth.

Bicentenary of the Birth of **Bahá'u'lláh**



**The Founder of the
Bahá'í Faith**

In October 2017 Bahá'ís all over the world will be celebrating the Bicentenary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, Founder of the Bahá'í Faith. Bahá'ís will be inviting the wider community to activities and special events throughout the coming months.

The Bicentenary page on the Bahá'í RE Resources for Schools website is being frequently updated with news of activities, events, class room presentations, including a short film, geared specifically towards schools to mark this special event.



<http://re.bahai.org.uk/bicentenary/>

Photo: Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh in Bahjí, near Akká, Israel

Leaflet: Warwick Bahá'í Bookshop

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