

# Annual Report



CYNGOR  
monmouthshire  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
*sir fynywy*

## Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

**1st August 2019 - 31st July 2020**

**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF MONMOUTHSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) -  
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**A MESSAGE FROM MONMOUTHSHIRE SACRE MEETING**

Monmouthshire SACRE members would like to express their gratitude to all those working within the education sector for their care, support and dedication to the children and young people of Monmouthshire throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2019-2020 academic year has been an unprecedented time bringing challenges we could never have imagined a year ago. The thoughts of SACRE members are with all those who have been affected by the virus, including those who have become ill, and those who have sadly lost loved ones.

Members would like to remind practitioners that we can provide advice and support for teaching, learning and blended learning resources for Religious Education. We can also provide advice on RE in the Curriculum for Wales 2022. Additionally, support from is available for planning and delivering collective worship during this current climate.

Monmouthshire SACRE welcomes correspondence from schools via:

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# THE ANNUAL REPORT OF MONMOUTHSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) - 1ST AUGUST 2019 – 31ST JULY 2020

## SECTION 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE

### 1.1 Duty to Establish a SACRE

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

### 1.2 Composition of SACRE

Representation on SACRE is required as follows:

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

### 1.3 Membership of SACRE

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

During 2019-2020 SACRE have continued to endeavour to fill vacancies, however this effort was curtailed due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and some positions remain vacant. SACRE has written to several organisations including CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales), the Interfaith Council for Wales and the Onyx Link Foundation to maintain representation with limited success to date.

Welsh Government guidance was received from the Minister for Education, Kirsty Williams, concerning representatives from organisations representing non-religious beliefs such as Humanists to sit on Committee A. A report will be presented to Council to revise the terms of reference and to consider Humanist representative. However, this effort has been delayed due to a variety of circumstances, including the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

SACRE began the process of filling co-opted vacancies in the summer term of 2020. It was noted that the Chair can invite anyone to a meeting to make presentations etc. and that this may be a possible way to identify suitable persons for co-option.

### 1.4 Functions of SACRE

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

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- To report to the Local Authority and Welsh Government on its activities on an annual basis.

### **1.5 Meetings**

The autumn meeting of SACRE was postponed during the 2019-2020 academic year due to extenuating circumstances. However, SACRE did meet on three occasions during the year.

- Friday, 13th March 2020 at 10.00 am - County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on
- Friday, 26th June, 2020 - Microsoft Teams
- SACRE also held a special meeting to discuss the Welsh Government consultation on Religion Values and Ethics on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

SACRE has resolved that, where possible, meetings will be held at alternative venues such as schools. However due to the current situation with the Covid-19 pandemic meetings were held online in the Summer Term and will be held in this way until it is deemed safe to hold face to face meetings.

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

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

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

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the work of Monmouthshire SACRE during 2019-2020. SACRE has been able to provide support to schools via email and through the partnership work with the South East Wales Education Achievement Service (EAS). The EAS Professional Learning Adviser to SACRE, Ms. Paula Webber has been available to provide advice and support to schools on Religious Education and collective worship throughout the national lockdown and has continued to work with both the Wales Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (WASACRE) and the National Advisory Panel on Religious Education (NAPfRE). Additionally, the SACRE Clerk has continued to distribute and receive relevant correspondence to schools.

Summary of the advice given to the local authority by SACRE

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

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

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

Monmouthshire SACRE considers and analyses school inspection reports. If there are any issues regarding RE, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up. During 2019-2020 there were no issues of non-fulfilment of statutory requirements for RE identified within the reports and follow up action was unnecessary. However, the SACRE discussion led to an interest in supporting outdoor learning for RE considering the Covid-19 pandemic. SACRE would like to set up a working party to begin in 2020-2021.

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

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

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

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

In past years SACRE has analysed examination results over a three-year period and identified trends in performance benchmarked against all Wales data. Schools are usually informed of the outcomes of this analysis and SACRE raises any issues schools should be addressing as a result of this analysis. From summer 2019, Welsh Government introduced new arrangements which prevented the sharing of individual school performance data, Local Authority aggregated data and national data. As a result, this analysis did not take place and this continued in 2019-20 due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

SACRE is awaiting guidance from WASACRE on the nature of information that can be shared with SACRE members because of changes to guidance on the sharing of school data from the Welsh Government.

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## Agreed Syllabus

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

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

Monmouthshire SACRE has been updated on a termly basis on curriculum developments including the development of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience. SACRE have responded to the Welsh Government consultations on the white paper and the draft Curriculum for Wales 2022. SACRE is awaiting the publication of the Curriculum for Wales 2022 in January 2020 and further details from Welsh Government on the national RE Framework. SACRE will give due regard to the Curriculum for Wales 2022 when reviewing the Monmouthshire Agreed Syllabus. SACRE have also responded to the Welsh Government consultation on Religion, Values and Ethics and have received the Senedd Parliament consultation on the Curriculum and Assessment Bill for consideration and response by 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

## TEACHING MATERIALS

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

1. All schools were informed of the 2020 Holocaust Memorial Day theme and that free Holocaust resources could be found on the website [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk) – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.
2. RE Learning Resources – Randolph's Spiritual Quest was sent to all primary schools.
3. Learning Network Schools and offer of support for RE was sent to all schools.
4. Information about a training the event Understanding Humanism was sent to all primary schools.
5. Questionnaire from Qualifications Wales on reformed GCSE qualifications – sent to all secondary schools.

## TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

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

The Education Achievement Service provides Professional Learning to schools within Monmouthshire on behalf of the Local Authority. During 2019-2020 the EAS provided RE specific training to secondary school practitioners via Learning Network Schools and the Professional Learning Adviser for and SACREs. The focus of the training was improving standards in GCSE Religious Studies. However, the practitioners attending also received training on the new curriculum and updates on the work of SACREs, WASACRE and other relevant bodies. There was also a focus on moderation of

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marking, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources for Religious Studies.

## **2.2 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

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

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

Schools have been informed by SACRE of appropriate resources and websites that support collective worship in schools e.g. HMD 2020.

### **OTHER ISSUES:**

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

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



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

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

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

#### **2008 Agreed Syllabus**

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

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

#### **Agreed Syllabus Review**

During 2019-2020, Monmouthshire SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments with the new Curriculum for Wales. In the Autumn Term SACRE representatives attended consultations with Welsh Government to receive an update on progress being made with the Curriculum for Wales 2022 and the RE Framework.

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

### **2.2 Standards in religious education**

SACRE analyses school inspection reports and gleans what information it can in relation to religious education. SACRE has established a process of asking schools to provide their own evaluation of the provision of religious education shortly after the school is inspected by Estyn. The monitoring of standards via inspection reports has been disrupted during 2019-2020 due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, SACRE considered reports from one secondary school and one primary school. Both reports, made confidentially available to members, had many positive aspects demonstrating high standards, as summarised by the RE Adviser. Development points will be a focus for improvement going forward.

Whilst SACRE has no formal role in monitoring provision in Voluntary Aided Schools but can offer support and congratulations. SACRE has a monitoring role in Voluntary Controlled Schools and schools maintained by the local authority. It was further clarified that if there are problems in Voluntary Aided Schools there would be no involvement from SACRE. Intervention would be made by the Diocese or Archdiocese as

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appropriate. It was emphasised that there is a very good relationship between the local authority, SACRE and the Diocesan Directors of Education. SACRE will always offer support to all schools as appropriate.

It was agreed that letters would be sent by the Chair and Education Officer to recognise the inspection outcomes at the schools.

### **2.2b Examination Results 2020**

In previous years, examination results achieved by pupils at secondary schools have been analysed and considered during SACRE meetings. A three-year analysis would be conducted so that a comparison could be made, and trends identified. Cohort entry numbers were also analysed, and a comparison made to Consortia and All -Wales figures (where available). The 2020 examination results data were not analysed as there has been a change in national guidance surrounding how results are reported and how data is used. WASACRE is currently awaiting information from Welsh Government about how any analysis of data will be gathered and reported going forward.

Schools were updated on the changes to 2020 GCSE and GCE examinations for Religious Studies by the Education Achievement Service. The EAS Adviser for RE raised issues concerning the examinations for Religious Studies and her views were shared with the WJEC via senior leaders within the EAS.

Monmouthshire SACRE distributed a questionnaire from Qualifications Wales on reformed GCSE qualifications to all secondary schools.

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

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

#### **Professional Learning**

Comprehensive advice on methods of teaching and the choice of teaching materials is provided by the authority. Schools also have access to the RE Adviser to SACRE via the EAS for individual school support.

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

During 2019-2020 the following Professional Learning relevant to RE was offered within the region:

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The EAS appointed two Learning Network Schools leads for RE during 2019-2020. Three Learning Network meetings for secondary HODs of RE were held during the academic year. The focus of the network meetings was improving standards in GCSE Religious Studies. However, the practitioners attending also received training on the new curriculum and updates on the work of SACREs, WASACRE and other relevant bodies. There was also a focus on moderation of marking, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources for Religious Studies.

Agenda for LNS PL Sessions held during 2019 – 2020 are as follows:

**Session 1 (Gwynllyw): Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2-4pm – GCSE Review of Unit 1&2 –**

- A review of the 2017/18 GCSE examination papers Unit 1&2 – common pitfalls/evaluation questions/where pupils did well/where pupils went wrong/Item Level Data.
- Sharing good practice resources for the new GCSE specification – Unit ½
- DDPs – EAS presentation.
- Update on Curriculum development
- 'Looking Forward' – English and Welsh materials to be shared with everyone / sharing resource ideas.

**Session 2 (Gwynllyw): Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2-3pm – A Level Review (Unit 2/4/5) –**

- A review of the 2017/18 AS/A Level examination papers Unit 2/4/5 – common pitfalls/evaluation questions/where pupils did well/where pupils went wrong/Item Level Data.
- Sharing good practice resources
- 'English and Welsh materials to be shared with everyone / sharing resource ideas.
- Schemes of work.
- Use of video clips.

**Session 3 (Bassaleg): Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2-4pm – Revision Hints, Tips and Techniques –**

- What makes good teaching and learning in RE?
- Sharing resources, materials and good practice – to be provided in both English and Welsh.
- Pedagogy.
- How do we deal with the heavy content – Flipped learning/assessment for learning/Skills based learning.
- The Curriculum for Wales 2022 and the RE Framework
- Sharing good practice – Revision hints and tips.
- Sharing revision resources.

Session 4, which was due to be held in March 2020, was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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During the summer meeting SACRE were informed by the Adviser that in previous years the EAS appointed learning networks for different subjects, including RE. However, future funding will be allocated to Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLE). Lead practitioners will cover all humanities subjects. The RE Adviser will still be able to work with schools to provide bespoke support for RE. SACRE discussed the benefit of setting up virtual communities for support will be beneficial. Concern was expressed that Heads of Humanities would need a certain level of understanding of all the subjects to be able to fully support RE in the new curriculum. SACRE conveyed concern that RE has an equitable split of the funding for resources and training and questions were asked about the professional staff should address each discipline equally. It is up to schools to decide the approach to curriculum design and implementation, however all five Humanities subjects will need to be visible. As learners move to progression steps 4 and 5, they will need to be more aware of differences between the subjects.

It is the role of SACRE to advise the LA. If concerns are raised, and Professional Learning is needed, SACRE can advise that the LA procure the necessary resources/training from the EAS.

### **Estyn Updates**

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

### **Teaching Materials**

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

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

A letter was sent from SACRE to all schools were informed of the 2020 Holocaust Memorial Day and that Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27 January each year and is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Schools were reminded that Holocaust Memorial Day is a time to learn the lessons of the past and recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own - it's a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust produces materials specific to the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme for 2020 was *“Stand Together”* and explored how genocidal regimes throughout history have deliberately fractured societies by marginalizing certain groups, and how these tactics can be challenged by individuals standing together with their neighbours and speaking out against oppression.

HMD 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, which is a significant milestone and is made particularly poignant by the dwindling number of

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survivors who are able to share their testimony. It also marks the 25th anniversary of the Genocide in Bosnia.

Schools were informed by SACRE that further information about the theme and free educational Holocaust resources can be found on their website [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk) – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.

## **NEW RESOURCES FOR THE CURRICULUM FOR WALES 2022**

Monmouthshire SACRE distributed a new religious education series of resources for the Curriculum for Wales 2022 to primary schools. The resources have been published online and are available as a free download. *Randolph's Spiritual Quest and Search for Meaning Series* for 8- to 11-year-old learners is a *Welsh Government sponsored resource* created to support learning in Religious Education in the Curriculum for Wales 2022. The series reflects an enquiry-based, inter-disciplinary approach to Religious Education, which is set within a Humanities' learning context. The flexible and non-prescriptive character of *Randolph's Spiritual Quest and Search for Meaning Series* makes it an ideal bridging resource, being equally relevant to the current Curriculum for Wales 2008 and the coming Curriculum for Wales 2022.

Themes explored in the series include:

- Bringing Health and Healing
- Caring for the Future
- Living with Nature
- Making Spiritual Journeys
- Remembering the Past
- Serving Others

The storybooks, films, music, and teachers' guide are available as FREE downloads on the Welsh Government Hwb website and the St Mary's Centre, Wales, website:

Hwb:

<https://hwb.gov.wales/repository/tree?sort=created&language=en>

St Mary's Centre:

<http://www.st-marys-centre.org.uk/resources/randalphs%20spiritual%20quest.html>

A new version of the Teachers' Guide will be published as soon as the final version of the Humanities' Area of Learning and Experience guidance is available early in 2020 – The current Teachers' Guide quotes from the Welsh Government draft document and some adjustment in language is anticipated.

The hope of the authors is that *Randolph's Spiritual Quest and Search for Meaning Series* helps to stimulate meaningful and exciting new Welsh pathways in Religious Education, which start new journeys shaped to individual school learning contexts.

## **LNS Schools for RE**

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

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

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

### **SACRE RE News Bulletin**

A SACRE RE News Bulletin is usually composed by the Adviser to SACRE to share with schools. Due to staff long term absence and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic bulletins were not shared with schools during the 2019-2020 academic year. During the 2020-2021 academic year the PL Adviser will explore efficient ways of communicating important information with teachers of RE, including a playlist format where up to date information can be accessed at any time.

### **Visits and Visitors**

A list of suggested useful websites as was information on visits and visitors in South Wales has been distributed to schools in recent years and remains available to schools upon request.

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

### **Artefact Loan Service**

The comprehensive collection of Monmouthshire's RE Artefacts is located at five schools around the county and this facility was promoted to schools. One comprehensive school lends artefacts, information and resources to cluster primary schools.

## **SECTION 3: ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **School Inspection Reports**

During the spring term SACRE meeting the local authority and its SACRE scrutinised relevant sections of Estyn school inspection reports. Two primary school inspection reports were analysed. If any issues emerge regarding collective worship, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then this is followed up by the LA in conjunction with the EAS Professional Learning Adviser.

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Monmouthshire SACRE members were provided with information about spiritual development, collective worship and any comments made in relation to religious education in the inspection reports of schools inspected in the local authority during September 2019- January 2020.

### **Recommendations**

SACRE noted that Estyn made no recommendations with regards to spiritual development, collective worship or Religious Education. However, it was noteworthy that there were many opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum that may not be taken advantage of. Professional Learning around this would be beneficial.

### **3.2 Applications for Determinations**

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

## **SECTION 4: OTHER ISSUES**

### **WASACRE**

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

During the 2019-2020 academic year issues considered at WASACRE meetings have been fully reported back to SACRE and full discussions have taken place. SACRE welcomes the pro-active work of WASACRE in taking up issues that have implications for RE and keeping member SACRE's fully informed. The PL Adviser to SACRE holds the position of officer on the WASACRE Executive Committee. Monmouthshire SACRE has received regular feedback from Ms Webber and those representing SACRE at WASACRE meetings. Monmouthshire is also represented on the WASACRE Executive Committee by Mrs. Suzanne Gooding.

SACRE were informed that the WASACRE website is being redesigned and a Facebook profile is to be established. WASACRE is trying to build a following on Twitter – Members were invited to follow and retweet @WASACRE. SACRE is looking forward to the new platforms for information sharing that the new website will provide.

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

The RE Adviser to Monmouthshire SACRE, Paula Webber, is Vice Chair of NAPfRE and regularly attends meetings on SACRE's behalf. In this way SACRE can keep abreast of developments in Wales and play a crucial role in informing decisions and policies that

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affect religious education. NAPfRE have been consulting closely with Welsh Government and other stakeholders during the development of the new curriculum.

**CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

The Curriculum for Wales 2022 is part of Welsh Government's national mission to raise standards, reduce the attainment gap, and deliver an education system that is a source of national pride and public confidence.

Monmouthshire SACRE received termly updates on the developments being made with regards to Religious Education and the new Curriculum for Wales 2022. SACRE is updated on the development of the framework for RE. SACRE is monitoring the progress of the RE framework in order to consider the local responsibility to produce an Agreed Syllabus that pays due regard to the Curriculum for Wales 2022. It is anticipated that the RE Framework might in due course be adopted or adapted in a Monmouthshire Agreed Syllabus Conference as the Monmouthshire Agreed Syllabus. However, SACREs have not had sight of a draft of this document since December 2019.

**WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS**

The consultation documents on the Welsh Government consultation on Religion, Values and Ethics were circulated to SACRE Members via email and a special meeting was held to discuss the response from SACRE. Members were also given opportunity to make comments on the draft response prior to compilation of the final version being submitted. It was noted that the faith community and faith schools wished to retain the subject as RE as a change of name in law might conflict with the schools' Trust deeds. Some concern was expressed about alternative names which could potentially undervalue RE.

SACRE considered proposals for the curriculum for schools in Wales and referred to the Minister's press release response to the recent consultation on the following key points.

- Removal of right of parents to withdraw their children from Religious Education lessons, which will presumably come into effect when the new curriculum is launched in 2022
- The name of Religious Education to change to Religion, Values and Ethics when the new curriculum comes into effect

The consultation responses appeared to indicate that consultees were broadly in favour of the proposed changes.

Regarding the change of name to Religion, Values and Ethics, some concern was expressed that the wording of the consultation questions was regarding access to the curriculum, with no separate question about the name.

It was confirmed that SACRE has no remit to consider the proposed change to the name of RSE whilst accepting that there can be an overlap. It is the intention of the Minister that students have a broad and balanced education that reflects society. Religion, Values and Ethics education must be objective, critical and pluralistic.



## THE ANNUAL REPORT OF MONMOUTHSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) - 1ST AUGUST 2019 – 31ST JULY 2020

SACRE agreed the importance of promoting discrete areas on the curriculum. The Minister will provide support, guidance and training for teachers. SACRE will monitor what is, and becomes, available. As Religion, Values and Ethics will be included within Humanities, there will be more non-specialist teachers delivering lessons. SACRE must support such teachers to access the training available, and support schools and leadership teams. Some concern was expressed that RE teachers feel behind with planning and preparations for the Humanities Areas of Learning and Experience (AOLE).

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL**

The RE Adviser to Monmouthshire represents the Wales Association of SACREs on the Religious Education Council for England and Wales and attends its biannual meetings where she can represent SACREs across Wales and be kept informed of national developments across England and Wales. The REC for England and Wales have been working closely with WASACRE and Welsh Government during the curriculum development process.

### **Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament Consultation on the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill**

SACRE was advised by email of the Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament Consultation on the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill on 18<sup>th</sup> August. This consultation was being carried out by the Children's Young People's and Education Committee. SACRE members were sent the consultation documents immediately and discussion on this was planned for Autumn Term 2020. The deadline for the consultation response is 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

### **The Framework for Religious Education**

During the Autumn Term the work of the RE Framework Group is ongoing, with Paula Webber (EAS PL Adviser RE and SACRE) and Libby Jones (RE Adviser Wrexham) continuing to lead its development. When completed the framework will provide further detail about the relationship between Religious Education, the Agreed Syllabus, and the Areas of Learning and Experience. It was the Welsh Government plan to publish the RE Framework in draft format for consultation in January 2020. This was in order that it would coincide with the publication of the final version of the Curriculum for Wales 2022. Changes to the RE Framework were needed following the redrafting of the Curriculum.

Welsh Government consulted with SACREs on the supporting framework for Religion Values and Ethics during December and January 2020. Information regarding the consultation and the WASACRE feedback was circulated to SACRE. SACRE has not had sight of the document since that time. SACRE were sent updates from WASACRE on 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020 on the Welsh Government position in relation to the Supporting Framework and were advised that this consultation has been delayed due to Covid-19.

### **TRAINING OF SACRE MEMBERS**

**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF MONMOUTHSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) -  
1ST AUGUST 2019 – 31ST JULY 2020**

Monmouthshire SACRE members received training on the Roles and Responsibilities of SACRE during the Autumn Term meeting. As part of its training for members in 2019-2020 SACRE received updates on the development of the Curriculum for Wales 2022 and its implications for RE. SACRE is very appreciative of the opportunities to become more informed on RE and Collective worship issues in schools.

## **MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE**

**The current membership list showing the position as of July 2020 is attached at Appendix 1.**

SACRE members have been kept up to date with the progress being made in filling vacant positions and changes of membership of the committee at SACRE meetings. During 2019-2020 SACRE positions for members of Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh organisations remain vacant. Every effort has also been made to maintain representation from a wide range of organisations. SACRE has written to several organisations including CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales), the Interfaith Council for Wales and the Onyx Link Foundation to maintain representation with limited success to date. SACRE will continue to endeavour to fill these vacancies in 2020-2021.

In 2018 Welsh Government guidance was received from the Cabinet Officer for Education concerning representatives from organisations representing non-religious beliefs such as Humanists to sit on Committee A. A report will be presented to Council to revise the terms of reference and to consider Humanist representative. However, this effort has been delayed due to a variety of circumstances including the Covid-19 pandemic.

SACRE have been successful in filling all but one vacancy in Committee B representing teaching associations. Associations have been notified of this.

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

During the Spring Term Neil Jenkins replaced Andrew Jones on the Committee B and was also elected as Vice Chair.

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

**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF MONMOUTHSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) -  
1ST AUGUST 2019 – 31ST JULY 2020**

**APPENDIX 1**

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

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

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

**COMMITTEE B: TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS**

Ms. K. Christofi (NAHT)  
Mrs. S. Hamar  
Mr N, Jenkins  
Ms. M. Millington (NASUWT)  
MS. C. Smith  
Ms. K Wilding  
Vacancy

**COMMITTEE C: LOCAL AUTHORITY**

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

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Vacancy  
Vacancy

**OFFICERS**

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

**CLERK TO SACRE**

Wendy Barnard

**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF MONMOUTHSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) -  
1ST AUGUST 2019 – 31ST JULY 2020**

**APPENDIX 2: SCHEDULE AND AGENDA OF MEETINGS**

- **Membership Update**
- **To approve SACRE Annual Report 2018-2019**
- **Curriculum Development:**
  - Minister's Press Release following consultation
  - SACRE's response to new draft framework
- **Monitoring Provision and Standards**
  - Monmouthshire School Inspection Reports
- **WASACRE business**
  - To receive and note minutes from the WASACRE meeting on the 21st November 2019
  - Note date of forthcoming WASACRE meeting, Merthyr Tydfil, 17th March 2020, and confirm representation
  - Nominations for WASACRE Executive and Vice Chair of WASACRE

**Friday, 26th June, 2020 at 10.00 am, Remote Meeting**

- SACRE Membership update
- Curriculum update: RE supporting framework
- Professional Learning for RE/RVE update
- Monitoring Provision and Standards - Monmouthshire School Inspection
- Reports and Self-Evaluations
- GCSE/GCE examinations during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Learning Network Schools for Humanities - update
- Welsh Government consultation on Legislative proposals for religion, values and ethics
- WASACRE business
  - WASACRE Advice to Schools in Wales on Collective
  - Worship during the Covid-19 Pandemic
  - Election for Executive members and Vice Chairperson for
  - WASACRE Executive Committee
  - WASACRE Website and Social Media update
  - To note dates of future WASACRE meetings and confirm representation: *Summer WASACRE meeting postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic*

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

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

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