

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DATE: FRIDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2020

REPORT TO: Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

SUBJECT: SACRE Responses to Welsh Government and Senedd CYPE COMMITTEE consultations

A Purpose of Report

To receive the responses from the Chair of Monmouthshire SACRE to the Welsh government and Children Young People and Education Committee consultations on the Curriculum for Wales 2022

B BACKGROUND

WG Consultation on Religion Values and Ethics

As part of the broader reforms contained within the Curriculum for Wales, the Welsh Government consulted on making changes to the legislative framework that surrounds Religious Education/Religion Values and Ethics (RVE). The Welsh Government, based on current case law, intend that the teaching of RVE must be pluralistic in nature. These changes make explicit what the law already requires – the pluralistic teaching of RE in accordance with the European Convention on Human Rights. In addition, Welsh Government proposed making new provision requiring the local authority, SACRE and ASC to have regard to guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers in relation to the curriculum in developing and adopting an agreed syllabus. The consultation also set out the legislative changes in relation to different types of schools within Wales and how they should use the locally agreed syllabi in the new curriculum arrangements. Within the consultation document Welsh Government stated that *“schools will continue to need to assure themselves that their RVE provision satisfies the pluralistic requirement created by human rights legislation and SACRES, ASCs and Local Authorities will continue to need to assure that any agreed syllabus their develop and then adopt also meets these requirements.”*

SACRE were advised by email of the consultation on Religion Values and Ethics on the new Curriculum for Wales 2022 on 15th May 2020. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic SACRE members were consulted in a virtual meeting to discuss this issue. An initial draft response was sent to SACRE for further comment. The final response was submitted to WG by 27th July deadline on behalf of the Chair and SACRE.

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 late in the Summer Term of 2020. 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 a draft response was sent to SACRE members for

comment during September. The deadline for the consultation response was 29th September 2020. This gave SACRE a very short consultation period outside of school summer holidays. As this deadline did not coincide with the timing of SACRE meetings consultation with SACRE members took place via email and the response was sent on behalf of the Chair to SACRE prior to the deadline.

C RECOMMENDATION:

Members of the SACRE are requested to receive the responses to the consultations.

D Background Papers:

Monmouthshire SACRE response to the Welsh Government consultation on Religion Values and Ethics

Monmouthshire SACRE response to the Senedd Cymry/Welsh Parliament Consultation on the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill.