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Neuadd y Sir
Y Rhadyr
Brynbuga
NP15 1GA

Dydd Llun, 18 Ebrill 2022

Hysbysiad Cyfarfod

CYNHADLEDD MAES LLAFUR CYTŪN

Dydd Mawrth, 26ain Ebrill, 2022 at 11.15 am,
Neuadd y Sir, Brynbuga – Cyfarfod o Bell

AGENDA

Rhif Eitem	Eitem	Tudalen
1.	Ymddiheuriadau a Chroeso	
2.	Datganiadau o Fuddiant	
3.	Fforwm Agored i'r Cyhoedd	
4.	Ystyried adborth gan Lywodraeth Cymru a chyngor gan Swyddogion yng nghyswllt y Drafft Faes Llafur a Gytunwyd.	
5.	Cytuno ar ddrafft Terfynol y Maes Llafur a Gytunwyd ar gyfer ymgynghoriad	1 - 12
6.	Cadarnhau cofnodion y Gynhadledd ar y Maes Llafur a Gytunwyd a gynhaliwyd ar y dyddiadau dilynol: 1. 9 Mawrth 2022 (Gwaddol) 2. 9 Mawrth 2022 3. 28 Mawrth 2022	13 - 24
7.	Camau Nesaf a dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf	

Paul Matthews

Prif Weithredwr

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

MAE CYFANSODDIAD Y PWYLLGOR FEL SY’N DILYN:
:

Cynghorwyr Sir::

P.Pavia
T.Thomas
L.Brown
M. Powell

Yn cynrychioli’r Eglwys yng Nghymru (1)

Vacancy

Yn cynrychioli’r Eglwys Gatholig Rufeinig (1)

Mr. A. Szwagrzak

Yn cynrychioli Eglwysi Rhydd (4)

Eglwys y Bedyddwyr: Revd. Dr. P. Baines
Byddin yr Iachawdwriaeth: Mr. N. Pryor
Yr Eglwys Fethodistaidd: Dr. L. Brown
Mrs. S. Gooding

Yn cynrychioli Ffydd Bahá’í (1)

Mrs S. Cave

Yn cynrychioli’r Ffydd Bwdhaidd (1)

Ngakpa Namgyal Chatral

Yn cynrychioli’r Ffydd Hindŵ (1)

Vacancy

Yn cynrychioli’r Ffydd Iddewig (1)

Vacancy

Yn cynrychioli’r Ffydd Sikh (1)

Vacancy

Yn cynrychioli’r Ffydd Mwslimaidd (1)

Vacancy

Yn cynrychioli Cymdeithasau Athrawon (7)

Vacancy
Mr. N. Jenkins
Ms. C. Smith
Mrs. K. Wilding
Mrs S. Hamar
Ms M. Millington
Ms. K. Christofi

Aelodau a Gyfetholwyd (2)

Vacancy
Vacancy

Cynghorydd Addysg Grefyddol

P.Webber

Gwybodaeth Gyhoeddus

Mynediad i gopiau papur o agendâu ac adroddiadau

Gellir darparu copi o'r agenda hwn ac adroddiadau perthnasol i aelodau'r cyhoedd sy'n mynychu cyfarfod drwy ofyn am gopi gan Gwasanaethau Democrataidd ar 01633 644219. Dylid nodi fod yn rhaid i ni dderbyn 24 awr o hysbysiad cyn y cyfarfod er mwyn darparu copi caled o'r agenda hwn i chi.

Edrych ar y cyfarfod ar-lein

Gellir gweld y cyfarfod ar-lein yn fyw neu'n dilyn y cyfarfod drwy fynd i www.monmouthshire.gov.uk neu drwy ymweld â'n tudalen Youtube drwy chwilio am MonmouthshireCC. Drwy fynd i mewn i'r ystafell gyfarfod, fel aelod o'r cyhoedd neu i gymryd rhan yn y cyfarfod, rydych yn caniatáu i gael eich ffilmio ac i ddefnydd posibl y delweddau a'r recordiadau sain hynny gan y Cyngor.

Y Gymraeg

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu cyfraniadau gan aelodau'r cyhoedd drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg. Gofynnwn gyda dyledus barch i chi roi 5 diwrnod o hysbysiad cyn y cyfarfod os dymunwch siarad yn Gymraeg fel y gallwn ddarparu ar gyfer eich anghenion.

Nodau a Gwerthoedd Cyngor Sir Fynwy

Ein diben

Adeiladu Cymunedau Cynaliadwy a Chydnerth

Amcanion y gweithiwn tuag atynt

- Rhoi'r dechrau gorau posibl mewn bywyd i bobl
- Sir lewyrchus a chysylltiedig
- Cynyddu i'r eithaf botensial yr amgylchedd naturiol ac adeiledig
- Llesiant gydol oes
- Cyngor gyda ffocws ar y dyfodol

Ein Gwerthoedd

Bod yn agored. Rydym yn agored ac yn onest. Mae pobl yn cael cyfle i gymryd rhan mewn penderfyniadau sy'n effeithio arnynt, dweud beth sy'n bwysig iddynt a gwneud pethau drostynt eu hunain/eu cymunedau. Os na allwn wneud rhywbeth i helpu, byddwn yn dweud hynny; os bydd yn cymryd peth amser i gael yr ateb, byddwn yn esbonio pam; os na allwn ateb yn syth, byddwn yn ceisio eich cysylltu gyda'r bobl a all helpu - mae adeiladu ymddiriedaeth ac ymgysylltu yn sylfaen allweddol.

Tegwch. Darparwn gyfleoedd teg, i helpu pobl a chymunedau i ffynnu. Os nad yw rhywbeth yn ymddangos yn deg, byddwn yn gwranddo ac yn esbonio pam. Byddwn bob amser yn ceisio trin pawb yn deg ac yn gyson. Ni allwn wneud pawb yn hapus bob amser, ond byddwn yn ymrwymo i wrando ac esbonio pam y gwnaethom weithredu fel y gwnaethom.

Hyblygrwydd. Byddwn yn parhau i newid a bod yn hyblyg i alluogi cyflwyno'r gwasanaethau mwyaf effeithlon ac effeithiol. Mae hyn yn golygu ymrwymiad gwirioneddol i weithio gyda phawb i groesawu ffyrdd newydd o weithio.

Gwaith Tim. Byddwn yn gweithio gyda chi a'n partneriaid i gefnogi ac ysbrydoli pawb i gymryd rhan fel y gallwn gyflawni pethau gwych gyda'n gilydd. Nid ydym yn gweld ein hunain fel 'trefnwyr' neu ddatrysyr problemau, ond gwnawn y gorau o syniadau, asedau ac adnoddau sydd ar gael i wneud yn siŵr ein bod yn gwneud y pethau sy'n cael yr effaith mwyaf cadarnhaol ar ein pobl a lleoedd.

Caredigrwydd – Byddwn yn dangos caredigrwydd i bawb yr ydym yn gweithio gyda nhw, gan roi pwysigrwydd perthnasoedd a'r cysylltiadau sydd gennym â'n gilydd wrth wraidd pob rhyngweithio.

The Monmouthshire Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics

Based on the Curriculum for Wales Religion, Values and Ethics Guidance

Implementation Date: September 2022

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Introduction from Monmouthshire County Council

Foreword to be included from ...

Chairman of SACRE

DRAFT

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The function of the Standing Advisory Council (SAC) on Religion, Values and Ethics

The function of the Standing Advisory Council on Religion, values and Ethics (RVE) is to advise the local authority (LA) on such matters connected with the provision of teaching and learning, under the Education Act 1996 (“1996 Act”) as amended by the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 (“the 2021 Act”), either in respect of the mandatory element of RVE, or the post-compulsory education in maintained schools of optional RVE which includes: methods of teaching; the choice of teaching materials; the provision of teacher training. In addition, the SAC may advise on any other matter the LA may refer to it, or as the SAC may see fit.

Monmouthshire SAC advises schools to take particular note of the following legal requirements for RVE:

In accordance with s 375A(3) of the 1996 Act (introduced by the 2021 Act) 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; and**
- **that a range of non-religious philosophical convictions are held in Wales**

Please note that for **religious traditions**:

- the only change from the 1996 Act as originally enacted is that Wales replaces Great Britain; and
- where ‘religion’ or ‘religious’ is referred to in the guidance it should be noted that this refers to Christianity and the other principal religions in Wales

As for **non-religious philosophical convictions**:

- where the term ‘non-religious’ is used, this refers to ‘non-religious philosophical convictions’;
- the reference to philosophical convictions in the guidance is linked to philosophical convictions within the meaning of Article 2 of the First Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights (“ECHR”) (right to education);

- neither the 1996 Act, the 2021 Act or the ECHR define what ‘non-religious’ means, however the term can be defined in relation to philosophical convictions as those in respect of which there is no requirement to believe in a religion e.g. a belief in man-made climate change can be held by persons of all faiths and none;
- non-religious philosophical convictions are not synonymous with ‘opinions’ and ‘ideas’ but denote views that attain a certain level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance (*Valsamis v Greece* [1996] 12 WLUK 394; ECtHR);
- here is a non-exhaustive list of examples where courts have decided that a belief is a philosophical conviction within the meaning of the ECHR:
 - atheism, agnosticism, scepticism (*R (Williamson) v Secretary of State for Education and Employment* [2005] AC 246; England and Wales Court of Appeal)
 - pacifism (*Arrowsmith v United Kingdom* [1978] 10 WLUK 81; European Commission of Human Rights)
 - conscientious objection to military service (*Bayatyan v Armenia* [2011] 7 WLUK 214; European Court of Human Rights)
 - veganism (*CW v United Kingdom* [1993] 1 WLUK 536; European Commission of Human Rights)
 - man-made climate change (*Grainger plc v Nicholson* [2010] 2 All ER 253; UK Employment Appeal Tribunal)
 - gender-critical belief (*Forstater v CGD Europe* [2021] 6 WLUK 104; UK Employment Appeal Tribunal)
 - pro-life belief (*Van Schijndel v The Netherlands* (30936/96); European Commission of Human Rights)

More information can be found in the legal summary section on Hwb:

[Link to Curriculum of Wales: Summary of Legislation – Religion, Values and Ethics](#)

Introduction

Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) is the name the Welsh Government has given to Religious Education in the Curriculum for Wales. **RVE is mandatory for all learners aged 3 to 16.** This now sits within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE), along with Geography, History, Business Studies and Social Studies. RVE is still locally determined and therefore, as well as having regard to the Curriculum for Wales Framework Guidance on Hwb, **all schools in Monmouthshire must have regard to the Monmouthshire Agreed Syllabus for RVE when designing their school curriculum.**

It is the local authority's responsibility to monitor the statutory provision of RVE, and they are supported in doing this by the Monmouthshire Standing Advisory Council on Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC).

Every local authority is legally required to establish and support an Agreed Syllabus Conference which must prepare a syllabus of RVE to be adopted by a local education authority. The LA has a legal duty to review the Agreed Syllabus every five years.

The Curriculum for Wales Religion, Values and Ethics Statutory Guidance on Hwb was adopted as the new Monmouthshire Agreed Syllabus for RVE in **(date to be inserted)**, following a formal recommendation to the LA by the Agreed Syllabus Conference on **(date to be inserted)**.

The RVE statutory guidance can be accessed via Welsh Government's Hwb website:

[Link to Hwb – Welsh Government Guidance on Religion, Values and Ethics](#)

This Agreed Syllabus is not intended to be a scheme of work. It provides a framework within which each school can best design its own local curriculum which includes RVE within the Humanities AoLE.

Aims of RVE

Mandatory RVE makes an important and distinctive contribution to supporting the four purposes by giving learners opportunities to:

- **engage with and explore ultimate and philosophical questions** about the meaning, significance and purpose of life, and about the nature of human thought and of the universe, and the connections between them;
- **undertake enquiries and engage with sources of wisdom and philosophies** that encourage them to explore the challenges, opportunities and responses of human beings in the context of their [cynefin](#), locally, in Wales and the wider world, as well as support them in evaluating their own perspectives and those of others;
- **develop and express their own informed viewpoints**, which prepares them for lifelong learning in a pluralistic and diverse world;
- **use their knowledge and understanding** of both institutional and personal religious and non-religious beliefs and practices to think critically about their own values and about how they might make important social and personal decisions;
- **explore the ways in which religion and non-religious philosophical convictions have influenced human experience throughout history**, so that they can make sense of their place in the world, imagine possible futures and create responsible solutions that take in to account the diverse needs and rights of all people;
- **evaluate and use evidence from a range of religious and non-religious sources to engage with ethical and moral issues**, past and contemporary, that challenge their knowledge and values. This enables learners to develop an understanding of religion and belief, culture, community, their [cynefin](#), Wales and the wider world now and in the past, which can help to nurture a sense of place and belonging;
- **respond sensitively to religion and non-religious philosophical convictions** and explore the beliefs and practices of people in their community, Wales and the wider world, and how these might impact their actions and choices;
- **develop secure values and establish their ethical beliefs and spirituality** through the exploration of religion and non-religious philosophical convictions on a range of issues, which can in turn enable them to form positive relationships based upon trust and mutual respect;
- **discuss and reflect on their own perspectives and those of others** on a range of issues, which help them to build their mental, emotional and spiritual well-being by developing confidence, resilience and empathy.

Audience

The RVE guidance in the Humanities AoLE has been written to be accessible to all those responsible for designing a curriculum. Those persons who must have regard to the guidance when designing a curriculum are:

- the headteacher of a maintained school or a maintained nursery school;
- the governing body of a maintained school or a maintained nursery school;
- a provider of funded non-maintained nursery education;
- the teacher in charge of a pupil referral unit;
- the management committee for a pupil referral unit;
- a person who provides teaching and learning for a child, otherwise than at a maintained school, maintained nursery school or pupil referral unit, by virtue of arrangements made under section 19A of the 1996 Act;
- a local authority in Wales.

In addition, the guidance may also be useful to parents and carers, learners, practitioners, regional consortia, awarding bodies, Estyn, teacher unions, religious organisations, non-religious organisations, and other bodies in Wales with an interest in RVE. These bodies do not have to have regard to the guidance, but it may be useful and informative for them to refer to it to better understand the content of a given setting's curriculum.

Voluntary aided schools that have a religious character

For these schools the Act requires the curriculum to make provision for teaching and learning in respect of RVE that accords with the school's trust deed or the tenets of its religion or denomination.

More information on Voluntary aided schools that have a religious character can be found here: [Link to Voluntary aided schools RVE Guidance](#)

Curriculum Time

At each progression step, sufficient time and resources are required to provide an effective and coherent course of study. As a mandatory element of the Curriculum for Wales, **RVE should have equity with other disciplines within the Humanities AoLE.**

Curriculum Design

The Curriculum for Wales requires all schools to offer a broad and balanced education, which enables learners to make links between the different disciplines and areas of learning and experience. Therefore, curriculum design should draw together different disciplines, including RVE, to provide learners with a coherent and holistic learning experience, which incorporates the following:

- the cross-curricular skills of literacy, numeracy and digital competence;
- the skills integral to the four purposes;
- consideration of the cross-cutting themes.

More about the role of disciplines in learning is available here:-

[Link to Principles for designing your curriculum - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

When planning and preparing your RVE curriculum you should take note of the following areas. Please see below links which will take you to the relevant sections of the guidance on the Hwb website:

- [Humanities statements of what matters](#)
- [Descriptions of Learning \(Progression steps\)](#)
- [RVE Concepts](#)
- [RVE lens \(sub lenses in RVE\)](#)
- [Learner progression and learning journeys in RVE](#)
- [Spiritual development of learners](#)

As learners progress, they should have greater opportunities to engage with different disciplines and to specialise within them, particularly when they reach the later progression steps. The Curriculum for Wales guidance tells us that **this process should be supported by discipline-specialist teaching**, which, along with the multi-disciplinary approach to curriculum design, should prepare learners who seek to specialise further during learning post-16.

While learners should have opportunities to specialise, the curriculum must remain broad and balanced, and each learner should continue to draw on learning from each AoLE throughout their time in compulsory education, which includes the mandatory element of RVE. Schools will be expected to enable all learners to access a range of courses of study and to gain suitable qualifications at the end of compulsory education.

It would be useful for schools themselves to develop links with faith and belief groups represented locally to talk about their faith and belief journeys. Through these connections, learners develop a deepening understanding of their own local [cynefin](#) within the history and traditions of both Monmouthshire and Wales.

Post-16 RVE

In the Curriculum for Wales, the mandatory status of RVE has been removed for Sixth Forms in maintained schools. Therefore, RVE is now optional for these learners. However, this does not prevent individual schools with Sixth Forms from timetabling RVE for all students, if they wish to. Sixth Formers **have the right to 'opt in' to RVE** and the **school would legally have to provide RVE for those learners upon request.**

There are a variety of ways that a school can provide RVE for Sixth Formers who request it. For advice on this type of provision, schools can contact the RVE Partner or Monmouthshire SAC on RVE for support. Contact details are available on page 2 of this document. More information on Post-16 RVE can be found here: [Link to Post-16 RVE Guidance](#)

The right to withdraw in the Curriculum for Wales

From September 2022, there will be no parental right to withdraw from RVE as the new Curriculum for Wales is implemented in their year group. **The parental right to withdraw will remain in place until their year group becomes subject to the Curriculum for Wales.**

More information on the right to withdraw can be found in the legal summary on Hwb:

[Link to Curriculum of Wales: Summary of Legislation – Religion, Values and Ethics](#)

Collective Worship

Collective Worship is **distinctive from, and additional to**, curriculum time given to RVE. Collective worship sits outside the curriculum and has its own legal standing and requirements and must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. Parents may still request that their children are withdrawn from collective worship if they wish.

Complaints

Under the Education Act, the LA must provide local arrangements for dealing with unresolved complaints. The SAC on RVE will therefore consider unresolved complaints about the provision of RVE (or the lack of provision of RVE). This arrangement will give parents and others the opportunity to ensure the proper provision of RVE across all schools in Monmouthshire.

Contact Details

For further information on Monmouthshire SAC or if you have any queries in relation to the Agreed Syllabus, please contact:

Hayley Jones (EAS Curriculum Partner - SACs and RVE)
hayley.jones@sewaleseas.org.uk or 07904 644749.

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 6

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Agreed Syllabus Conference (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)) held at County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance on Wednesday, 9th March, 2022 at 10.00 am

PRESENT: COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

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

FAITH REPRESENTATIVES:

Mrs B. Quinlan
Mrs S. Gooding
Mrs S. Cave

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES:

Mrs S. Hamer
Ms. C. Skinner
Mr. N. Jenkins

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Sharon Randall-Smith	Head of Achievement and Attainment
Wendy Barnard	Democratic Services Officer
Hayley Jones	Curriculum Partner (SACs and RVE)

APOLOGIES:

County Councillor M. Powell, Mr. A. Szwagrzak and Revd. J. Greaves

1. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

2. Public Open Forum

No members of the public made submissions.

3. Legacy Agreed Syllabus Review

The Chair introduced the Legacy Review of the existing Agreed Syllabus noting that it is a legal requirement to undertake a review every five years.

The Head of Achievement , Attainment and Extended Services explained that the current curriculum has been in place for some time and indicated that changes at this stage would be quite complicated. Years 8-11 will continue using this curriculum until it is phased out. Consultation would be required for any changes.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Agreed Syllabus Conference (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE))held at County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance on Wednesday, 9th March, 2022 at 10.00 am

Members supported the comments made that we are emerging from a pandemic and are moving to a new RVE curriculum so there was little to be gained from altering the existing curriculum. It would be preferable to allow the current syllabus to run its course.

The Group Members moved to breakout rooms to consider the review of the existing curriculum.

All Groups agreed that the existing syllabus should remain the same until it is phased out.

The meeting ended at 10.20 am

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MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Agreed Syllabus Conference held
at County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance on Wednesday, 9th March, 2022 at 10.30 am**

PRESENT:

COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

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

FAITH REPRESENTATIVES:

Mrs B. Quinlan
Mrs S. Gooding
Mrs S. Cave

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES:

Mrs S. Hamer
Ms. C. Skinner
Mr. N. Jenkins

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Sharon Randall-Smith	Head of Achievement and Attainment
Wendy Barnard	Democratic Services Officer
Hayley Jones	Curriculum Partner (SACs and RVE)

APOLOGIES:

County Councillor M. Powell

1. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

2. Public Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

3. To consider the preparation of a new Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics.

The Chair opened the Agreed Syllabus Conference to make arrangements for the preparation of a new agreed syllabus.

The Chair reminded us of the key questions:

Questions for agreed syllabus conferences and standing advisory councils 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?

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Agreed Syllabus Conference held at County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance on Wednesday, 9th March, 2022 at 10.30 am

- 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?
- How will your local Standing Advisory Council support schools and settings with RVE provision that has regard to the locally agreed syllabus?
- 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

The RVE Adviser delivered a presentation on the RVE Agreed Syllabus Conference noting that once the new RVE guidance is adopted it must be reviewed in 5 years. There is provision that it can be reviewed at any time e.g. in 2 years via a further Agreed Syllabus Conference.

It was noted that the Agreed Syllabus Conference must have regard to the RVE Guidance. It was noted that the Church in Wales and the Catholic Church will be providing additional guidance to sit alongside the RVE guidance and there are plans for diocesan training for voluntary aided schools.

Some errors in the legislative summary were brought to our attention. Further advice is being sought from WASACRE/Legal Dept/Welsh Government as appropriate.

The removal of the right to withdraw was discussed. It was discussed that a well-designed curriculum with good communication between practitioners and parents. Making information and learning available to parents was considered key.

It was also considered that the child's point of view must be taken into account. For example consistency when moving from one region to another.

It is important to make the syllabus individual to Monmouthshire by adding some additional information (e.g. a foreword) rather than adopt the guidance as provided.

It was noted that there are several faith vacancies for the SACRE/Agreed Syllabus Conference despite best efforts to recruit. Other authorities are in a similar position and have circulated the draft syllabus as widely as possible for consultation.

It was pointed out that there are some inconsistencies in the wording e.g. in the Journeys the term 'non-religious' should be worded 'non-religious philosophical convictions'. Reference to religion should be to Christianity and other principal religions.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Agreed Syllabus Conference held at County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance on Wednesday, 9th March, 2022 at 10.30 am

It was noted that RVE will mainly be delivered by non-specialists so it is important that the syllabus is as clear as possible with access to training and support.

Workshops will be held on 28th March 2022. A draft document will be made available as a basis for discussion. It was requested that the legislative summary issues are listed before 28th March to add to the draft for discussion so that advice can be sought. It was agreed that legal representation should be requested for the 28th March 2022 workshops.

It was agreed it would be an online meeting on 28th March 2022.

The recommendations in the report were approved as follows:

1. For Standing Conference Members to note the progress made to date regarding the preparation of a new Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics, in view of the recent Curriculum for Wales framework guidance from Welsh Government.
2. For Standing Conference Members to consider this guidance and agree the way forward regarding the preparation of a new Agreed Syllabus for approval at a future meeting of the Standing Conference.

The RVE Adviser and the Head of Achievement and Extended Services were thanked for their work on the syllabus to date.

4. Dates and times of future meetings

28th March 2022 – Agreed Syllabus Workshops
26th April 2022 – Agreed Syllabus Conference

The meeting ended at 12.33 pm

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MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Agreed Syllabus Conference held
at County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance on Monday, 28th March, 2022 at 10.00 am**

PRESENT: COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

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

FAITH REPRESENTATIVES:

Lt. N. Pryor
Mrs S. Gooding
Mrs S. Cave

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES:

Mrs S. Hamer
Mrs. C. Rhodes
Mrs. K. Wilding

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Wendy Barnard	Democratic Services Officer
Hayley Jones	Curriculum Partner (SACs and RVE)
Geraint Edwards	Solicitor

APOLOGIES:

Sharon Randall-Smith, Mrs. B. Quinlan, Neil Jenkins and County Councillor T.Thomas

1. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

2. Introduction: Agreed Syllabus Conference

The RVE Adviser and the Legal representative introduced the Agreed Syllabus Conference and its legal framework. It was explained that each representative group would be considering the document in separate breakout groups and then re-joining to provide feedback on proposed amendments.

The new Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 came into force 29th April 2021 and established the Curriculum for Wales.

The new section 375A of the 1996 Education Act requires local authorities to adopt a RVE syllabus. The new Act amends schedule 31 of the 1996 Act to place a duty on the local authority to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to prepare the syllabus, specifying its constitution and requiring it to unanimously recommend the syllabus for adoption by the local authority. The Welsh Government can intervene if there is no unanimity.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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One notable change is that there is no right to withdraw from RVE.

Some concerns about errors in the legal summary were raised. It was commented that there is no change to the syllabus containing Christianity as the main tradition and the other principal religions in Wales. The range incorrectly referred to is in the context of non-religious philosophical convictions. Post 16 provisions are correct.

It was suggested that pro-life and manmade climate change should be added to the examples of non-religious philosophical convictions.

A WASACRE statement covered the following points:

- It is important to keep any amendments to the curriculum for Wales guidance to a minimum.
- All guidance including RVE guidance is subject to change.
- Embedded links to parts of the Curriculum for Wales framework on Hwb make the navigation of the RVE guidance interactive and more useful for practitioners. Therefore, replacing or replicating the text and format in hard copy (rewording as our new agreed syllabus) would diminish the effectiveness of its purpose.”
- Caution was also advised about making amendments to the guidance and the legislative summary to avoid confusion. Any issues or local instructions would be better placed at the beginning of the agreed syllabus.
- The legal summary has been written by Welsh Government Legal Services and not by Civil Servants or the teams involved in drafting the RVE guidance. It has been written carefully and specifically by the legal services to reflect the openness of the law and the spirit of the curriculum for Wales.
- All Agreed Syllabus Conferences must have regard to the Curriculum for Wales framework including the legal summaries when they prepare their locally agreed syllabus. It is important that the legislative summary for RVE is not changed to reflect local concerns or opinions.

Concern was expressed that if Monmouthshire doesn't take account of the errors then our statutory obligations in relation to the contents of the agreed syllabus will not be met. If the legal summary is unchanged, there is the possibility of Judicial review.

The Legal representative stated that guidance issued by Welsh Government doesn't take precedence over the legislation. If there is conflict between guidance (including statutory guidance) and what is written in the Act or regulations, the act or legislation takes precedence.

Whilst the agreed syllabus must be reviewed in five years, it can be reviewed earlier if required.

It was confirmed that the Church in Wales and Catholic schools will be publishing additional guidance.

3. Group (Breakout Room) Workshops: Agreed Syllabus (draft attached) (Approx. 1 hour)

Faith representatives, Teacher representatives and LA representatives moved to breakout rooms to privately consider the draft agreed syllabus document before re-joining the main meeting to provide feedback.

4. Short Break

5. Feedback from Group discussions

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Faith Group summarised feedback

- What does “must have regard” mean for practitioners? Should there be an explanation or will practitioners know what this means.
- Cynefin – is more definition required?
- Suggested to add “in Wales, [the UK] and the wider world” wherever mentioned. Consensus that UK should be added.
- **Develop secure values and establish their ethical beliefs and spirituality** through the exploration of religion and non-religious philosophical convictions on a range of issues, which can in turn enable [help] them to form positive relationships based upon trust and mutual respect. Consensus to maintain “enable”
- “In addition, the guidance may also be useful to practitioners, regional consortia, awarding bodies, Estyn, teacher unions, religious organisations, non-religious organisations, parents and carers and other bodies in Wales with an interest in RVE.”
Agreed
- *The reference to philosophical convictions is to philosophical convictions within the meaning of Article 2 of the First Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights;* Is some clarification needed? Agreed the section to be reworded with more clarity whilst keeping it manageable for teachers.
- Some duplication was identified.
- How are principal religions defined? Teachers need to know.
Chair to work with RE Adviser to reword section
- misspelling of Cynefin on p.8
- What is the complaints procedure? How do SACs consider complaints especially as there is no legal power to enforce change. Training would be required.

Teaching Group summarised feedback:

- In terms of context the three representatives present today are all from primary phase, all from Magor/Undy with two from VA schools that follow a faith syllabus - not necessarily balanced.
- Light touch approach to review as teachers are used to reading similar guidance
- What is the difference between to RVE as mandatory and all the other subjects that must be taught? Teachers regard all subjects as mandatory. When learners choose options at secondary, subjects aren't required by law.
- Re: p.6 Audience - Who should have regard to the curriculum” should there be a statement that faith schools have their own syllabus to follow. This might not be well –

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known. VA schools have their own syllabus and VC schools have had the option to choose the locally agreed syllabus or a faith syllabus. Clarification might be needed.

- P.8 sentence “**This will require specialists to teach RVE and specialists to have input in designing RVE within the humanities**” – is that statement relevant to the previous sentence (post 16). In Primary schools, teachers are multi-disciplinary, this statement could be interpreted as specialists are required in primary? If it is the case, what is the definition of specialist.

LA Group summarised feedback:

- Chair to add Foreword
- P.4 where ‘religion’ is referred to it should be noted that we refer to Christianity and other principal religions and where the term “non-religious” is used, we refer to “non-religious philosophical convictions”. Agreed
- Good discussion on the added bullet points - need to refine the two points referring to Article 2 of the First Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights and Principal Religions. Chair and RE Adviser to reword.
- The following point should be made bold:

In accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 the Agreed Syllabus reflects 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;**
- **the fact that a range of non-religious philosophical convictions are held in Wales;**
- To note: Schools should take note that Christianity and other principal religions remains the legal requirement in the agreed syllabus under the Education Act 1996 and there is no necessity for a consideration of European Case Law, ~~or different denominations or types of belief within the same religion.~~ Agreed
- Collective worship: Collective Worship is distinctive from, and additional to, curriculum time given to RVE. Collective worship sits outside the curriculum and has its own legal standing and requirements and must be wholly of mainly of a broadly Christian character. Parents may still request that their children are withdrawn from collective worship if they wish.

Next Steps:

- RE Adviser to amend and refine the document. Send out a further document with time to make more amendments. Opportunity for members not here today to make comments.

The Chair thanked everyone for their involvement.

6. **Date of next meeting: 26th April 2022**

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The meeting ended at 1.30 pm

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