

Agenda



Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date: Wednesday, 8 June 2016
 Time: 1.45 pm
 Venue: Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnnon Primary
 To: Councillors G Giles (Chair), C Jenkins, A Morris & D Williams

Item	Wards Affected
1 <u>Agenda - Cym</u> (Pages 3 - 4)	
2 <u>Welcome and Presentation</u> Presentation from Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnnon	
3 <u>Time of Quiet Reflection</u>	
4 <u>Apologies for Absence</u>	
5 <u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u> (Pages 5 - 10)	All Wards
6 <u>Matters Arising</u>	All Wards
7 <u>Schedule of Meetings - 2016-2017 (All meetings to commence at 10am)</u> Early November 2016 Late February/early March 2017 Early June 2017	All Wards
8 <u>Membership Update</u> (Pages 11 - 12)	All Wards
9 <u>Update: Revised Criteria for GCSE & GCE Specifications</u> (Pages 13 - 14)	All Wards
10 <u>Update: National Curriculum Review & Assessment</u> (Pages 15 - 18)	All Wards
11 <u>INCERTS</u> (Pages 19 - 20)	All Wards
12 <u>WASACRE Issues</u> (Pages 21 - 30) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from meeting at Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire: 8 March 2016 • Feedback on Welsh Bacallaureate survey by WASACRE • Representation at next meeting at Rhyl, Denbighshire: 23 June 2016 • Executive Voting for the period 2016-2019 (see pen portraits) 	All Wards

Contact: Joy Howells
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 Date of Issue: 23 May 2016

Agenda

Cyngor Ymgynghorol Sefydlog ar
Addysg Grefyddol

Dyddiad Dydd Mercher 8 Mehefin 2016

Amser 1.45yp

Lleoliad Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnnon

At Cyngorwyr Giles (Cadeiydd), Jenkins, Morris & Williams

Eitem

Rhan 1

- 1 Croeso a chyflwyniad gan Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnnon
- 2 Amser ar gyfer Myfyrdod Tawel
- 3 Ymddiheuriadau dros Absenoldeb
- 4 Cofnodion y Cyfarfod Diwethaf
- 5 Materion yn codi
- 6 Amserlen y Cyfarfodydd
- 7 Newyddion Diweddaraf ynglŷn ag Aelodaeth
- 8 Meini Prawf diwygiedig ar gyfer GCSE & GCE manyledbau: Diweddariad
- 9 Adolygiad ac Asesiad o'r Cwricwlwm Cenedlaethol: Diweddariad
- 10 INCERTS
- 11 Materion CCYSAGauC
- 12 Gohebiaeth

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Minutes



Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date: 24 February 2016

Time: 9.30 am

Present:

LEA

Representatives: Councillors D Wilcox (Chair) and D Williams

Officers: V Thomas (RE Consultant), A Powles (Assistant Head of Education) & J Howells (Democratic Services Support Officer)

Faith Groups: H Stephens (Baptist), S Hunt (Church in Wales) & P Landers (Roman Catholic)

Teacher

Representatives: S Northcott (NUT) & H Vaughan (NAHT)

Apologies: Councillor C Jenkins, N Baicher (Sikh), Major C Comely (Salvation Army), L Stevens (NUT) & N Huggleston (NASUWT)

The meeting was held at Duffryn High School and began with a presentation from Mrs Sarah Hawke-Williams, the head of RE. She was one of three teachers who taught RE.

Mrs Hawke-Williams' presentation was an overview on the teaching of RE at Duffryn High School. In years 7, 8 and 9 there was a cross curriculum approach to the lessons. Included in year 7 teaching was an introduction to dharmic religions. One of the subjects covered in year 8 is children's rights and year 9 prejudice and law and justice.

Recent lessons included an Islamic awareness day when students learnt about the Qur'an, tried on Islamic dress and learnt about Arabic calligraphy. It was important to introduce a variety of lessons which the students enjoyed.

Students taking the full course in both year 10 and year 11 were offered two options. All other students study the short course. The school had found that a lot of students who study the GCSE short course will go back and take the A level course having enjoyed the short course.

The Chair agreed that offering a choice of 2 options was obviously popular and was reflected in the amount of students who entered for RS at A level. This year 26 students had entered.

Mrs Taylor-Williams, another RE teacher, introduced a short animated film on the 'sheep and goats' parable. Rather than give pupils regular homework she had asked her class to produce a project done over the academic year and the film had been made by a year 8 student.

The Chair thanked the headteacher for hosting the meeting and also Mrs Hawke-Williams for the presentation which everyone had found informative and entertaining

1 Time of Quiet Reflection

Members took part in a period of quiet reflection.

2 Apologies for Absence

As noted above.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were submitted.

Agreed:

That the Minutes of the SACRE meeting were accepted as a true record.

4 Matters Arising

Re item 5: Presentation of REQM Bronze Award

VThomas confirmed that the report had been sent to RENews

APowles had loaded a copy of the RE News article onto the school website

A letter of congratulations had been sent to Langstone school

Re item 6: Membership Update

Chair confirmed that she had spoken to the Business Manager of the vacancies for two city councillors on SACRE

Re item 7: SACRE Annual Report

VThomas confirmed that all relevant parties had been sent a copy of Newport's report.

Item 11: WASACRE

VThomas was pleased to report that Newport had been well represented at the Autumn meeting of WASACRE.

Item 12: Holocaust Memorial Day 2016

The Chair reported back on the service at St Woolos Cathedral. Everyone who attended agreed that the service had been well organised and was very moving. She asked that letters of thanks be sent to the schools who had participated in the service. VThomas also asked that a press release or report be sent to Sally Richards for the HMD Trust to put on their website.

Item 13: Correspondence

It was confirmed that the Mixed Marriage article provided by N Baicher had been sent to all secondary schools and also loaded onto the schools website.

5 Membership Update

It was reported that Reverend Parish-Foley had been forced to resign due to work commitments. It was also reported that Pastor Elwyn Phillips had passed away in 2015 but the clerk had only been informed of his passing earlier in the week.

Agreed:

Letter of condolence to be sent to the family of Pastor Elwyn Phillips.

Clerk and V Thomas to follow up on membership vacancies such as Presbyterian Church/ URC and Evangelical Church and Pentecostal.

6 Analysis of Examination Results 2015

VThomas went through the analysis of the religious studies results for GCSE full course, GCSE short course, A level and AS level. She confirmed that each school would have received feedback on the examination results and this feedback would be discussed within the school. She went on to give a summary of the 2015 results in comparison to the previous two years and the All Wales figure.

GCSE full course: Less students had entered for 2015 but the number of schools entering were back up to the number in 2013. Results are better than 2014 at all grade boundaries and also better than All Wales figures at all grade boundaries.

GCSE short course: There was also a decrease this year in the number of pupils entering this course, although the number of school entering had increased. Many schools offer Short Course accreditation as a way of delivering statutory requirements for RE. Some schools did fast track more able students to take 2 x GCSE short courses and their results would be reported in Full Course figures. Short Course does give pupils the opportunity for accreditation for their KS4 study. At all grade boundaries results this year are below previous performance but are better than All Wales figures at A*-A and A*-C and comparable with the All Wales figures at A*-G. SACRE agreed that whilst the full course results were very pleasing the short course results were satisfactory.

A Level: Once again entry figures had slightly decreased but the results were a success story. A*-A and A*-C grades results were better than previous performance and All Wales figures. The pass rate for grades A-E was 100% and continues the excellent performance of previous years.

AS Level: Entry levels were on a par with 2013. Results for all grades were far better than the previous 2 years although there was no All Wales figures to compare them with. VThomas reminded those present that this data did not include those who had not yet 'cashed in' their results ie. if a pupil had sat AS level in 2015 but not yet 'cashed in' the result – otherwise this would result in the data being counted twice.

Queries were raised regarding the falling entry numbers for some exams and whether this had anything to do with the cohort figures for the schools. VThomas said that she did not have cohort entry figures to hand but this would be a useful piece of information to include in the analysis and suggested that this be included in the analysis figures for 2016.

Agreed:

VThomas to draft a letter to all Newport schools enclosing the analysis which would be forwarded to all schools.

APowles to supply the cohort figures for each secondary school when the analysis report was submitted to the 2017 Spring SACRE meeting.

7 Revised Criteria for GCSE & GCE Specifications

V Thomas outlined to members all the recent changes and developments that have taken place regarding GCE A/AS level and GCSE specifications. Members have been continually updated via the RE Consultant VThomas and the SACRE clerk as information has been received. She referred to the letters that have been sent from WASACRE and NAPfRE and other SACREs in Wales regarding a deferment of GCSE and also the letter that Qualification Wales has sent to all schools agreeing that a deferment of GCSE RS and History was in the best interests of schools. She referred to the intention that WASACRE and NAPfRE have to meet with subject officers to influence the shape of the new GCSE specifications so that they will be suitable to the full range of ability of those pupils who do Short Course as part of statutory RE lessons.

8 National Curriculum Review & Assessment

Professor Graham Donaldson had been tasked, by the Minister for Education & Skills, with conducting a review of key stages 1-4 for the National Curriculum and in February 2015 his report and recommendations were published in the document 'Successful Futures – Independent Review of the Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales'. In that report it was recommended that religious education form part of the Humanities area of learning and experience and should remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception.

Following the acceptance of this review by the Minister in October 2015 a further document was issued called '*A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life*' which is the plan for taking forward Professor Donaldson's recommendations.

Pioneer schools and stakeholders will have a say in the shape of the curriculum and a series of meetings will take place to plan and discuss this. WASACRE has a place at the table as a stakeholder. The first meeting took place in December 2015 when the parameters were laid out:

- First stage for Curriculum Pioneers would be a high level definition of an Area of Learning and Experience framework.
- Detail around content would follow on from this initial phase.
- New Deal Pioneers would focus on the pedagogy and leadership needed to deliver the requirements of the new curriculum as it develops
- Members queried the best process for getting research and evidence to the Pioneer schools and agreed that the Strategic Stakeholder Group would be the most appropriate forum for this. A call for evidence would form a regular part of meetings and members could submit written evidence to the Secretariat between meetings.

At its autumn meeting 2015 NAPfRE began the process of drawing up guidelines on *What makes good RE*, for WASACRE representatives to submit to the pioneer network for consideration when working on the shape of the RE curriculum.

VThomas explained the timeline for the introduction of the new curriculum which would be introduced in 2021. Ten Newport primary schools and two secondary schools were included in the list of Pioneer schools and it was important to find out which Newport schools were involved in the design and development of humanities, particularly RE, as SACRE could offer them support in this.

The next stakeholders group will take place in March 2016 and update will come to the Summer SACRE meeting.

The Chair gave a note of caution in that should there be a change of administration following the May elections a decision might be taken not to continue following Professor Donaldson's recommended route.

HStephens had recently attended a meeting of the Cross Party group on Faith at the Sennedd. He queried the role of SACREs if RS is incorporated into humanities but the curriculum is set nationally.

V Thomas explained that WG has made it clear to WASACRE that SACREs will remain. WASACRE, as a stakeholder, could not be involved in the design of the framework of the curriculum but it could, together with NAPfRE, give local advice to SACREs.

HVaughan enquired whether the Education Achievement Service could keep Newport schools appraised of developments in this matter.

Agreed:

APowles to contact EAS requesting that Newport schools be kept up to date on any developments and enquire which Newport schools on the Pioneer list are involved in the design and development of the framework of humanities.

List of pioneer schools to be sent to all Newport schools.

9 WASACRE Issues

- As mentioned previously V Thomas confirmed that Newport had been well represented at the Autumn WASACRE meeting in Ebbw Vale.
- Concerns had been raised at the timetabling of the statutory Welsh Baccalaureate qualification which could encroach on time allocated for the teaching of RE. Following these concerns a short survey compiled by WASACRE had been sent to all secondary schools. The surveys had been returned to WASACRE for an analysis to be made, the result of which would be reported at the next WASACRE Executive in May.
- Nominations to WASACRE Executive were discussed and HStephens' name was put forward as Newport's nomination.
- The next WASACRE meeting will take place in Haverfordwest on 8 March 2016. HStephens confirmed that he would attend.
- VThomas confirmed that Manon Jones would be invited to a future WASACRE meeting to advise on the progress of the development of the curriculum.

Agreed:

Clerk to contact Newport secondary schools who had not returned the Welsh Bacc/RE survey and submit them to the secretary WASACRE within a week.

Clerk to contact Newport SACRE members inviting them to attend the Spring WASACRE meeting.

Newport's nomination of Huw Stephens to the WASACRE Executive to be submitted to WASACRE.

10 Correspondence

The number of Newport secondary school responses on the Welsh Bacc/RE survey was discussed.

11 Date of Next Meeting

The Spring meeting will take place at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnnon on 8 June at the later time of 2pm. The school will be making a presentation.

Agreed

Clerk to contact school and request that the presentation be restricted to 15 minutes.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and input at the meeting

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THE CITY OF NEWPORT SACRE

DATE: JUNE 8th 2016

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PURPOSE: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE 2016

Local Authority

Councillors – Gail Giles (Chair), Christine Jenkins, Allan Morris & David Williams (1 vacancy)

Education - Andrew Powles, Asst Head of Education, Engagement & Learning

GEMS – Martin Dacey, Head of GEMS (substitute for Andrew Powles)

Independent RE Adviser for SACRE – Vicky Thomas (RE Consultant)

Clerk to SACRE – Joy Howells, Democratic Services Support

Faith Representatives

Church in Wales - Susie Hunt and Jared Nolan

Roman Catholic – Patricia Landers

Baptist – Huw Stephens

Methodist – Richard Gillion

Evangelical Churches – Gifty David

Presbyterian Church of Wales / United Reformed Church – Ms Kirsty Mabbott

Salvation Army – Major Christine Comely

Hindu – Soam Sharma

Jewish – Abraham Davidson

Sikh – Neeta Singh Baicher

Muslim – Mrs Chowdry, M S Aabid

Professional Associations

National Union of Teachers – Sally Northcott and Linda Stevens

National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers – Nicola Huggleston

Association of Teachers & Lecturers – Joanne Crawley

National Association of Head Teachers – Heather Vaughan

Secondary Head Teachers' Association (ASCL) – Vacancy (replaces T Pratt)

UCAC – Kirsten Hicks

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THE CITY OF NEWPORT SACRE

DATE: JUNE 8th 2016
REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
PURPOSE: REVISED CRITERIA FOR RS SPECIFICATIONS

Background

The current situation in schools is the availability of different routes in the delivery of RE/RS.

Route 1 – Optional Religious Studies

A significant number of schools offer Religious Studies in the option choices at KS4. Students who choose the subject will then follow an examination spec for Religious Studies and be entered for the full course examination, having received exactly the same time allocation (usually around 10% of curriculum time) as all other optional subjects

Route 2 – GCSE RS accreditation in the statutory Religious Education lesson

Religious Education is a statutory subject which must be taught to all students at KS4. This is where the situation for RE/RS differs from nearly all other subjects (PE is the other exception). Many schools in Wales use the statutory RE lessons to follow a Religious Studies external examination specification with the whole cohort and enter students for this examination – either for a short course or a full course.

Route 1 and 2

A significant number of schools use both routes. This means that if a student has chosen Religious Studies in the options, then that student will still be present in the statutory RE lesson, and can follow a different specification for Religious Studies instead of following the same lesson content twice. It is possible to do so at present because there are two RS GCSE specifications at WJEC (as well as the availability of specs from examining boards in England). However, with the proposed merging of the two specs into one, this will no longer be an option. It is here that merging the two specifications will have the negative impact.

Meeting between WJEC and NAPRE representatives - 15.4.16

Present: Gareth Pierce, Alun McCarthy (Examinations Development Officer?), Lynda Maddocks, Jen Malcolm, Mary Parry

NAPfRE members had requested a meeting with WJEC to discuss the new specifications and pointing out the implications of there only being one specification on schools- especially those schools currently following a combined Route 1&2 –see above.

Affect 1. Schools/ teachers may decide to retain their optional RS and **not accredit** the short course in the statutory lesson. A factor influencing that decision could be the increased rigour in the exam specification/s making it more difficult for candidates to be successful in achieving a GCSE RS accreditation in the statutory lessons. Statutory RE would still have to be provided and this could be subsumed into Welsh Baccalaureate or some other form of provision. This would have a huge affect on entry figures for WJEC and the Board stated that they would contact Estyn asking them to keep a watching brief on KS4 statutory RE provision.

Affect 2. Schools/ teachers may decide to only follow RS in the statutory lessons and the RS option will disappear. This will have an effect on A and AS level Religious Studies.

Decisions

- WJEC are offering both the short and full course options from a single specification and therefore will not be offering an additional RS GCSE specification from September 2017. There had been no call for an additional RS spec in England. However, it will review the impact after two years.
- It is a matter for each school's internal organisational structures to ensure that an optional RS GCSE course and a RS GCSE (short course) for statutory RE lessons can run side by side.
- WJEC will contact schools who appear to provide an organisational structure which allows the GCSE optional full course and the statutory GCSE RS short course to run concurrently with no overlap and where the pupils are not educationally disadvantaged, so that any good practice can be shared with other schools.
- WJEC will contact Estyn to draw attention to the need to keep a watching brief on the provision for statutory KS4 RE.

THE CITY OF NEWPORT SACRE

DATE: JUNE 8th 2016

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PURPOSE: UPDATE ON NATIONAL CURRICULUM REVIEW

Background

Professor Donaldson's report and recommendations can be found in the document *Successful Futures - Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales*.

Recommendation 9 states: *Religious education should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience, and should remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception.*

In October 2015 'A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life' document was released which outlines the plan for taking forward Professor Donaldson's recommendations

Pioneer schools and stakeholders will have a say in the shape of the curriculum.

The first stage for **Curriculum Pioneers** would be a high level definition of an Area of Learning and Experience framework. Detail around content would follow on from this initial phase.

New Deal Pioneers would focus on the pedagogy and leadership needed to deliver the requirements of the new curriculum as it develops

Current situation April 2016

The National Advisory Panel for RE (NAPfRE) has begun the process of drawing up a guidance document called *What makes good RE* for submission to the pioneer network for consideration when working on the shape of the RE curriculum. There have been three meetings to work on this Nov '15, April '16 and May '16.

At the April meeting NAPfRE were joined by two representatives from the Curriculum Division of Welsh Government. **Manon Jones** who is responsible for the pioneer schools and two areas of learning and experience (ALE), Humanities and Language and Literacy and **Abi Williams** who will be responsible for Religious Education and ITC. Manon Jones outlined the process and steps they are currently following.

Step 1: Representatives from the pioneer schools have attended a few induction events and are currently working in four working groups in order to develop the structure of the new curriculum:

- Learning beyond the classroom
- Assessment and progression
- Cross curricular responsibilities (literacy, numeracy and digital competence)
- Welsh dimension, international perspective and wider skills

There are 18-20 representatives in each group, many of whom are members of schools' senior management teams. WG is collecting information from the pioneer schools to identify which areas of learning, disciplines, sectors (e.g. primary, secondary, Welsh medium) need most attention.

Step 2: Representatives from the pioneer schools will work within areas of learning and experience (ALE) in order to consider the 'big questions' of curriculum development, eg. what is the scope of each ALE? What are the connections between ALEs? There will be a balance of FP, primary and secondary practitioners.

Step 3: Representatives from the pioneer schools will consider the strands within each area of learning and experience. Subsidiarity is an important principle but WG hopes that other 'good practice' schools will be involved at this stage to contribute their appropriate expertise and good practice. However the WG library service is gathering evidence of successful curriculums from around the world. They are prepared to work with bodies (such as NAPfRE and WASACRE) that can advise.

NAPfRE agreed to do the following for WG

- prepare a briefing paper for WG in order to outline the particular issues relating to RE within a new curriculum. NAPfRE identified three areas
- share any useful documents, action research case studies or examples of good practice which might help the pioneer schools.
- identify schools which exemplify good practice.

The timeline (and other documents/presentations) can be found on the following websites.

English: : <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/curriculum-for-wales-curriculum-for-life/?lang=en>

Cymraeg: <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/curriculum-for-wales-curriculum-for-life/?skip=1&lang=cy>

NAPFRE BRIEFING PAPER FOR WELSH GOVERNMENT (DRAFT)

Please note this is in draft format

RE in the present curriculum

Currently RE is not a National Curriculum subject but sits within the 'basic curriculum'. It is statutory for all registered pupils at a school except those in nursery classes, ie. reception to post 16 inclusive.

RE is taught in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus in all maintained and voluntary controlled schools. Since 2008, all agreed syllabuses in Wales are based on the Welsh Government *National Exemplar Framework for RE*. All local authorities are required to have a SACRE whose role is to monitor the provision of RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus for that local authority.

Successful Futures recommends that "religious education should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience, and should remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception" (p114).

Questions for consideration:

- What is the intention regarding the position of Religious Education in the new curriculum?
- If Religious Education sits within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience - as Donaldson proposes- does this mean that there is an intention to no longer require LAs to have a locally agreed syllabus?
- How will this impact on SACREs?

Withdrawal

Schools have a statutory obligation to provide Religious Education. Present legislation allows parents to exercise their right to withdraw their child/children from Religious Education

Questions for consideration:

- Is there an intention to remove the withdrawal clause for RE?
- What will be the implication of the removal of the withdrawal clause?

RE for nursery settings

Currently legislation states that religious education is not statutory for children in nursery classes. However this is an anomaly within the Foundation Phase where all other areas of learning are for 3 to 7 year olds. Without a change in legislation this anomaly would continue within the new *Successful Futures* 3-16 curriculum.

Questions for consideration:

- Will legislation be changed in order to create consistency for Religious Education to be able to sit within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience?

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THE CITY OF NEWPORT SACRE

DATE: JUNE 8th 2016

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PURPOSE: INCERTS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME.

INCERTS programme

At the March 2016 meetings of the National Advisory Panel for RE and WASACRE concern was raised by members about the INCERTS software that tracks pupils' progress in National Curriculum subjects and Religious Education. The concerns are as follows:

1. There are two options for schools to choose from regarding level descriptions for RE and it is not made obvious which set of Levels are the correct Levels for use by maintained and voluntary controlled schools.
2. Incerts have been advising some schools in Wales that there are no statutory Level Descriptions for RE and that schools are free to choose which set of Level Descriptions they use in the Incerts programme. This is incorrect. There are statutory Level Descriptions for schools in Wales. Schools do not have a choice regarding which Level Descriptions they are to use.
3. Any schools that have started using the wrong Levels option will have to start the assessment process again when they switch to the correct option.

Information from Incerts website

Incerts is an independent, non-profit organisation working to transform assessment practices in schools on a local, national and international scale. With help from our support staff, teachers and school leaders use our online system to get more than they thought possible from assessment.

Assessment for Learning

As soon as teachers have recorded their assessments, Incerts highlights the skill-by-skill strengths and weaknesses of individual pupils. Incerts also identifies groups of pupils with common skill profiles to support planning and differentiation in the classroom.

Assessment of Learning

School leaders are able to access a live view of attainment across the school at any time. Our analysis tools facilitate the tracking of vulnerable groups in detail, helping to identify trends and anomalies within the academic year, or across a Key Stage.

Reporting of Learning

Incerts uses on-going teacher assessments to create personal and readable reports for parents in a fraction of the time usually spent. Our online Reportal also provides a practical outlet for sharing evidence with parents and teachers can share the media they have uploaded through our dedicated evidence capture app, Incerts Snap.

Recommendation

That the LA and its SACRE writes to all schools in the Local Authority to reiterate the need to ensure that they are using the correct option for RE within the Incerts programme.

To Headteachers and Religious education co-ordinators
All primary and special schools in Newport

June 2016

Dear Colleague

Many schools in Wales are now using the INCERTS software to track pupils' progress in the National Curriculum subjects and Religious Education.

Incerts are offering the option of two sets of level descriptions for Religious Education in KS2.

The first option, called RE 'original levels', consists of the levels from a programme of study used by Catholic schools in the UK, 'Here I am', (although this is now out of date and has been superseded). The second option, RE- 'exemplar framework', contains the statutory level descriptions for all maintained schools in Wales, as set out in all 22 Locally Agreed Syllabuses for RE in Wales. **This is the correct set of Levels in Incerts for use by maintained and voluntary controlled schools in Wales.**

It has come to the attention of Newport SACRE that some schools in Wales have been told by Incerts that schools are free to choose which assessment framework they wish to use as neither framework is statutory. This is totally incorrect as the level descriptions found in your locally agreed syllabus are statutory. Every Agreed Syllabus in Wales contains the Level Descriptions for RE as produced by Welsh Government in their *National Exemplar Framework for RE* and these form part of the statutory syllabus and aim to ensure consistency of expected standards across all maintained and voluntary controlled schools.

Schools are urged to ensure that the correct version is used if this programme is adopted by the school to track pupils' progress in RE.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter then please contact Vicky Thomas RE Consultant to SACRE by email vickyathomas@hotmail.co.uk



**Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru, Hwlford, 8 Mawrth 2016
(11am – 3pm)**

**Wales Association of SACREs meeting, Haverfordwest 8 March
2015 (11am – 3pm)**

Attendance

<p>Ynys Môn / Anglesey Bethan James Rheinallt Thomas</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent Gill Vaisey</p> <p>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend Vicky Thomas Edward Evans</p> <p>Caerffili/ Caerphilly Vicky Thomas</p> <p>Caerdydd / Cardiff Gill Vaisey Gillian James Kate Church</p> <p>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire Mary Parry Meinir Wynne Loader Helen Gibbon Gwyneth Thomas</p> <p>Ceredigion Lyndon Lloyd</p> <p>Conwy Phil Lord</p>	<p>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire Phil Lord</p> <p>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire Phil Lord</p> <p>Gwynedd Bethan James</p> <p>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil Vicky Thomas Ernie Galsworthy</p> <p>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire Gill Vaisey</p> <p>Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot Jen Malcolm</p> <p>Casnewydd / Newport Huw Stephens Vicky Thomas</p> <p>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire Mary Parry Huw George Emyr Phillips</p>	<p>Powys</p> <p>Rhondda Cynon Taf Gill Vaisey</p> <p>Abertawe / Swansea Vicky Thomas Rachel Bendall Alison Lewis</p> <p>Torfaen /Torfaen Vicky Thomas</p> <p>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan Gill Vaisey</p> <p>Wrecsam / Wrexham Libby Jones</p> <p>Sylwedyddion / Observers Janet Ingram- St David's Centre (Speaker) Siân Brooks- UWTSD (Speaker) Mrs Y Galsworthy</p>
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Minutes

1. Cyflwyniad a chroeso / *Introduction and welcome*

Edward Evans began the meeting by explaining that he would be Chairing the meeting in the absence of both Phil Lord, Chair of WASACRE and Tania ap Sion, Immediate past Chair of WASACRE. Cllr Huw George, Chair of Pembrokeshire SACRE welcomed WASACRE members to Pembrokeshire. He shared a video clip showing views of Pembrokeshire from a drone, which had been created especially for the WASACRE meeting by a pupil from a local school. The pupil had called the film *Paths for Pilgrims*.

2. Adfyfrio tawel / *Quiet reflection*

Edward gave thanks to Huw George for the welcome and shared some words with members about Mothering Sunday and the importance of sharing in peoples' lives. Edward Evans quoted the poet John Donne, saying, 'No man is an island' and members reflected on the relationships we have with others, including the relationship we have with God and our mothers.

3. Ymddiheuriadau / *Apologies*

Phil Lord, Tania ap Sion, John Mitson, Tudor Thomas, Lynda Maddock, Andrew Pearce, Chris Abbas, Sharon Perry-Phillips, Neeta Singh Baicher, Sue Cave.

4. Cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd yn Yr Ebbw Vales, 25 Tachwedd 2015

5. Minutes of meeting held in Ebbw Vale, 25 November 2015 (p10 item 9 spelling of December)

Rheinallt Thomas pointed out that the Welsh name for RE Ideas needs translating on the Welsh part of the minutes, P4. Item 10.

The minutes were accepted by members as a true record of the meeting.

6. Materion yn codi / *Matters arising*

P3, item 5. *Welsh Baccalaureate survey*. Libby Jones confirmed that she had sent out the Welsh Baccalaureate and RE survey to schools, that the return had been quite good and that there was still time for schools to send in any late returns. Some members were concerned that the survey wasn't getting past Headteachers, who are taking the decision not to fill it in as they may feel threatened by its purpose. The importance of RE coordinators completing the survey was highlighted so that we can present a truer picture to Welsh Government and be able to support teachers.

Action: Libby will give feedback on the analysis of the survey results at the next WASACRE meeting in June.

P4, Item 10. *A.O.B. RE Ideas*. Rheinallt Thomas assured members that the English version of RE Ideas is now fully available on the Website. www.religious-education-wales.org/news/archive which forms part of the Peneith website. The Welsh medium material is all on the website too, but the web address is different, it is: www.addysg-grefyddol-cymru.org/newyddion/archif. There are 48 themes in all and the ideas have come from a variety of teachers from across Wales. Rheinallt suggested a link from the WASACRE website to the Peneith website and confirmed that they are not subject to copyright.

Action: RT to email welsh version of website address to LJ.

P4, Item 10. *Withdrawal from RE Guidance document*. Gill Vaisey has presented the draft document at NAPfRE which will become final by May 2016. If members have anything to share with Gill to add to this document in terms of case studies please can they send them to Gill within the next couple of weeks. The document will be made available to SACRE once it is complete.

P9, Item 8. *Revised GCSE Specifications for Religious Studies*. Ceredigion SACRE will be writing to Welsh Government to request a review of the structure of Religious Studies GCSE courses and to highlight the need for the content of RS courses to be geared towards young people getting jobs, for example in the caring professions like nursing and community care. A discussion ensued and the following points were made: It is important to ensure that standards in RS have parity with other GCSE subjects; having only one RS specification Page 22 two could cause problems for KS4 statutory RE

and/or optional RS, NAPfRE will be writing to WJEC to ask for a meeting to discuss this issue further; concern over schools taking time away from RS for other initiatives like Welsh Bacalaureate with a plea made to teachers to keep SACREs informed of any squeeze on RS time; there are currently no bursaries in Wales for RS PGCE students and that fewer post graduate students from Wales are taking up this training than in the past.

Action: LJ to keep WASACRE informed regarding discussions between NAPfRE and WJEC. LJ to put RS PGCE bursaries on the agenda for the next meeting with Welsh Government.

P8. Item 7. *Collective Worship conference*. In consultation with Welsh Government, WASACRE has decided not to pursue a meeting with Alison Mahwinney and other academics involved in the Collective Worship Conference at this time.

Ceredigion SACRE has contacted all schools in the LA to reinforce the need for worship during assembly time and that this should not be used for other matters. Collective worship has been discussed by NAPfRE and the group were resolved to find examples of good practice in a secondary school to put on the WASACRE website in order to support school in this area.

Humanist representation on SACRE and the teaching of Humanism in school was also raised. Humanists are not a religious group and therefore cannot be on Committee A, but a Humanist representative can be on SACRE as a co-opted member, as already happens in some SACREs currently. The Respect Agenda was referenced with regard to certain individuals not showing respect for Christianity, which would cause problems. Ultimately it is up to each individual SACRE to decide and largely depends on the contribution the individual representative can make to SACRE. It was also confirmed that Humanism is on the new GCSE RS specification.

P10. Item 8. *Revised GCSE specifications*. Libby Jones confirmed the deferment of the New RE specification for GCSE RS until September 2017.

7. Cyflwyniad NAPfRE/ NAPfRE presentation:

Siân Brooks, PTAR Twtor USWTSD. 'Cymhwysedd Digidol'/ Siân Brooks, PGCE Tutor USWTSD '*Digital Competence*'

A copy of this presentation is available on the WASACRE website.

Bethan James, Chair of NAPfRE thanked Siân for an interesting and informative presentation and highlighted the need for critical reading when developing digital competence, which can be and already is being developed through RE. Ceredigion SACRE raised the concern of the risk that writing and communication skills would be hampered by the development of digital competence. Siân emphasised the opportunity for capturing the debate in RE through digital competence, which is often lost at the end of the lesson, and that is very much about oracy, rather than writing. The issue of lack of funding was raised, especially in secondary schools, in order to enable digital resources to be available in all classrooms to make this work.

Action: Siân will send all the links from the presentation to Libby.

Janet Ingram, Swyddog Addysg a Phererindod, Tŷ'r Pererin, esgobaeth Dewi Sant/ *Janet Ingram, Education and Pilgrimage officer, Tŷ'r Pererin, Diocese of St. David*

A copy of this presentation is available on the WASACRE website.

Janet Ingram was thanked for her inspiring presentation. Rachel Bendall commented that Primary PGCE students need this type of training, Janet Ingram was able to confirm that the presentation has not yet been shared with other Diocese in Wales. It was suggested that Tŷ'r Pererin could reach out to Hŵb to put resources online to enable a wider audience and more schools benefitting from the project. Janet emphasised that experiential learning is the key to this resource.

8. Diweddariadau/Up-dates:

Cysylltiadau a chyfarfodydd Llywodraeth Cymru/ *Welsh Government contacts and meetings* – Libby Jones

Libby read out the notes from the meeting which included the following: Foundation Phase profile handbook; Curriculum Review update; Review of current RE legislation; Collective Worship conference; RE GCSE / A' level; Welsh Government requirement to publish all SACRE reports; Updating the Religious Festival absence guidance document for 2016/17.

The following points were raised by members

Welsh Government request for WASACRE to up-date the religious festival dates on the WG School Attendance and Religious Festivals Guidance 2016. Vicky Thomas raised the issue of accountability and members agreed that Libby should have a conversation with WG colleagues and if it is impossible for WG to do it then WASACRE will.

It was agreed that WASACRE writes to various political parties to request their standpoint on Religious Education and DACW in schools, ask if they would adhere to the present legislative arrangements should a new curriculum be put forward.

Action: LJ will contact the Parties and send the replies to SACRES.

Cyngor Addysg Grefyddol Cymru a Lloegr/ *Religious Education Council for England and Wales*– Gill Vaisey

There was nothing new or urgent to report only that the next meeting is on 12 May in London. Gill Vaisey hopes to attend.

Cyfarfod y Fforwm Ffydd/ *Faith Forum meeting* – Phil Lord (delivered by Libby Jones)

Libby Jones read out the notes made by Phil Lord at the meeting. It was apparent from Manon Jones that no decision has been made as yet to change the nature of SACRE. Concern was raised regarding RE being taught within the Humanities area of Learning and Experience and how RE would sit together in the curriculum with History and Geography, with RE being agreed locally by SACRES.

Other concerns raised were that some schools are dumbing down the opportunities of our young people with Welsh Baccalaureate and numeracy and literacy. Also that Stakeholders (such as WASACRE) cannot get involved in the nitty gritty of curriculum planning. Therefore could individual SACRES use their expertise to work with pioneer schools on the development of the new curriculum for Humanities and RE? Edward Evans commented that this is the purpose of SACRES. Members were assured that this is happening in the background through NAPfRE which has representatives from different SACRES on it. Thanks were given to Phil for the report and Huw for his contributions.

Gill Vaisey offered a reflection and reminded members of mistakes made with the Foundation Phase document. Gill urged WASACRE to learn from that experience. If Welsh Government are not clear how RE sits within the national curriculum maybe we need to be clear what we want and we need to give it more thought.

Action: LJ to make 'RE and its place within the new curriculum' an agenda item for the next meeting.

Adolygiad Cwricwlwm / *Curriculum Review*- Libby Jones

The Pioneer Schools Network will be at the forefront of designing the new curriculum and assessment arrangements with expert advice and support. The Curriculum for Wales Strategic Stakeholder Group will provide challenge, support and advice as we work together to develop the new curriculum.

WASACRE form part of this Strategic Stakeholder Group. The Pioneer Schools focussing on Humanities have not been identified yet, but once they have been Manon Jones, Head of Areas of Learning and Experience Design and Development for Humanities will discuss with PL and LJ the role WASACRE could play in the development process. Some experts will work with the Pioneers to develop the scope and content of the Area of Learning and Experience while others will provide quality assurance. Welsh Government is mindful that those providing quality assurance should not be fully involved in the development work to ensure an effective process.

9. Adroddiad ar gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith a gynhaliwyd ar 4 Chwefror 2016/ *Report from the Executive Committee held on 4 February 2016*

VT asked for clarification of the Executive positions. LJ confirmed that there are 3 positions available plus the position of Vice Chair. It was also confirmed that a member can be nominated for both and Edward Evans raised the need for coverage of all committees.

10. Gohebiaeth /*Correspondence*

None that had not already been dealt with in the meeting.

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

Mary Parry spoke to members about the issues relating to Incerts which is a commercial assessment tracker used by many schools in Wales. For all other subjects apart from RE the level descriptions within the program are appropriate for Wales. However, for RE the teacher has to choose the appropriate set of level descriptions to use for their setting. This has proved confusing for some teachers and there is concern that some schools are not using the level descriptions from the Exemplar Framework for RE which has been adopted by all 22 SACREs in Wales as part of their Agreed Syllabus, which therefore makes the levels statutory. NAPfRE requested that WASACRE writes to Welsh Government to ask them to endorse the following statement. *'All 22 local authorities in Wales have adopted the outcomes and level descriptions of the Welsh Government National Exemplar Framework for RE and therefore these are the statutory assessment requirements for all maintained schools in Wales'*. All members present agreed.

Action- LJ will write to Welsh Government to request an endorsement of this statement. Following this a letter could be sent to INCERTS and the Managing Directors of the 4 consortia in Wales to alert them to the issue and to confirm the statement.

12. Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf / Date for next meeting: Haf, 23 Mehefin 2016, Sir Ddinbych / Summer, 23 June 2016, Denbighshire In *Rhyl*.

13. Dyddiadau cyfarfodydd yn y dyfodol / Future meeting dates: Hydref, 18 Tachwedd, 2016 Sir Gaerfyrddin /Autumn, 18 November 2016, Carmarthenshire; Gwanwyn 2017, Sir Fynwy / Spring 2017, Monmouthshire. 17 March in Usk.

THE CITY OF NEWPORT SACRE

DATE: JUNE 8th 2016

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PURPOSE: WASACRE SURVEY ON THE IMPACT OF THE WELSH BACCAULEAREATE ON RE IN SCHOOLS

Background

With the launch of the new Welsh Baccalaureate in September 2015, WASACRE was interested to know how schools have managed the implementation of the new qualification in their individual setting, and whether the Welsh Baccalaureate has had a positive or negative impact on religious education in schools across Wales. In order to monitor this situation and to gain a deeper understanding of what is happening across Wales WASACRE produced a short survey which was circulated to secondary schools within their local authority by the SACREs for schools to complete and return.

According to the 2015 school census (Jan 2015) there are 207 secondary schools in Wales

16/22 SACRE's sent returns
70 schools completed the survey

Question 1

Since the implementation of the New Welsh Baccalaureate, does your school provide statutory Religious Education according to the Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE at KS4?

Response

Yes - 86%
No- 14%

Question 2

Since the implementation of the New Welsh Baccalaureate, does your school offer a Religious Studies GCSE qualification as one of the supporting qualifications for Welsh Baccalaureate, at KS4?

Response

Yes - 84%
No 16%

Question 2a

If YES, is the RS GCSE course taught within:

- a) Core RE time (for all KS4 pupils)
- b) Option only
- c) Other

Response

Core Time = 46%
Option only = 30%
Other = 16%
No Response =8%

Question 3

Has the New Welsh Baccalaureate had more of a positive/negative or no impact on RE

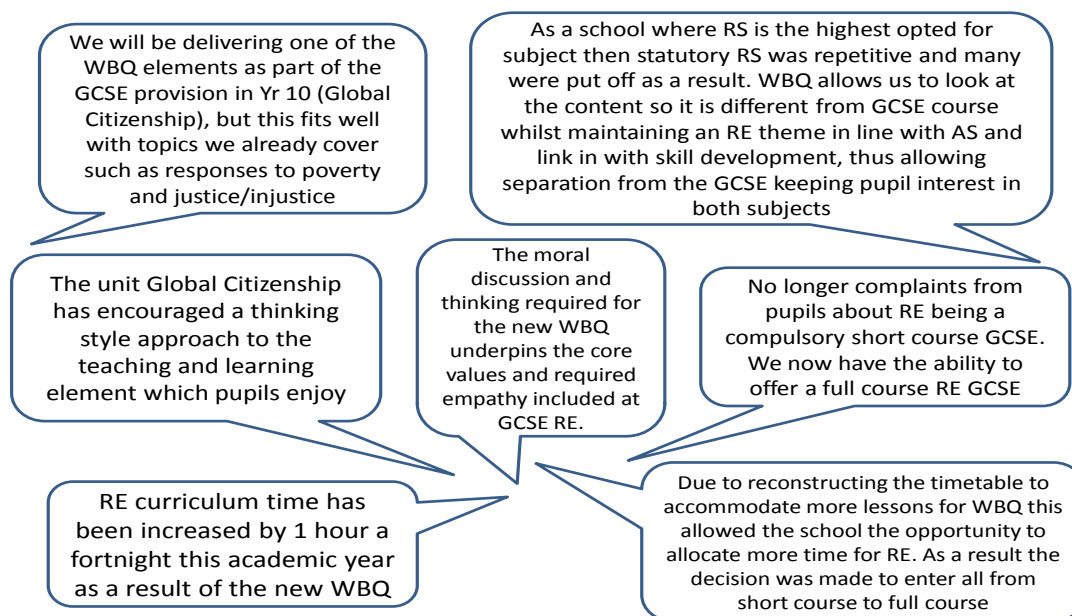
Response

Positive = 16%
Negative=17%
No Impact = 67%

Question 4

How has the new Welsh Baccaulaureate had a **positive** effect on RE in your school

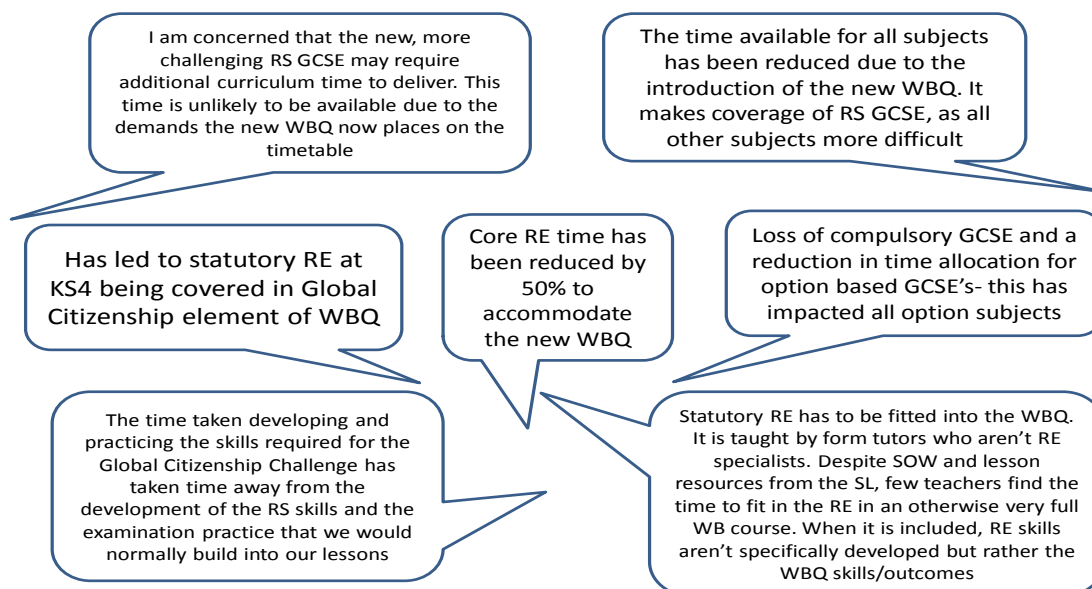
Positive impact on RE



Question 5

How has the new Welsh Baccaulaureate had a **negative** effect on RE in your school

Negative impact on RE



Question 6

Do you require any support from your local SACRE?

Yes = 11%

No = 76%

No response = 13%

Responses to the offer of support from SACREs

When the new GCSE specification is issued I feel we will need more support with regards to developing resources etc.

Implementation of the new specifications. Not sure if my curriculum time will be enough as it is extremely difficult to complete the course at the moment

An analysis of how many schools are fulfilling KS4 obligations as a result of removal of compulsory RE lessons due to Welsh Bacc

The WBQ is much more demanding in terms of time and skills than we first thought it would be. Although we have redesigned our GCSE Course to integrate it into the WBQ, from what I have seen of the new subject specifications I am not sure that it will be compatible in the future which is a concern in terms of delivering good quality RE.

Support in expressing concern about the mess the new GCSE is in! Even with the delay, the new syllabus seems to be out of step with Donaldson et al, and the idea of skills/PISA style teaching. Rather, it is going back to the 'tell me 50 things about Judaism'. In particular, less able pupils will find this impossible, and all pupils will find this lacking in relevance for them.

THE CITY OF NEWPORT SACRE

DATE: JUNE 8th 2016

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**PURPOSE: EXECUTIVE VOTING 2016 -2019
NOMINATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (23 June 2016)**

There are FOUR nominations for **THREE** positions on the Executive Committee.

1. Mary Parry – Carmarthenshire SACRE

- I have been working in the field of Religious Education for many years and I am very passionate about the importance of the subject in developing well-rounded young people in Wales today. I am always prepared to fight for the rightful place of RE in the curriculum.
- I have been a Religious Education Advisor in Carmarthenshire (and its predecessor, Dyfed) for 22 years. With recent reorganisation my title is now an ERW Associate Challenge Adviser - the South, West and Mid Wales Regional Consortium.
- I am the professional officer to the Carmarthenshire SACRE. As such, I have been involved in drawing up the LA's RE Agreed syllabuses and support materials. In addition, I have recently accepted the invitation to work with the Pembrokeshire SACRE as its professional officer.
- I have been an active member of the WASACRE executive committee for 20 years and participate regularly at WASACRE meetings. For example, last year I gave a presentation at the spring term meeting on an RE unit of work which I had created for secondary schools, 'Muslim footballers in the Premier League'.
- I advise and support teachers in implementing the LA Agreed Syllabus and in teaching RE effectively. I have provided many bilingual courses and resources for schools – both in Carmarthenshire and in other LAs in Wales.
- I have worked with external bodies such as WJEC, Estyn and Welsh Government on matters relating to RE. For example, I inspect schools under Estyn contract and was one of the three inspectors who undertook the Estyn thematic review of RE in secondary schools in Wales.
- Before my present position, I was the head of RE and the head of lower school in Newcastle Emlyn Comprehensive school, Carmarthenshire.
- With this experience, I feel that I can continue to make a valuable contribution to the WASACRE executive and would find it a privilege to continue to serve on it.

2. Huw Stephens, M.A., B.Ed.- Newport SACRE

I was a Religious Studies teacher for 39 years until my retirement in 2012. My career was in the Secondary sector – Fair view, Blackwood, Queen's School, Newport, and Bassaleg School, Newport. I taught G.C.S.E. Short and Full Course, and Advanced Level Religious Studies.

I was a Head of Year 7, involved in the Pastoral side of school life and heavily associated with the transition of pupils from Junior to Secondary school. I also served as a Teacher Governor at Queen's and Bassaleg Schools.

Before my retirement, I was nominated as a Baptist representative on Newport SACRE and have been a regular member and contributor on that committee, also attending WASACRE meetings, as a Newport representative.

I have been involved in local Church life and, in retirement, have been Ordained and Inducted as a Co-Pastor in my local Baptist Church in Rogerstone, Newport.

I have been married to Rachel, my wife, for 30 years, with three grown up daughters - all married within 10 months of each other, just after my retirement!

I am very interested in the way Religious Studies is developing and am aware that WASACRE is uniquely placed to have a strong and informed voice as a stakeholder in ongoing discussions about the shape of the new curriculum. I am willing to bring my experience and passion for Religious Studies to the role for which I have been nominated.

3. Moses Tutesigensi- Powys SACRE

It has been said that most people occupy two cultures - that of their parents and the one of their generation. Some may have a third if their ancestry is of a different nation to their residence! As for me, I have at least 4 cultures that burden my identity - I was a child in Uganda, a teenager in England, and now a young adult in Wales. More fundamental to me than those three, is the fourth - having been raised in a Christian household, I became a born again Christian at age 15.

It was around the age of 15 that I first came into contact with a SACRE. At my school, I had gotten involved with a teacher-pupil panel called 'Section 23' which was charged with developing the Christian ethos of the school (I went to a Roman Catholic school). And so, my head of year informed me that Portsmouth SACRE was looking to set up a youth forum for young people of faith. To cut a long story short, I subsequently became a founding member of the Portsmouth Youth Interfaith Forum, which was one of the first youth interfaith forum in southern England. My involvement with Portsmouth SACRE continued until 2014 by virtue of my supporting the organising, as well as being a speaker at, a city wide RE enrichment day.

I am now in my eighth year of living in Wales, after becoming besotted with the place and the people whilst studying biochemistry at Cardiff University. After graduating, I spent some time volunteering with Christian Aid whilst also supporting the work of two churches that I had become involved in as a student - St Philip's in Tremorfa, Cardiff and the parish of Bargoed, Deri and Brithdir in the Rhymney valley. I have now been working with the Presbyterian Church of Wales in Mid Wales as a mission enabler since mid 2013. My everyday work sees me coming into contact with different schools, different communities, and churches with different challenges. My core belief is that in all those circumstances people of faith have a critical role to play.

A Bible verse that I aspire to live by is taken from what God says through Isaiah to his people - 'learn to do good, seek justice, rebuke the oppressor, defend the fatherless, plead for the widow'. These are themes that can be explored sensibly in a religiously plural society like ours, and it is to this end I hope I can usefully serve on the WASACRE Executive.

4. Mathew Maidment – Rhondda Cynon Taf SACRE

I have worked at Bryn Celynnog Comprehensive School for over twenty years. Having graduated from UWIC, I started my career as a teacher of Physical Education and Religious Education in 1995. Following a serious football injury I became a full-time member of the Religious Education department and am now Head of RE. I have held a number of roles during my time at the school including the coordination of PSE, Progress File, Learning Coaching and Key Skills and, having been both a Head of Year and Head of Lower School, I have been a member of the Extended Senior Management Team for the past four years.

I am passionate about Religious Education and recently became a member of the RCT SACRE. I also attended the WASACRE meeting in Ebbw Vale on the 25th November. Attending the RCT SACRE and the WASACRE meetings made me realise the importance of these organisations. With the changes taking place, within education in Wales, I believe the role of WASACRE is vital at this time. As curriculum time is squeezed we must ensure that the statutory obligation for schools to deliver appropriate and meaningful RE, across all key stages, is being adhered to.

At KS4 I am particularly concerned at the prospect of 'token gesture' RE being delivered as part of other qualifications such as the Welsh Baccalaureate. I believe we need to ensure that schools provide RE programmes that effectively cover an agreed syllabus, with regular and appropriate curriculum time across years 10 and 11.

I feel that the current WJEC GCSE options have worked extremely well, with option B, especially, proving engaging for KS4 pupils, regardless of their religious or non-religious backgrounds. It is, therefore, with great interest that I await the new GCSE specifications. I have been proactive in contacting Lynda Maddock (WJEC) to express my hopes for the new qualification and my support for the work she is doing. Furthermore, I was recently invited, by Gill Vaisey, to attend a potential meeting with Gareth Pierce (WJEC). This meeting has been requested by representatives from NAPfRE and WASACRE to discuss some of the issues surrounding the new GCSE.

I hope my experience as a teacher of RE and Head of Department in the secondary school setting, during this time of change within Welsh education, would be of value to the WASACRE Executive Committee and I would be grateful for the opportunity to serve the committee if appointed as a member.