

Public Document Pack



County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Monday, 7 February 2022

Notice of meeting

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Tuesday, 15th February, 2022 at 1.00 pm,
County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Welcome and Apologies for Absence	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
3.	Public Open Forum	
4.	Representation on SACRE to support Agreed Syllabus Conference (see link) https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/summary-of-legislation/#religion.-values-and-ethics	
5.	Agreed Syllabus Conference - Timeline	1 - 8
6.	Schools Update	
7.	WASACRE Business a) Nominations to Executive Committee	9 - 16
8.	Any Other Business	
9.	To confirm the minutes of the last meeting	17 - 20
10.	To confirm future meeting dates <ul style="list-style-type: none">9th March 2022 at 10.00am – SACRE/Agreed Syllabus Conference28th March 2022 Workshops	

- 26th April 2022 at 10.00am - SACRE

Paul Matthews
Chief Executive

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Paul Pavia	Larkfield;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Tudor Thomas	Priory;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Louise Brown	Shirenewton;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Maureen Powell	Castle;	Welsh Conservative Party
Vacancy (Conservative Group)		
Vacancy (Liberal Democrats)		

Representing the Church in Wales (1)

Rebecca Morteo

Representing the Roman Catholic Church (1)

Mr. A. Szwagrzak

Representing Free Churches (4)

Baptist Church: Revd. J. Greaves
The Salvation Army: Mr. N. Pryor
Methodist Church: Mrs B. Quinlan
Presbyterian Church: Mrs. S. Gooding

Representing the Bahá'í Faith (1)

Mrs S. Cave

Representing the Buddhist Faith (1)

Vacancy

Representing the Hindu Faith (1)

Vacancy

Representing the Jewish Faith (1)

Vacancy

Representing the Sikh Faith (1)

Vacancy

Representing the Muslim Faith (1)

Vacancy

Representing the Teachers Associations (7)

3 x Vacancies
Mr. N. Jenkins
Mrs. K. Wilding
Mrs S. Hamar
Ms C. Skinner

Co-opted Members (2)

Vacancy
Vacancy

R.E Advisor

Hayley Jones, EAS

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

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

Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objectives we are working towards

- Giving people the best possible start in life
- A thriving and connected county
- Maximise the Potential of the natural and built environment
- Lifelong well-being
- A future focused council

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

Kindness: We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.

Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)

Guiding principles for the Members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference

Religion, values and ethics (RVE) is a statutory requirement of the Curriculum for Wales and is mandatory for all learners from age 3 to 16. RVE forms part of the Humanities Area. This Area encompasses geography; history; religion, values and ethics; business studies. These disciplines share many common themes, concepts and transferable skills, whilst having their own discrete body of knowledge and skills.

Before you attend the first Agreed Syllabus Conference, please make sure that you have familiarised yourself with the recent documentation, links are provided in this document).

The Curriculum for Wales 2022 can be found on the Hwb website-

<https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/>

The Religion, Value and Ethics Guidance, published 10th January 2022-

The summary of legislation for Religion, Values and Ethics:

<https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/summary-of-legislation#religion,-values-and-ethics>

The summary of legislation for the Agreed Syllabus Guidance 2022:

<https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/summary-of-legislation#agreed-syllabus-conferences-and-the-agreed-syllabus-for-religion,-values-and-ethics>

The guidance for Religion, Values and Ethics:

<https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/humanities/designing-your-curriculum#religion,-values-and-ethics-guidance>

Before the Agreed Syllabus Conference is convened, the Local Authority will have already considered the new Wales Act 2021: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2021/4/schedule/2> coupled with the 1996 Act: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/schedule/31/enacted>

Some Notable Points:

- The LA holds the legal duty of convening an ASC and deciding on its composition.
- Clearly defined and separate meeting to the SACRE meeting with its own agenda, minutes and membership.
- The Agreed Syllabus Conference must 'have regard' to the CfW guidance and the RVE guidance, noting the 'subsidiarity' of the CfW model.
- 'Subsidiarity' - the principle that decisions should always be taken at the lowest possible level or closest to where they will have their effect, for example in an individual learning organisation, or a local region rather than for a whole country.
- The Agreed Syllabus could be a document which refers to the RVE Guidance and the [Humanities AoLE](#) documentation (see 'Hwb').
- There is a call for a national approach to the agreed syllabus and an appetite to work together on a national syllabus to ensure consistency.
- Voluntary aided – schools can teach additional content to the agreed syllabus.

- Voluntary controlled– teach their own syllabus in line with the Church but all children if parents request that the child follows RVE – Faith schools will have to still follow the AoLE framework.
- There is no parental right to request that a child is withdrawn from RVE in the Curriculum for Wales.

The Role of the Agreed Syllabus Conference

- **prepare a syllabus of Religion, Values and Ethics** to be adopted by a local education authority which may make different provision in respect of different descriptions of:
 - (a) schools maintained by the local authority
 - (b) learners
- **ensure that the syllabus must reflect** the fact that:
 - (a) **the religious traditions in Wales are in the main Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Wales**
 - (b) **a range of non-religious philosophical convictions are held in Wales**
- **have regard to any guidance given by the Welsh Ministers**
- **ensure that any sub-committees appointed by the conference shall include at least one member of each of the committees constituting the conference**
- **give one vote only for each of the committees constituting the conference, upon any question to be decided by the conference or by any subcommittee thereof**
- **seek unanimous agreement upon a syllabus of RVE to be recommended for adoption by the local education authority.**

The Agreed Syllabus Conference must also **meet in public** and **be chaired by an appointee of the local authority or be permitted to choose its own Chair.**

Reconsideration of any agreed syllabus for RVE should take place **no later than five years** after the appointed day on which the local authority adopted the agreed syllabus for RVE.

Membership of the Agreed Syllabus Conference

The **Agreed Syllabus Conference is a separate legal body from a Standing Advisory Council.** However, **it has the same group structure as the Standing Advisory Councils:**

- **Group A - a group of persons to represent: Christian denominations and other religions and denominations of such religions; non-religious philosophical convictions.** A local authority in Wales, in appointing such persons must take all reasonable steps to secure the outcome that the number of members appointed to the committee to represent a religion, denomination or non-religious philosophical conviction shall, so far as consistent with the efficient discharge of the committee's functions, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that religion, denomination or non-religious philosophical conviction in the area
- **Group B - a group of persons to represent such associations representing teachers** as, in the opinion of the authority, ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area
- **Group C - a group of persons to represent the authority.** There is no legal provision for an Agreed Syllabus Conference to include co-opted members, but it can seek the advice it considers appropriate from those it considers appropriate, to inform the development of effective RVE provision in its area.

Legislative Changes

The legislative changes in the Act relating to the roles and legal responsibilities of Agreed Syllabus Conferences and Standing Advisory Councils are:

- The Act makes it explicit that **any agreed syllabus for RVE must reflect both religious beliefs and also non-religious which are philosophical convictions within the meaning of A2P1**
- provision for **the appointment of persons who represent holders of non-religious philosophical convictions in the same way as they permit the appointment of persons who represent holders of religious beliefs.**

The Act provides for the appointment of persons who represent holders of non-religious philosophical beliefs in the same way as they permit the appointment of persons who represent holders of religious beliefs. It is a matter for the local authority to decide on the appointment of appropriate persons. The final decision on an appointment is dependent on the relevant local authority's determination that such a representative would help ensure the relevant traditions of the area are appropriately reflected. The local authority must take all reasonable steps to secure that the membership of the group is broadly proportionate to the strength of each religion, denomination, or conviction in its local area (see new subsection (6A) and (6B) of section 390 inserted by paragraph 9(8) of the Schedule.

Aims of the agreed syllabus

The agreed syllabus is **not** designed to be a scheme of work, but rather a **helpful guide and legal reference point for schools to support them in designing an appropriate and relevant curriculum for their learners which includes RVE within the Humanities Area.** The approach of the Curriculum for Wales Framework is based on the principle of **subsidiarity** and, as such, **each agreed syllabus should recognise and reflect the autonomy of each school and setting in realising its own curriculum.** One of the intentions of this statutory RVE guidance is to provide **the right balance between the central steer of the Curriculum for Wales Framework and the requirements of local determination for RVE, as set out in agreed syllabi across Wales.** Therefore, **the statutory RVE guidance has been written as the basis for the agreed syllabus. Should a local authority wish to adopt or adapt this guidance as their agreed syllabus they may do so. It will ultimately be the responsibility of the provider to ensure that non-denominational RVE is provided pluralistically. Agreed syllabuses should recognise that while the principal religions and their traditions in Wales should be taught in all schools, other beliefs (including non-religious philosophical convictions such as humanism and atheism) are now a recognised part of life within local areas in Wales and beyond.** This is reflected in the Act which states that the agreed syllabus:

- must reflect the fact that the **religious traditions in Wales are in the main Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Wales**
- must also reflect the fact that **a range of non-religious philosophical convictions are held in Wales.**

The agreed syllabus and the Curriculum for Wales Framework

Establishing the relationship between the agreed syllabus and the Curriculum for Wales Framework is the legal duty of Agreed Syllabus Conferences. Local authorities, Standing Advisory Councils and Agreed Syllabus Conferences **must have regard to the Curriculum for Wales Framework, which includes this statutory RVE guidance, when developing and adopting an agreed syllabus.** The agreed syllabus is the first point of reference for RVE provision in schools and settings, therefore it is essential for the agreed syllabus to recognise and reflect the approach of the Curriculum for Wales Framework and the principles set out in this statutory RVE guidance in order to create balance and maintain coherence across the Curriculum for Wales. This statutory RVE guidance enables Agreed Syllabus Conferences to establish, with confidence, this relationship between the locally agreed syllabus and the Curriculum for Wales Framework for learners aged 3 to 16. This includes guidance to support schools and settings in ensuring that there is appropriate breadth and depth in RVE while recognising the principle of subsidiarity.

Questions for agreed syllabus conferences to consider:

- Are religious and non-religious philosophical convictions appropriately represented?
- Would it be useful to identify faith and belief groups represented locally in the agreed syllabus?
- Would it be appropriate to offer schools and settings useful information about these faith and belief groups and how to contact them?
- Would it be helpful to include exemplar material and resources to support the locally agreed syllabus?
- How can collaboration between the Agreed Syllabus Conference and local authority schools and settings be facilitated to ensure an appropriate agreed syllabus is produced for your area?
- Are there any other groups or organisations in Wales that could support the Agreed Syllabus Conference in developing the locally agreed syllabus for your area?
- How will the locally agreed syllabus be promoted to schools and settings and other interested parties in your area?
- In addition to the statutory RVE guidance for learners from 3 to 16, do schools and settings in your area require anything further to support curriculum design for RVE in ways which support the principle of subsidiarity? For example:
 - advice on links to other Areas
 - suggestions for optional post 16 RVE
 - a glossary of terms
 - advice on engaging with sensitive issues in RVE
 - guidance on what critical, objective and pluralistic RVE might look like.

Timeline for ASC Members:

Timeline	Action	Responsibilities
Early Spring Term	<p>Local Authority organise the convening of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC).</p> <p>Local Authority to decide upon the membership of the Agreed Syllabus Conference, in line with the group structure outlined above. Please note that there needs to be ‘non-religious philosophical conviction’ representation within group A membership. If the Local Authority agrees to use the members of SACRE gaps in membership may need to be filled for the ASC to ensure diversity.</p> <p>Local Authority to organise a Chair and Clerk for the ASC meeting(s).</p> <p>Local Authority to organise a date for the ASC meeting the Spring Term.</p> <p>Local Authority to organise the invitations to be sent out to ASC members with Agenda. Clerk to sends out a proposed of meeting date/s to all ASC members with Agenda and link to the RVE guidance and other relevant materials.</p> <p>Notice to stakeholders given, for openness and transparency. This can be done via publication of the agenda on Council websites.</p>	<p>Local Authority</p> <p>Local Authority to establish the composition of the 'ASC', Adviser to give guidance if required</p> <p>Local Authority to set up Chair and Clerk</p> <p>Local Authority to establish the date for the first ASC meeting with Chair, Clerk and Adviser.</p> <p>Local Authority to send out invitations with Agenda and links (Adviser to advise/write and submit to Chair for approval, Clerk to send to ASC membership)</p> <p>Local Authority – ICT/Website department</p>
Prior to First Meeting	<p>ASC members to confirm their attendance/give their apologies for their attendance at the ASC meeting, to the Clerk of the ASC.</p> <p>ASC members to read through the Agenda and supporting documents/materials.</p> <p>ASC members to inform ASC Clerk, prior to meeting, of any questions or other business for the first ASC meeting.</p>	<p>ASC Members</p> <p>ASC Members</p> <p>ASC Members</p>

	(Please note the impact of the council elections on available dates etc.)	Copy of Agreed Syllabus for consideration by the Local Authority to be sent by the Chair/Clerk.
April-July 2022	<p>Local Authority to discuss and consider the Agreed Syllabus presented by the ASC.</p> <p>Options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to adopt Agreed Syllabus fully • to make amendments to the Agreed Syllabus • To make additions to the Agreed Syllabus <p>For some Local Authorities, their protocol will require the Agreed Syllabus (presented by the ASC) to go through checks with the full council or a committee.</p> <p>There may be further amendments for the ASC to consider if the Local Authority require changes/omissions or amendments.</p> <p>Supplementary ASC meetings may be required following the Local Authorities consideration of the ASC Agreed Syllabus.</p>	<p>Local Authority to consider the Agreed Syllabus presented by ASC for adoption.</p> <p>Initiations, agendas and additional ASC meetings may be required (Chair, Clerk and Adviser). ASC Members may need to attend additional ASC meetings.</p>
Post Agreed Syllabus Conferences	<p>Local Authority to adopt the Agreed Syllabus and ensure it is available to the Minister for Education, schools, ESTYN, CSC, WASACRE and other relevant organisations.</p> <p>Translation will be required.</p>	<p>For the Local Authority to publish the Locally Agreed Syllabus.</p> <p>The Local Authority Translation Department.</p>
September 2022	<p>For the locally Agreed Syllabus to be implemented from nurseries to Year 6.</p> <p>Year 7 from 2022, or years 7 and 8 in 2023 in some schools.</p> <p>2023 – nurseries, primary settings and Y7 & Y8</p> <p>2024 - nurseries, primary settings and Y7 – Y9</p> <p>2025 - nurseries, primary settings and Y7 - Y10</p> <p>2026 - nurseries, primary settings and Y7 – Y11</p>	<p>Local Authority, SACRE/SAC, school SLT and school practitioners.</p>
Spring/Summer 2027	<p>The Agreed Syllabus will need to be reviewed after 5 years.</p> <p>An ASC will need to be convened once more.</p>	<p>Local Authority to convene an ASC and organise the ASC membership composition. ASC members.</p>

Other things to consider:

Legacy Agreed Syllabus Review

The Local Authority may need to include a review of the **current** agreed syllabus for learners who are educated under the **legacy curriculum**. This is only necessary if a recent review has not taken place within the last five years. A separate agenda, minutes are required as it needs, legally, to be a separate ASC meeting. In practice, the **two ASC meetings** (for legacy and new Agreed Syllabus discussions) can take place on the same day, with the same membership, but with an official break in between them and running them as two separate meetings. **As ASC members you may well be asked to attend both sessions, if there is a 'legacy' Agreed Syllabus to re-adopt, if it hasn't been done in the since February 2017.**

Post 16

It is currently unclear as to when RE/RVE becomes optional for post 16? The Agreed Syllabus will need to outline this. When is compulsory RE being removed and optional implemented in all educational settings? 2022? Guidance for Post 16 – Does this need to be added to the Agreed Syllabus? We are awaiting clarification on this, but the Local Authorities legal Team may wish to explore this prior to the first ASC meeting. So that the ASC members can be clear of what to include in the Agreed Syllabus from the first meeting.

Curriculum Time

The Curriculum for Wales framework and the RVE Guidance does not stipulate how much curriculum time should be considered for RVE, rather that it is statutory. How will SACREs/SACs and Estyn determine and monitor the provision for statutory RVE? Does the ASC need to consider this for their Agreed Syllabus?

Hayley Jones

Curriculum Partner (SACs and RVE)/ Partner y Cwricwlwm (SAC a CGM)
Gwasanaeth Cyflawniad Addysg De Ddwyrain Cymru/ South East Wales Education Achievement Service



Cadeirydd /Chair: Mrs. Rachel Samuel
e-bost/e-mail: samuelr12@hwbcymru.net
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Ysgrifennydd/Secretary:
Ms Alice Parry
39 Galleon Way, Cardiff Bay, CF10 4JA
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ffôn/tel: 07779 168084

31 Ionawr 2022

Annwyl Glerc CYSAG,

Gan ddilyn ein proses flynyddol arferol, rwyf yn ysgrifennu i wahodd CYSAGau i gynnig enwebiadau am aelodau newydd i Bwyllgor Gwaith Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe bai'ch CYSAG yn trafod unrhyw enwebiadau y dymunant eu cynnig. Sylwer, os yw'ch CYSAG yn cael ei gynrychioli ar y Pwyllgor Gwaith yn barod, ac eithrio'r Ysgrifennydd, yr Ysgrifennydd Cynorthwyol a'r Trysorydd, yn ôl Cyfansoddiad CCYSAGauC, ni fyddwch yn gallu enwebu rhywun o'ch CYSAG chi y tro hwn.

Fe sylwch yn y rhestr aelodau sydd ynghlwm mae 4 lle ar gael, gan gynnwys rôl is-gadeirydd. Mae'n hanfodol fod CCYSAGauC yn cadw aelodaeth lawn ac amrywiol er mwyn parhau â'i waith da, yn cynnwys bod yn rhanddeiliaid i'r Cwricwlwm i Gymru. Gofynnwn i chi felly rhoi ystyriaeth ystyrlon cais hwn a gobeithio y derbyniwn rai enwebiadau.

Ynghlwm y mae ffurflen y dylid ei llenwi a'i dychwelyd i mi ar y cyfeiriad e-bost /post uchod erbyn **dydd Gwener 8 Ebrill 2022**. Byddaf yn anfon y rhestr enwebiadau i chi cyn dydd Gwener 6 Mai 2022, fel y gall eich CYSAG eu trafod yng nghyfarfod tymor yr haf mewn pryd ar gyfer y bleidlais yng Nghyfarfod Blynnyddol y Gymdeithas ym mis Mehefin.

Sylwer y bydd disgwyl i'r enwebeion fod ar gael i fynychu cyfarfodydd y pwyllgor gwaith yn rheolaidd os ydynt yn llwyddiannus yn y Cyfarfod Blynnyddol ym mis Mehefin.

Hoffem ddiolch i chi a'ch aelodau am eich cymorth yn y mater hwn.

Yn gywir,

A Parry

Alice Parry

Ysgrifennydd i Gymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru

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Cadeirydd /Chair: Mrs. Rachel Samuel
e-bost/e-mail: samuelr12@hwbcymru.net
ffôn / tel : 07974774069

Ysgrifennydd/Secretary:
Ms Alice Parry
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ffôn/tel: 07779 168084

31 January 2022

Dear Clerk to SACRE,

Following our normal annual process, I am writing to invite SACREs to make nominations for new members of the WASACRE Executive Committee. Please would your SACRE discuss any nomination that they wish to make at their spring term SACRE meeting. Please note that if your SACRE is already represented on the Executive committee, with the exception of Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, according to the WASACRE Constitution you will not be able to nominate a person from your own SACRE at this time. However, this does not prevent you from nominating a person from another SACRE.

You will notice in the attached members list that there are 4 places available, one being the Vice Chair role. It is vital for WASACRE to retain a full and varied membership in order to continue its good work, including being a stakeholder for the Curriculum for Wales. As such we ask for your careful consideration of this request and hope that we receive some nominations.

Please find attached a proforma that should be completed and returned to me at the above email/postal address by **Friday 8 April 2022**. I will send to you the list of the nominations before Friday 6 May 2020, so that your SACRE is able to discuss them in their summer term meeting in time for the vote at the Association's AGM in June.

Please note there is an expectation that nominees will be available to attend executive meetings regularly should they be successful in the election at the AGM.

We would like to thank you and your members for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A Parry

Alice Parry

Secretary to WASACRE

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Aelodaeth Pwyllgor Gwaith CCYSAGauC / Membership of WASACRE Executive Committee 2021/2022

Cadeirydd / Chair – Rachel Samuel (CNP / Neath Port Talbot)

Is-Gadeirydd / Vice Chair – Rev. Dr Tania ap Sion (Wrecsam / Wrexham)

Ysgrifennydd / Secretary – Alice Parry (Pen-y-bont / Bridgend)

Ysgrifennydd Cynorthwyol / Assistant Secretary - Libby Jones (Wrecsam / Wrexham)

Trysorydd / Treasurer – John Mitson (Powys)

Cyn-Gadeirydd diweddaraf / Immediate Past Chair – Rev. Edward J. Evans (Pen-y-bont / Bridgend)

Cyn-Ysgrifennydd diweddaraf / Immediate Past Secretary – Paula Webber

Cynrychiolydd o PYCAG / Representative of NAPfRE – Paula Webber

Aelodau cyffredinol / Executive members:

Mathew Maidment- RCT (period of office- 2019-2022)

Suzanne Gooding – Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire (period of office 2019-2022)

Marged Williams and Lucy Grant – Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan (2019-2022)

Phil Lord – Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire (2020-2023)

John Meredith – Powys (2020-2023)

Kathy Riddick – Blaenau Gwent (2021-2024)

* Cworwm yw 5 aelod / Quorum is 5 members

** Bydd pleidlais mwyafrif yn cyfrif / Majority vote will count

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**Enwebiadau ar gyfer Pwyllgor Gwaith CCYSAGC/
Nominations to WASACRE Executive Committee**

2022

ENW CYSAG / SACRE NAME:

Enwebiad / Nomination	Enw / Name	Cyfeiriad e-bost/ E-mail address
Pwyllgor Gwaith/ Executive Committee		
Pwyllgor Gwaith/ Executive Committee		
Pwyllgor Gwaith/ Executive Committee		
Is-gadeirydd / Vice Chair		

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 9

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)
held
at County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance on Wednesday, 20th October, 2021 at 10.00 am

PRESENT: COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

County Councillor P. Pavia (Chair)
County Councillor T. Thomas
County Councillor M. Powell
County Councillor L. Brown

FAITH REPRESENTATIVES:

Revd. J. Greaves
Mr. N. Pryor
Mr. A. Szwagrzak
Mrs S. Cave
Mrs B. Quinlan
Mrs S. Gooding

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES:

Mrs S. Hamer
Nr N. Jenkins

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Sharon Randall-Smith	Head of Achievement and Attainment
Wendy Barnard	Democratic Services Officer
Georgie Bevan	Principal Professional Learning Lead (STEM and Wider Curriculum)
Hayley Jones	Curriculum Partner (SACs and RVE)

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. K. Wilding.

1. Appointment of Vice Chair

Mr. A Szwagrzak was appointed as Vice Chair.

2. Public Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

3. Membership Report

County Council representatives	1 Conservative vacancy 1 Liberal Democrat vacancy
Faith representatives	1 Church in Wales vacancy

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held at County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance on Wednesday, 20th October, 2021 at 10.00 am

	1 Buddhist faith vacancy
	1 Hindu faith vacancy
	1 Jewish faith vacancy
	1 Muslim faith vacancy
	1 Sikh faith vacancy
Teacher representatives	4 teacher vacancies
Co-Opted vacancies	2 vacancies
Total	14 vacancies

Concerns were expressed at the number of vacancies on the SACRE, and the underrepresentation of different faith groups.

- i. The Chair agreed to follow up the County Council vacancies.
- ii. The temporary Church in Wales Diocesan Director is retiring. Mrs. Quinlan agreed to follow up the resulting vacancy.
- iii. The Chair will work with Hayley Jones to make direct approaches to faith leaders locally and outside Monmouthshire to attempt to fill the vacancies.
- iv. A request has been received from Wales Humanists applying for membership of Committee A. The request was deferred, and the Chair will send a holding response whilst efforts are made to fill vacancies and pending advice on process to add to Committee A. Initial findings suggest that this would be a Council decision.
- v. SACRE should raise its profile and work in schools. The EAS is working on this.
- vi. Under the terms of reference teacher representatives are appointed by professional associations. It was questioned if this was the most effective way to appoint teacher representatives and if the terms of reference could be reviewed so that nominations can be made via Headteachers with possibly one designated place to represent professional associations.
- vii. Mrs Cave offered to contact the Interfaith Council regarding the faith vacancies.

4. To confirm the Annual Report 2020/21

The draft report was confirmed as presented subject to the following amendments:

- i. Revd Greaves to represent the Baptist Church not the Free Church Council.
- ii. An amendment was required to make clear that the letter from the Minister, received in May 2018, provided guidance to local authorities on discretion concerning representatives from organisations representing non-religious beliefs such as Humanists to sit on Committee A.

5. Curriculum Updates

Hayley Jones RVE Adviser provided an update on the assessment adaptations published by the WJEC. It was noted that the GCSE adaptations are the same as last year. For GCE A Level, there has been some streamlining in terms of teaching time/content due to the pressures arising from Covid 19 alongside retaining a balance so that assessment will enable access to further education.

Qualifications Wales has announced some plans to prepare should Covid levels increase. The Minister for Education has also written a statement that pupils will have their qualifications awarded through a Centre Determined Grade (CDG). It was commented that there is need for caution as many children are in and out of school and that exams will be difficult this year. The changes were welcomed.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held at County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance on Wednesday, 20th October, 2021 at 10.00 am

6. Curriculum Wales Updates

There is a national roll-out of modules for different phases of curriculum design to support senior leaders. The sessions were recorded and available to view for those who were unable to attend. The focus now is on the roll out of the Curriculum for Wales development programme for middle leadership that provides the opportunity to specialise in Areas of Learning Experience.

Attendance has been very low due to the pressured circumstances and problems releasing staff to attend. There has been a flexible approach to when and how sessions are provided to ensure access for as many staff as possible. It was acknowledged that there is reliance on the goodwill of staff who are overwhelmed.

An additional secondary design group has been set up to address that the focus has mainly been on primary sector; regional and national networks are the next step.

The EAS has set up task and finish groups on various aspects but the availability of school staff to attend remains a difficulty.

A Member asked whether the introduction could be postponed due to the pressures. It was confirmed that the introduction of the Curriculum for Wales has been put back a year for secondary schools but not for primary schools. It was questioned why there a distinction between secondary and primary. It was possibly due to the pressures related to CDGs. The Chair will raise this point at a meeting of Cabinet Leads with the WLGA. It was confirmed that trials of the curriculum are running this year with Y7 engaging in a joint AOLE Humanities project at King Henry VIII Comprehensive School. It was agreed that a letter would be written by SACRE to the Minister (copying in EAS and SACRE Members) to apply pressure to extend the postponement to the primary phase.

A Member asked how the draft RVE statutory guidance is progressing recalling that SACRE recommended that the legal elements should be statutory but the more subjective teaching elements should be non-statutory guidance. The current RE framework is non-statutory guidance.

There has to be a SACRE agreed syllabus. WASACRE recently discussed if this could be less prescriptive to allow headteachers more discretion. There were concerns about SACREs not being properly consulted.

It was explained that SACREs have termly updates containing e.g. RVE and any changes to collective worship. The new RVE guidance will have a significant impact on agreed syllabus. SACRE can adopt the guidance as its agreed syllabus, amend it or do own something different. No action can be taken until the final guidance is published. The next update is expected in December 2021. It was agreed to consider an additional meeting if this is the case.

7. Agreed Syllabus Conference

It was agreed to revisit this item at the March meeting when more information may be available.

8. WASACRE Business

- i. The notes and minutes from the WASACRE meeting held on 16/06/2021 were received.
- ii. The Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement were received.
- iii. WASACRE Meeting 23 November 2021: Our representatives were agreed as County Councillor L. Brown, Mrs S. Gooding and Mrs B. Quinlan

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9. Holocaust Memorial Day

Sharon Randall – Smith agreed to follow up arrangements to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day.

10. Any Other Business

Members were informed that Monmouth Comprehensive School Sixth Form RE Conference is on 18th November 2021 with various workshops. Mrs S. Cave and Revd J. Greaves will be contributing to the event.

11. To confirm the minutes of the following meetings:

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th May 2021 were confirmed as a true record.

The minutes of the 23rd June 2021 were confirmed subject to the following typographical amendment to item 2: Must be clear on legal requirements particularly that religious traditions are mainly Christian and the other ~~principle~~ principal religions. Using the phrase “Range of religions” is incorrect as it only covers Christianity and ~~principle~~ principal religions in Wales.

12. To note the date of the next meeting as 9th March 2022

The meeting ended at 11.12 am