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Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date: Wednesday, 8 March 2017

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Bassaleg School

To: Councillors G Giles (Chair), D Williams, C Jenkins and I Hayat

Item		Wards Affected
1	Agenda-Cym	
2	Welcome and Presentation from Bassaleg School	
3	Time of Quiet Reflection	
4	Apologies for Absence	
5	Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 3 - 10)	
6	Holocaust Memorial Day 2017 (Pages 11 - 12)	All Wards
7	Matters Arising	All Wards
8	Analysis of Examination Results-Summer 2016 (Pages 13 - 20)	All Wards
9	GCSE Consortia Arrangements (Pages 21 - 24)	All Wards
10	National Curriculum Review & Assessment: Update (Pages 25 - 28)	All Wards
11	Annual Estyn Remit (Pages 29 - 30)	All Wards
12	SACRE Website/SACRE Awards (Pages 31 - 32)	All Wards
13	 WASACRE Issues (Pages 33 - 42) Feedback from meeting at Carmarthen 18 Nov 2016 Verbal Feedback on Spring Meeting at Usk, 3 March 2017 Representation at the summer WASACRE meeting in Wrexham on 7 July 2017 Nominations to the WASACRE Executive 	All Wards
14	 Correspondence (Pages 43 - 48) Letters sent to schools on statutory requirements for RE/RS 	All Wards

WASACRE Correspondence

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 5

Minutes



Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date: 9 November 2016

Time: 10.00 am

Present:

LEA Representatives Councillors G Giles (Chair) and D Williams

Officers: V Thomas (RE Consultant), A Powles (Assistant Head of Education) & J

Howells (Democratic Services Support Officer)

Faith Groups C Comely (Salvation Army), H Stevens (Baptist) & S Hunt (Church in

Wales)

Teacher

Representatives: N Huggleston (NASUWT), S Northcott (NUT) & L Picton (ASCL)

Apologies: Councillor A Morris, N Baicher (Sikh), G David (Pentecostal), P Landers

(RC), K Mabbott (URC), J Crawley (ATL) & L Stevens (NUT)

1 Agenda - Cym

2 Time of Quiet Reflection

Members took part in a period of quiet reflection.

3 Apologies for Absence

As noted above.

4 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.

5 Matters Arising

Members were reminded of the dates and venues for the next two meetings. It was confirmed that all action points in the minutes had been carried out.

6 Membership Update

Lana Picton was welcomed to the meeting as the ASCL representative. As there was also now a full complement of councillors all positions on Newport SACRE were now filled.

7 SACRE Annual Report 2015-16

By law an annual report has to be provided for each SACRE which is then brought to the SACRE meeting for approval and following its approval is distributed to the relevant organisations. The Annual Report is a synopsis of what took place in Newport SACRE last year. V Thomas was particularly interested in going through the main points contained in the Executive Summary:

a) Religious Education

SACRE considers and analyses school inspection reports and follows up on any comments made by the inspectors. During the last academic year no RE subject specific issues were identified in the reports and therefore no follow up action was necessary.

SACRE also analyses examination results over a 3 year period and identifies trends in performance which is benchmarked against the All Wales data. Schools are informed of the outcomes of this analysis.

Two out of three SACRE meetings are held at schools during an academic year. In 2016/16 one primary and one secondary school were visited with each school making a presentation on RE which helps identify the strengths and weaknesses of RE at the school.

b) Agreed Syllabus for RE

In June 2013 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the Newport Agreed Syllabus for RE but the syllabus would be reviewed following further information being received in relation to the assessment and national curriculum review.

SACRE had been regularly updated on developments with the national curriculum review and are awaiting further details from Welsh Government and WASACRE before beginning any RE agreed syllabus review.

c) Teaching Materials

SACRE ensures that schools are informed of suitable teaching materials and in the last academic year Newport schools had been informed of the HMD theme for 2016 and the free resources available from the HMD Trust website.

SACRE had also circulated to secondary schools a copy of a presentation by Mary Parry together with an accompanying DVD. The resource was entitled 'Muslim Footballers in the Premier League' and was aimed at addressing the issue of raising the attainment of boys.

d) Training for Teachers

It was agreed that continuing professional development (CPD) training was focussed on Literacy and Numeracy. Training organised by the Church in Wales Diocesan officer had also been offered to schools.

e) <u>Collective Worship</u>

Part of SACRE's role is to ensure that schools fulfil the statutory requirements for Collective Worship. SACRE monitors the sections of inspection reports that are concerned with collective worship and SMSC and the LA follows up on any non-fulfilment of statutory requirements by requesting their action plan. There had been no issues identified in the inspections carried out in the 2015/16 academic year.

SACRE had arranged for schools to host two of its meetings each academic year to observe an act of collect worship or receive a presentation by the RE department.

Schools had been informed by SACRE of appropriate resources and websites that support collective worship in schools.

f) Other Issues

It was also the aim of SACRE to provide regular updates on local and national issues.

SACRE received termly feedback from the meetings of WASACRE.

Over the academic year SACRE had received three presentations:

- Achieving the Religious Education Quality Mark Bronze Award by the RE Coordinator at Langstone school
- RE in the Secondary school by the Head of RE at Duffryn High School
- RE in the Primary school by the RE Cordinator at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnon

When discussing appendix 4, *Newport examination analysis 2014* H Stephens voiced his concern about the drop in A*-G results compared to previous years and wondered whether this had been due in part to the introduction of the Welsh Baccalaureate. V Thomas confirmed that 92.1% was still comparable with the All Wales data benchmark. She added that the introduction of the Welsh Bacc would be discussed later in the meeting, under item 13.

The Chair thanked V Thomas for a very detailed and informative summary of the annual report. She appreciated the work that had been done.

The report was moved and seconded. A discussion ensued on its distribution. A Powles confirmed that the report would be published on the Council website and also the schools website.

Agreed:

No comments or questions were received on the SACRE Annual Report. The report was therefore approved and seconded.

Clerk to arrange for the report to be translated into Welsh. Both English and Welsh copies of the annual report to be forwarded to WASACRE for publication on its website.

Clerk and A Powles to liaise on putting the report on the NCC website and schools website. Clerk to send the electronic link to the circulation list on appendix 5 of this report.

8 SACRE Development Plan 2015-2018: Progress Report

It is necessary for Newport SACRE to discuss the elements of the Development Plan in order to ensure that the business with which they deal is current and future developments are identified. V Thomas highlighted the progress that had been made on each of the aims

The aims set by SACRE in the development plan are:

- a. To monitor standards in RE & Religious Studies
- b. To review the agreed syllabus and supports its implementation
- c. To monitor provision and provide support for collective worship
- d. To ensure a more informed SACRE through providing regular updates on local and national issues related to RE and collective worship in schools.

All of the above aims had been covered by Newport SACRE.

V Thomas highlighted point 2.1 – *To review the agreed syllabus for RE*. SACRE had received termly updates and are currently awaiting further details from Welsh Government on the shape of RE in the curriculum and advice from WASACRE before beginning any RE agreed syllabus review.

Agreed

No comments or questions were received on the Development Plan. The report was therefore approved and seconded.

9 Inspection Report Analysis Autumn 2015-Summer 2016

V Thomas presented this report. As no inspection reports make judgements on subjects - including Religious Education – it is necessary to look at areas such as celebrating diversity, links with local community faith groups and global citizenship to identify comments that link to what RE is like at the school.

In Newport five primaries and one special school had been inspected during the 2015-16 academic year. All bar one of the reports received comments on the quality of collective worship. Comments made in the inspection reports gives a flavour of the standard of RE teaching at the school.

The Estyn Common Inspection Framework states that inspectors should only report on instances where the school does <u>not</u> comply with statutory requirements. As Estyn had not noted any instances of non-compliance it is assumed that all six schools inspected met statutory requirements for collective worship and for RE.

V Thomas was pleased to note that all schools had received comments on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. This was an area where in the past inspectors had been inconsistent in making comments and the point had been raised with Estyn by WASACRE resulting in inspectors now making comments on SMSC development in schools.

Agreed:

The report was discussed and noted.

10 RE and the National Curriculum: Update

In October 2015 'A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life' document was released which outlines plans for taking forward Professors Donaldson's recommendations which he made in his report 'Successful Futures'. One of the recommendations made in that report was that religious education should form part of the Humanities area of learning and experience, and should remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception stage.

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 (AOLE) Framework.

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

A meeting took place on 13 September 2016 between Welsh Government (WG) and WASACRE officers.

Manon Jones (WG) is responsible for the pioneer schools and 2 areas of AOLE, Humanities and Language and Literacry. There are three strands.

Strand 1: Pioneer school representatives have already attended a few induction events. Strand 2: Between October and Christmas 2016 pioneer school representatives will work within areas of AOLE in order to consider the role of AOLE in the curriculum development. They will investigate the scope and connections of each subject within the Humanities AOLE. Strand 3: Representatives from pioneer schools will consider the strands within each AOLE. This is where in depth subject specific knowledge will be needed.

WASACRE have been asked to support WG by:

Reading material

- Attending meetings in both North and South of Wales
- Identifying schools exemplifying good practice in RE

VT was concerned that schools on the Pioneer schools lists had volunteered their services and their interest could be numeracy and literacy and not necessarily RE so it was important that WG seek advice from WASACRE to identify schools exemplifying good practice in RE.

She was also aware that the Church in Wales were looking to compile a list of their schools exemplifying good practice in RE which they would submit to the pioneer schools.

A seminar on the New Curriculum for Wales took place in October. It was organised independently from WG and the Chair of WASACRE, Phil Lord, had been invited to attend. Unfortunately, due to other commitments he was unable to attend but had hoped to send a substitute. V Thomas hoped that there would be feedback from this seminar at the WASACRE meeting in Carmarthen.

NAPfRE have begun drawing up a guidance document 'What makes good RE' for submission to the pioneer network for consideration when developing the shape of the RE curriculum.

H Stephens raised the following questions with the teachers present:

- Q: Whether they were concerned that RE would now become part of Humanities.
- A: L Picton agreed that there was concern for specialist subject teachers.
- Q: Had they made any change to their RE courses.
- A: L Picton and N Huggleston confirmed that it was 'business as usual' with the teaching of RE as they had not received any advice regarding changes impacting on the curriculum at secondary level.
 - S Hunt confirmed this was also the case with the infant school as it was part of the foundation Phase curriculum

Agreed:

The report was discussed and noted

11 GCSE Religious Studies: Update

It had been agreed previously that schools be advised of any updates on the progress regarding the revised specifications for GCSE and A/AS level examination courses. This would assist RE departments in preparing their course work for teaching the revised specifications.

The A/AS level specifications have been approved and in place for teaching from September 2016.

GCSE specifications were delayed and therefore deferred by Qualifications Wales until September 2017. However, some schools start GCSE courses early and need to begin their teaching for the new specification in September 2016 and will therefore require an outline of the new specification for GCSE by Autumn 2016.

In September SACRE wrote to secondary schools advising them of the most up to date information received from the WJEC.

The revised GCSE specification for RE was approved by Qualifications Wales on 12 October and will be implemented from September 2017.

There was concern that the new specifications were far more contextually based with more emphasis on religious texts. Discussion ensued about whether teachers are sufficiently trained to be able to handle a more contextually based curriculum in RE. It was agreed that as the courses would be more textually based some pupils may struggle and there may also be a need for teachers to upskill themselves.

A discussion ensued on the context of the long and short course. Both N Huggleston and L Picton confirmed that they had dropped the short course in year 10 for the time to be given to Welsh Baccalaureate. A discussion ensued about the importance of pupils being able to do the short course as a means of meeting statutory requirements at KS4. The short course has always dealt with contemporary issues that pupils could identify with and this was the most suitable course for those pupils following statutory RE lessons. However, the new specifications have lost some of the contemporary issues approach and this could make it more difficult for some pupils.

Agreed:

The report was discussed and noted

12 Inclusive SACREs Award

All SACREs were being encouraged to apply for the 2017 Accord Inclusivity Award by Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain, Chair of the Accord Coalition for Inclusive Education. This was the first time SACREs had been invited to apply for the award which would be given to SACREs that work hardest in their area towards boosting the growth of inclusion, cohesion and mutual understanding between those of different religions and beliefs.

V Thomas believed that Newport were in a good position to apply because of all the work done by SACRE and also by GEMS in Newport and its surrounding areas, which was evident in comments made by Estyn during their inspections. Although there is no cost in applying for the award it does involve compiling quite a lot of information which she agreed to complete following consultation with the head of GEMS, who was keen for Newport to apply.

Every winner of the Inclusivity Award would receive national press coverage for their success.

Agreed:

It was agreed that Newport would apply for the award.

13 WASACRE

Feedback from AGM at Rhys, June 2016

H Stevens had represented Newport at the meeting and had submitted Newport's vote for the Executive Committee and had been successful in his application to sit on the Committee.

V Thomas confirmed that much of what was contained in the WASACRE minutes had already been discussed although she wished to discuss further the results of the Welsh Baccalaureate survey as she felt some schools might have misread the questions in the survey and some schools had not responded.

WASACRE had offered advice which had been supplied to them by WG in the event of schools not meeting their statutory requirement for RE at KS4 as a result of the new Welsh Bacc qualification. The advice given was:

- In the first instance SACREs are advised to formally inform/advise the Local Authority.
- If the situation remains the same and the school or schools involved continue to not meet the statutory requirement for RE, SACREs are advised to inform the Wales Association of SACREs.

- WASACRE is advised to write to the Local Authority involved to advise/remind them of their duty.
- WASACRE is advised to pass the information on to Welsh Government.

V Thomas suggested that a letter be sent to schools informing them of the statutory requirements for RE and enquiring whether they were fulfilling those statutory requirements. A reply slip should be attached to the letter enabling the school to respond to the LEA. The contents of the letter were discussed and it was agreed that two letters be drafted, one for primary and one for secondary schools.

Representation at next meeting in Carmarthen on 18 November 2016

VThomas, H Stephens and S Northcott agreed to attend. Anyone further wishing to go should submit their names to the Clerk.

Change of date of Spring WASACRE meeting

The Spring WASACRE meeting will take place on 3 March 2017 and will be hosted by Monmouthshire, the meeting taking place in Usk. As the meeting is taking place in Usk V Thomas asked that as many people as possible attend to ensure Newport was well represented.

Agreed

- 1. V Thomas to draft letters for primary and secondary schools which would be sent from the LEA.
- Clerk to inform WASACRE of those attending the 18 November meeting in Carmarthen and forward the papers to those attending - V Thomas, Huw Stephens and Sally Northcott

14 Holocaust Memorial Day 2017

Holocaust Memorial Day was now part of the events calendar for Newport City Council taking place at St Woolos Cathedral. Previous HM days had been very well attended by local schools.

The theme for 2017 HMD is 'How Can Life Go On'. The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust has a wealth of material available specific to the theme of HMD. A letter would be sent to schools asking them to commemorate the event is some away and also advising them of the website address of the Trust for resources to support them.

It was confirmed that the Events office would send out invitations to schools and all SACRE members next week.

Agreed:

Letter to be sent to all schools encouraging them to participate in HMD and reference the website for appropriate resources www.hmd.org.uk

15 Correspondence

Information had been received from N Baicher explaining the meaning of Diwali day which was being celebrated by Sikhs and Hindus. The information was circulated.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.

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THE CITY OF NEWPORT

<u>ITEM 6</u>

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 8 MARCH 2017

SUBJECT: HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE: 27 JANUARY 2017

This annual event is to pay respect and remember the victims of the Holocaust and other genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Sudan.

The theme for this year's annual event is "How can life go on?" and people from across the country were asked to think about "what happens after genocide and of your responsibilities in the wake of such a crime".

Newport City Council hosted the Holocaust Memorial Day in the city, with a special service at St Woolos.

- The service was officiated by the Venerable Jonathan Williams.
- Very well attended, approximately 350 were at the service.
- Pupils from 23 Newport schools attended.
- Caerleon Comprehensive School choir led the singing including renditions of 'Look at the World' and 'O Danny Boy'.
- Readings were by pupils from both Caerleon Comprehensive and Rougemont schools.
- A reading was also made by the Mayoress of Newport.
- St Josephs RC High School pupils led the prayers which were introduced by the Mayor's Chaplain, Mr Graham Lynch.
- Primary school pupils from Langstone School led the candle procession through the cathedral and whilst this procession was taking place Caerleon Comprehensive choir sang 'The Irish Blessing'.
- Music throughout the service was by Gwent Youth Brass Ensemble who performed Stal Himmel by Alan Fernie.
- Dignitaries included the Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff of Gwent, the Mayor, Mayoress,
 Deputy Mayor and Leader of Newport City Council and MPs and AMs for both Newport East and West.



Agenda Item 8

CITY OF NEWPORT

<u> ITEM 8</u>

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 8 MARCH 2017

SUBJECT: ANALYSIS OF EXAMINATION RESULTS 2016

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform members of the attainment at GCSE and A/AS level of Newport pupils in Religious Studies and Religious Education for 2016

B BACKGROUND

The information for 16 year-olds currently relates to those electing to follow a course in religious studies in Years 10 and 11 for A/AS level and to those following GCSE short course in Religious Studies as the schools' provision for RE as part of the basic curriculum.

It should be noted that definitive conclusions cannot be drawn because the figures represent raw scores and do not necessarily reflect the selectivity of the entry and in some cases the numbers are too small to be statistically significant.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- That SACRE note and discuss the examinations results 2016
- To consider circulating the findings to secondary schools in the Authority.

PLEASE NOTE:

THE RESULTS RECORDED HERE ARE FOR THOSE PUPILS ENTERED FOR THE EXAMINATIONS. THEY DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE NUMBER OF PUPILS FOLLOWING THE EXAMINATION COURSE NOR DO THEY INDICATE HOW WELL PUPILS ARE PERFORMING RELATIVE TO THEIR ABILITY.

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES FULL COURSE 2016 (Year 11)

	Newport 2016	Newport 2015	Newport 2014	Consortia 2016	Wales 2016
A*-A	25.9%	37%	26.9%	23.9%	27%
A*-C	67.5%	76.5%	68.1%	66.3%	72%
A*- G	96.8%	98.5%	97.3%	96.7%	98%
Entry	589	531	561	2485	11051
Number	8 schools 34.6%	8 schools	7 schools	39.5%	34.3%

- There were 589 entries from 8 schools. Entry numbers have increased this year but the number
 of schools entering remains the same. 3/8 schools have entries in double figures and 3/8 schools
 have triple figures.
- The average cohort entry for Newport in 2016 was 34.6% Cohort entry is below Consortia figures but comparable with All Wales figures.
- The overall % of A*- A grades was 25.9% which is below 2015 but comparable with 2014 performance. It is better than the Consortia figures (23.9%) but below the All Wales figure of 27%.
- The overall % of **A*- C grades was 67.5%** which is below 2015 but comparable with 2014 performance. It is better than the Consortia figures (66.3%) but below the All Wales figure of 72%.
- The overall % of **A*-G grades was 96.8%** which is below 2015 but comparable with 2014 performance. It is comparable with the Consortia figure of 96.7% but below the All-Wales figure of 98%

Conclusions

Results at all grade boundaries are below the very good results of 2015 but comparable with 2014 at all grade boundaries. They are better than the Consortia figures at all grade boundaries but below All Wales figures at all grade boundaries.

GCSE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SHORT COURSE 2016 (Year 11)

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	Newport 2016	Newport 2015	Newport 2014	Consortia 2016	Wales 2016
A*-A	18.0%	14.9%	19.1%	12.8%	11.4%
A*-C	51.0%	55.3%	59.3%	42.1%	45.4%
A*-G	89.6%	92.1%	97.3%	88.6%	90.6%
Entry	817	882	911	2021	11,666
Number	8 schools 48% cohort	8 schools	7 schools	32.2% cohort	36.2% cohort

- Eight schools in the Authority continue to enter pupils for the short course but there was a decrease in entries this year. 4/8 schools have entry numbers in triple figures and thus enter a significant percentage of the cohort and pupils of all ability levels. Cohort entry is better than the Consortia and All Wales figures.
- Some schools enter pupils for two short courses and their performance has been reflected in the full
 course results. However, it is important to bear in mind that those pupils entered for two short
 courses will be mainly the more able and this will reflect on the A*-A and A*-C results for Short
 Course.
- The overall % of A*- A grades of 18.0% is better than 2015 and slightly below 2014 performance. It
 is better than the Consortia and All Wales figures.
- The overall % of **A*- C grades was 51%** and is below previous performance. It is better than the Consortia and All Wales figures.
- The overall % of **A*-G grades was 89.6%** is below previous performance but better than Consortia figure and comparable with the All Wales figure of 90.6%.

 Although numbers are decreasing year on year, a significant number continue to be entered for short course and this is very encouraging because it provides pupils with the opportunity for accreditation for their KS4 study. We must also consider that some schools enter pupils for two short courses and their entry and performance has been reflected in the full course results. We must also bear in mind that pupils do not usually opt to follow the Short Course but it is delivered as part of the statutory requirements for RE.

GCE RELIGIOUS STUDIES A LEVEL 2016 (Year 13)

	Newport	Newport	Newport	Consortia	Wales
	2016	2015	2014	2016	2016
A*-A	12.2%	27.8%	12.8%	15.9%	19%
A*-C	82.1%	84.4%	80.9%	78.6%	79%
A*-E	100%	100%	100%	98.1%	99%
Entry	123	90	94	314	1446
Number	8 schools	7 schools	7 schools	13.9%	12% cohort
	14.3%			cohort	

- There were **123 entries** from 8 schools and entry figures and number of schools entering has increased. 4/8 schools have entry numbers in double figures. The entry figure is comparable with the Consortia figure and better than the All Wales figure.
- A*-A was achieved by 12.2% of students. This falls far below 2015 performance but is comparable with 2014. It is also below the Consortia and All Wales figures.
- At A*-C candidates achieved a pass rate of 82.1%. This is still a good performance and slightly below 2015 but better than 2014 performance. It is better than the Consortia and the All Wales figures.
- The pass rate for grades **A-E of 100%** is excellent and continues the excellent performance of previous years and is better than the Consortium and All Wales figures.

GCE RELIGIOUS STUDIES AS LEVEL 2016 (Year 13)

	Newport 2016	Newport 2015	Newport 2014	Consortia 2016	Wales 2016
Α	9.4%	22.9%	11.1%	8.3%	16%
A-C	40.7%	54.3%	51.9%	43.8%	63%
A –E	78.3%	80%	74.1%	75.0%	89%
Entry	32	35	27	96	1535
Number	6 schools 3.7%	6 schools	5 schools	4.2%	12.7%

Please Note:

Data includes only those who have cached in their results. For example if a pupil sat an AS Level during 2016, but have not yet cached the result in, then they should be excluded from this year's data and included next year when the results have been cached in, otherwise this will result in results being double counted.

- There was a slight drop in entry numbers but number of schools entering remains the same as 2015.
- **9.4% of students** achieved the highest **A** grade and falls below the good performance of 2015 and also below 2014 performance. It is slightly better than the Consortia figure but below the All Wales figure of 16%.
- 40.7% of students achieved A-C grades and this is below previous performance. It is below both
 the Consortia figure and significantly below the All Wales figure of 63%
- **78.3**% of students achieved **A-E** and this is below 2015 but better than 2014. It is better than the Consortia figure but below the All Wales figure of 89%.

Newport - KS4 - Full Course - Religious Studies Grades 2016

				Number	of Results	by Grade				Grand
School Name	A*	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	U	Total
School 1	6	9	10	2	3	2				32
School 2	2	3	15	7	3	4	2	2		38
School 3		2	7	6	3	4				22
School 4		1					1			2
School 5	2	10	17	25	10	14	23	23	10	134
School 6	23	51	50	20	2	14				160
School 7	9	35	44	42	25	19	11	6	9	200
School 8						1				1
Newport LA	42	111	143	102	46	58	37	31	19	589

Newport - KS4 - Full Course - Religious Studies Grades 2016

				Percentag	e of Result	s by Grade				Grand
School Name	A*	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	U	Total
School 1	18.8%	28.1%	31.3%	6.3%	9.4%	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
School 2	5.3%	7.9%	39.5%	18.4%	7.9%	10.5%	5.3%	5.3%	0.0%	100.0%
School 3	0.0%	9.1%	31.8%	27.3%	13.6%	18.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
School 4	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
School 5	1.5%	7.5%	12.7%	18.7%	7.5%	10.4%	17.2%	17.2%	7.5%	100.0%
School 6	14.4%	31.9%	31.3%	12.5%	1.3%	8.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
School 7	4.5%	17.5%	22.0%	21.0%	12.5%	9.5%	5.5%	3.0%	4.5%	100.0%
School 8	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Newport LA	7.1%	18.8%	24.3%	17.3%	7.8%	9.8%	6.3%	5.3%	3.2%	100.0%

Page :

Newport - KS4 - Short Course - Religious Studies Grades 2016

				Number	of Results	by Grade				Grand
School Name	A*	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	U	Total
School 1	4	18	13	35	26	22	19	13	20	170
School 2		12	17	23	15	8	19	17	14	125
School 3				1			2		3	6
School 4	5	7	14	31	18	18	22	24	28	167
School 5							4	8	8	20
School 6	50	47	55	32	14	16	7	8	4	233
School 7		4	23	23	11	8	5	3	1	78
School 8			1	1	1	1	4	3	7	18
Newport LA	59	88	123	146	85	73	82	76	85	817

Newport - KS4 - Short Course - Religious Studies Grades 2016

				Percenta	age of Resu	Its by Grade	е			Grand
School Name	A*	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	U	Tota
School 1	2.4%	10.6%	7.6%	20.6%	15.3%	12.9%	11.2%	7.6%	11.8%	100.0
School 2	0.0%	9.6%	13.6%	18.4%	12.0%	6.4%	15.2%	13.6%	11.2%	100.0
School 3	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	50.0%	100.0
School 4	3.0%	4.2%	8.4%	18.6%	10.8%	10.8%	13.2%	14.4%	16.8%	100.0
School 5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	40.0%	40.0%	100.0
School 6	21.5%	20.2%	23.6%	13.7%	6.0%	6.9%	3.0%	3.4%	1.7%	100.0
School 7	0.0%	5.1%	29.5%	29.5%	14.1%	10.3%	6.4%	3.8%	1.3%	100.0
School 8	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%	22.2%	16.7%	38.9%	100.0
Newport LA	7.2%	10.8%	15.1%	17.9%	10.4%	8.9%	10.0%	9.3%	10.4%	100.0

Newport - A Level - Religious Studies Grades 2016

		Nu	mber of Re	sults by Gr	ade		Grand
School Name	A*	Α	В	С	D	E	Total
School 1	1	1	8	6	1		17
School 2	1		2	1	1		5
School 3			1	3	2		6
School 4				1	1		2
School 5				1			1
School 6	2	4	11	12	4	3	36
School 7		1	4	8	2	1	16
School 8	2	3	20	8	5	2	40
Newport	6	9	46	40	16	6	123

Newport - A Level - Religious Studies Grades 2016

		Perc	entage of F	Results by G	irade		Grand
School Name	A*	Α	В	С	D	E	Total
School 1	5.9%	5.9%	47.1%	35.3%	5.9%	0.0%	100.0%
School 2	20.0%	0.0%	40.0%	20.0%	20.0%	0.0%	100.0%
School 3	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	50.0%	33.3%	0.0%	100.0%
School 4	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	100.0%
School 5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
School 6	5.6%	11.1%	30.6%	33.3%	11.1%	8.3%	100.0%
School 7	0.0%	6.3%	25.0%	50.0%	12.5%	6.3%	100.0%
School 8	5.0%	7.5%	50.0%	20.0%	12.5%	5.0%	100.0%
Newport	4.9%	7.3%	37.4%	32.5%	13.0%	4.9%	100.0%

Page

Newport - AS Level - Religious Studies Grades 2016

		Number of Results by Grade								
School Name	Α	В	С	D	E	U	Total			
School 1	1			1	2	1	5			
School 2		1			2	3	6			
School 3		1				1	2			
School 4			1	3	1	1	6			
School 5	2		3	2	1	1	9			
School 6		2	2				4			
Newport	3	4	6	6	6	7	32			

Newport - AS Level - Religious Studies Grades 2016

Ų	Percentage of Results by Grade							Grand
ad	School Name	Α	В	С	D	E	U	Total
Ө	School 1	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	40.0%	20.0%	100.0%
<u>3</u>	School 2	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	50.0%	100.0%
	School 3	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	School 4	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	50.0%	16.7%	16.7%	100.0%
	School 5	22.2%	0.0%	33.3%	22.2%	11.1%	11.1%	100.0%
	School 6	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	Newport	9.4%	12.5%	18.8%	18.8%	18.8%	21.9%	100.0%

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THE CITY OF NEWPORT

<u>ITEM 9</u>

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 8 MARCH 2017

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SUBJECT: WJEC EXAMINATION SPECIFICATIONS (UPDATE)

SACRE has been regularly updated on progress with regard to the revised specifications for GCSE and A/AS Level examination courses.

The A/AS approved specifications, training programme and courses already being taught from September 2016.

The GCSE level specifications have been approved and in place for first teaching from **September 2017**.

WJEC free CPD training days

- Monday 06 February 2017, 9:30 am 3:30 pm- Carmarthen low availability
- Tuesday 07 February 2017, 9:30 am 3:30 pm Cardiff low availability
- Wednesday 15 February 2017, 9:30 am 3:30 pm Bangor
- Thursday 16 February 2017, 9:30 am 3:30 pm Mold

WJEC GCSE Religious Studies Route A and B Preparing to Teach (Wales Centres Only)

Course Aims:

This full day course is designed for teachers who are preparing to teach the WJEC GCSE Religious Studies spec A and B for first teaching from September 2017. Each session will look in-depth at the new specification including its assessment objectives, examination structure and other key areas and review sample assessment materials. It will also show how supporting resources may be used to help you teach the new qualification.

Outcomes for delegates:

- Gain an understanding of the content and assessment requirements of the new specification, including key reforms that need to be addressed.
- Support planning for teaching and understand the implications of reforms on pedagogy.
- An opportunity to view new resources and those in development to support teaching and learning and gain practical ideas on how these may be used in the classroom.
- An opportunity to network with colleagues and subject specification specialists.

You will also be provided with a comprehensive pack of materials which you can take away with you and share with colleagues.

Course Personnel:

The course is led by subject specialists who have in-depth experience and knowledge of the content. They will be subject officers, specification developers, examiners or moderators with a wealth of experience in this field.

Course Costs:

FREE (including refreshments and course materials).

• Due to anticipated popularity, places are limited to one delegate per centre.

GCSE Support programme

ERW Consortia

Tonia Antoniazzi (ERW)leader of learning for Non Core Subjects for GCSE informed WASACRE of the work ERW are doing to support RS at GCSE level.

She has a team of teachers/lead practitioners who will support her in sharing and developing good practice. The work from ERW is intended to be collected by end of June. The good practice will be shared through HWB. The intention is for a collaborative approach between WJEC and the Consortia. Currently discussions are ongoing with WJEC Subject Officers about resource development.

Process

Schools will celebrate and share their work through HWB. There will be a need to sign in as an approved member to access HWB. Every school in Wales can access HWB. The intention is tie in with other consortia to share good practice and materials.

EAS Consortia

Memo to SACRE from James Kent at EAS (January/Febrauary 2017)

- 1) EAS will be appointing an advisor to lead/co-ordinate the work of GCSE Curriculum Hubs over the next two months. The successful candidate will be co-ordinating the work of the different groups across the subject areas. James Kent to line manage the successful candidate. This person will also become the main contact point for this work and will be happy to provide the SACREs with updates on progress etc.
- 2) EAS will be appointing 1/2 Curriculum Hub(s) for RE during the Spring term to complete work deemed useful by the teaching community and not duplicating the work of Hubs in other Consortia

Memo from James Kent 26/1/17 - EAS Weekly Bulletin Item for a RS appointment

EAS to appoint lead schools for Religious Studies to provide support for non-core WJEC GCSE subjects first teaching September 2017.

The successful department/s will receive £4,900 to develop a support programme for the new GCSEs.

Memo from James Kent 8/2/17

Despite only having limited interest from schools EAS were able to secure two schools to lead in this area - both of whom submitted strong applications. These are both schools who deliver to large cohorts at KS4 with good outcomes for learners within this subject area

- Rhian Davies King Henry VIII
- Clare Lane Ebbw Fawr LC

JK will meet with the schools in February to determine the forward work plan - but it is likely to include:-

- 1) Identification of key areas of challenge for practitioners
- 2) Focussed development of resources to support the above (following consultation with other lead practitioners across Wales to avoid duplication of effort)
- 3) The leading of half termly network meetings for schools in all EAS LA areas dates TBC. This will be an opportunity to share good practice (resources and pedagogies) and develop an understanding of the requirements of the new Specifications (assessment etc.)

4) Teachmeet events to share thinking and practice (probably at least one teach-meet style event (twilight) open to all practitioners to share most effective lesson ideas)

*Full details will be agreed on a subject by subject basis dependent upon needs arising from a survey of practitioner requirements.

Despite a likely cut in the GCSE grant to Consortia for the next financial year, EAS are looking to sustain funding for non-core subjects as part of our business planning processes. Whilst the role will largely focus on GCSE for the first year, there will also be scope for the group to begin looking at the emerging thinking development in the new Curriculum, as they emerge.

Recommendation

SACRE to note and discuss the developments relating to the support for schools with the revised specifications for GCSE



THE CITY OF NEWPORT

ITEM 10

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 8 MARCH 2017

SUBJECT: NATIONAL CURRICULUM REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

Update: Curriculum Review

WASACRE representatives namely Phil Lord, Libby Jones and Gill Vaisey have represented WASACRE at regular Stakeholders' meetings with Welsh Government to discuss the new curriculum.

The National Advisory Panel for RE (NAPfRE) has drawn up a draft document outlining some 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. This has been submitted to Manon Jones* of Welsh Government for information to be shared at some point with the pioneer schools working on the Humanities AOLE.

Strand 2: Subject specific design and developing the Areas of Learning and Experience. Representatives from the pioneer schools will consider the strands within each area of learning and experience. This is where the in depth subject specific knowledge will be required.

Time scale

- Pioneer School launch 17/1/17
- Humanities AOLE meeting with Manon Jones 18/1/17
- Pioneer schools will meet to discuss the way forward with their AoLE in February/ March 2017.
- The first expected output is expected to be a set of principles which demonstrate how the Humanities AoLE links with the 4 purposes.
- The second output is likely to be the specifics and detail of the AoLE
- The third output is likely to be when separate disciples work alone or together- perhaps forming sub groups or focus groups.

WASACRE have a meeting with The Minister for Education (Kirsty Williams)on 2nd March 2017 and will pose a question around the status of the Agreed Syllabus in the light of the proposal that RE becomes part of the Humanities AoLE.

Recommendation

SACRE to note and discuss the developments relating to the position of RE in the curriculum

*Manon Jones (Curriculum Division of Welsh Government) is responsible for the pioneer schools and two areas of learning and experience (AOLE), Humanities and Language and Literacy

Curriculum for Wales Newsletter

January 2017 (Issue 04)

(This is the latest edition of WG stakeholder newsletter)

Momentum is growing in the development of a new curriculum for Wales. The 'big questions' in curriculum design have been considered by Pioneer Schools in the Strategic Design (Strand 1) groups, and 25 new Pioneer Schools joined the network this month to help with the next phase of development.

The findings from the Strategic Design groups will now inform the design and development of the Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs, Strand 2). AoLE groups were announced recently, and membership of each group features below.

Welsh Government, Regional Education Consortia, Estyn and practitioners continue to work closely in partnership as the work evolves. Working groups are co-facilitated and representation in all areas is comprehensive in a true 'Team Wales' approach.

In this newsletter you will find updates on:

- Strategic Design Group (Strand 1) activity summaries
- Cross-Curriculum Responsibilities
- Enrichment and Experiences o
- Welsh Dimension, International Perspectives and Wider Skills
- Assessment and Progression
- Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE Strand 2) groups starting work at Llandudno event
- New Pioneer Schools joining the fold
- Curriculum for Wales Blog

Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE) groups start work at Llandudno event

Two days of discussion and workshops in Llandudno on 17th/18th January kickstarted work on the Areas of Learning and Experience. Coming together for the first time, **the six groups included 25 new Pioneer schools** to help create the new curriculum for Wales.

After awareness sessions on strategic design work to date, the groups looked at the essence of an 'AoLE' and approaches to developing them. They set out work plans and building blocks for the coming term, with a view to developing AoLE frameworks by June 2017.

The six AoLEs are: Expressive Arts; Health and Well-Being; Humanities; Languages, Literacy and Communication; Mathematics and Numeracy, and Science and Technology.

Schools working on the 'Humanities' Area of Learning and Experience

	Consortia
Ysgol // School	Rhanbarthol // Regional Consortia
Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Yr Esgob Hedley Bishop Hedley Catholic High School	CCD/CSC
Ysgol Gynradd Parc Darran Park Primary School	CCD/CSC
Ysgol Gyfun Maesteg Comprehensive School	CCD/CSC
Ysgol Gyfun Pontardulais Comprehensive School	ERW
Ysgol Gynradd Rhydypenau Primary School	CCD/CSC
Ysgol Gynradd Trellech Primary School	GCA/EAS
Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern	GWE
Ysgol y Preseli	ERW
Ysgol Gyfun Bryntawe (partnered with Ysgol Gyffun Gwyr)	ERW
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Lôn Las (;partnered with Ysgol Bryniago)	ERW
Ysgol Bro Sannan Ysgol Gynradd Cwmbran Ysgol Gyfun Caldicot Comprehensive School	GCA/EAS
Ysgol Uwchradd Penfro / Pembroke High School	ERW
Ysgol Gynradd Gatholig Rufeinig San Joseff St Joseph's RC Primary, Penarth	CCD/CSC
Ysgol David Hughes	GWE
Ysgol Penboyr, Llandysul	ERW
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin	ERW



Agenda Item 11

THE CITY OF NEWPORT

ITEM 10

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 8 MARCH 2017

SUBJECT: THE ANNUAL ESTYN REMIT 2017/18

The Annual Estyn Remit 2017/18

This document sets out the Cabinet Secretary for Education's annual remit to Estyn for 2017/18. The annual remit is additional to Estyn's core business of inspections. It sets out:

- 1. The specific advice required by the Welsh Government in 2017/18 which includes:
- a) issues where Estyn is asked to provide detailed reports and, where appropriate, other resources drawing on evidence from thematic inspections;
- b) working groups that Estyn is asked to support;
- c) other areas where the Welsh Government may request advice and support; and
- d) follow up activity on the inspection of the regional education consortia for school improvement which took place in 2016.
- 2. An indicative forward look at advice likely to be required by the Welsh Government in 2018/19.

4. Religious and moral	This report is part of a series of	Year 1 of 1 Standard review
education at key stage	reports on curriculum subject areas. It	
2 and key stage 3.	will build on the 2013 report on	
	Religious Education in key stage 4	

(Taken from page 4: item 4 for RE specifics)



THE CITY OF NEWPORT

ITEM 12

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 8 MARCH 2017

SUBJECT: SACRE Award and Website

SACRE WEBSITE

Newport SACRE has a section on the LA website devoted to SACRE and GEMS.

This provides details of the work of SACRE and will be a conduit for documents and other useful information to be made available to SACRE members, schools and the wider public. It contains a variety of documents and reports:

- Annual reports
- The Agreed Syllabus for RE
- Resources Lists
- Guidance from Estyn and Welsh Government

Process

* Local Authority website can be accessed from the Main Council website/ Education page. http://www.newportlearn.net/inclusion

Click 'login as a guest' on the front page. There is a separate page for SACRE as well as the GEMS page

If it is SACREs wish the site can be accessed and demonstrated the next time SACRE meet at the Civic Centre

SACRE NOMINATION FOR THE ACCORD INCLUSIVITY AWARD

Despite a long process involving time and effort by the Officers and Consultant to SACRE the application by Newport SACRE was unfortunately unsuccessful on this occasion.

Subject: Re: Accord Inclusivity Award

Dear Vicky,

I regret to write that the Newport SACRE has not been placed by the judges in this year's Inclusivity Award. The judges are grateful for the effort you have gone to in applying for the Award, and the efforts that your SACRE is making. The work of the Gwent Education Minority Ethnic Service was especially interesting, and the support for schools taking part in events (such as the Holocaust Memorial Day and annual Roma Festival) were noted.

The SACREs that have been placed by the judges will be announced in the next few weeks. Accord also hopes to publish a short report in the Spring, highlighting some of most innovative practices that the 2017 Award has discovered. We hope this can provide a positive message about the work SACREs can do and are doing.

Thank you again to you and your colleagues for making a nomination. Sorry to not come back to you with more positive news.

Best wishes,

Paul Pettinger.



Agenda Item 13



Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAG au Cymru, Wales Association of SACREs meeting, Carmarthenshire

ITEM 13

Attendance

Ynys Môn / Anglesey
Bethan James
Dhainallt A Thomas

Rheinallt A. Thomas

Blaenau Gwent Gill Vaisey

Pen-y-bontar Ogwr / Bridgend

Edward Evans Vicky Thomas

Caerffili/ Caerphilly

Vicky Thomas John Taylor Enfys Hawthorn Janet Jones

Caerdydd / Cardiff

Gill Vaisey Janet Jones

Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire

Mary Parry

Ceredigion

Alwen Roberts

Conwy

Phil Lord Nicholas Richter

Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire

Phil Lord

Sir y Fflint / Flintshire

Phil Lord

Gwynedd

Bethan James

Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil

Vicky Thomas

Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire

Gill Vaisey

Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot

Casnewydd / Newport

Vicky Thomas Huw Stephens

Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire

Mary Parry

Powys

John Mitson Margaret Evitts

Rhondda Cynon Taf

Paula Webber Mathew Maidment

Abertawe / Swansea

Vicky Thomas Brinley Jones Alison Lewis

Torfaen /Torfaen

Vicky Thomas Daniel Foster

Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan

Paula Webber Dafydd Treharne

Wrecsam / Wrexham

Samantha Jesson Ruth Holden

Sylwedyddion / Observers

Emlyn Doyle (Cyngor Sir Fâr?)
Tudor Thomas (REMW)
Kathy Riddick (Wales Humanists)
Vaughan Salisbury (CYSAG
Ceredigion)
Jean Lewis (Cyngor Sir Gâr
CYSAG CAERFYRDDIN)
Gwyneth Thomas (Cyngor Sir Gâr
CYSAG CAERFYRDDIN)

Minutes

1. Introduction and welcome

Chair of WASACRE, Phil Lord, welcomed members to Carmarthenshire. The Leader of the Council, Emlyn Doyle, welcomed WASACRE to the Council Chamber. Members enjoyed the performance of the choir from Ysgol Gynradd Llangennech. Emlyn Doyle shared his support for SACREs and recognised the importance of WASACRE and of RE in Wales in a climate of educational change. He acknowledged that Carmarthenshire takes RE seriously and ensures a holistic education, which aims to develop empathy, tolerance and respect. As such it employs a Challenge Advisor to provide training and practical help to implement effective RE.

2. Quiet reflection

PL led a reflection, asking members to consider the need to work towards unity within communities. RE is in a position to remind people of this responsibility.

3. Apologies

Libby Jones, Jen Malcom, Tania ap Sion, Leslie Francis, Ernie Galsworthy, Sally Northcott

4. NAPfRE presentation

Headteacher, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Myrddin presented on collective worship in the secondary school. Assemblies are organised so that all pupils have the opportunity to participate in and deliver a daily act of collective worship. They share ideas and celebrate success as well as reflect. During questions the Headteacher was thanked by a WASACRE member who had previously been a teacher at the school. PL expressed WASACREs thanks and reflected that newly built secondary schools have no communal space and would, therefore, find it difficult to develop a sense of community via bringing all pupils in a school together.

Comments included the positive contribution collective Worship could make to a pupil's experience in a secondary school and the good practice that could be shared from the presentation provided by Bro Myrddin.

5. Minutes of meeting held in Rhyl, 23 June 2016

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Huw Stephens and seconded by Edward Evans.

Matters Arising. VT said the new GCSE had been approved and was on WJEC website. She informed WASACRE that concerns had been raised at SACREs that there were training issues as there was an increase in content and more emphasis on textual concepts. Dan Foster – Head teacher representing Torfaen SACRE expressed concern that the cost of training by the WJEC has risen rapidly. Schools are finding this difficult because of financial constraints. Tudor Thomas agreed but said that training for new specifications was free. He said schools are on tight budgets and that representation is needed to WJEC suggesting that it carries a responsibility for schools in Wales in particular as it is the sole Examination Board in Wales. The WJEC are offering one free training place for all schools on four dates during this academic year.

ACTION: PL agreed to find the link to RE Ideas on the Peniarth website. Copies going back as far as 2000 have been made available by REMW. Every SACRE Clarke should have a copy of the list of RE Ideas publications to share with SACREs.

P 4. Item 4. The reply was sent to Lynda and LJ maintained email contact with WJEC regarding this issue. However, the letter to QW was not sent due to the Specification being accredited during the Autumn term.

- **P4. Item 5 Humanists on SACRE** Kathy Riddick from Humanists Wales has been invited to attend the Carmarthenshire meeting following a letter she sent to WASACRE highlighting this issue.
- **P5:** Item 5 Incerts: GV informed members that LJ had requested a statement from Welsh Government that we could use to inform Incerts that the level descriptions contained within agreed syllabuses are statutory. However, the response from Welsh Government did not address the original question. NAPfRE suggest we should go back to the original legislation which states that the Agreed Syllabuses are statutory and, therefore, the Levels within them are statutory. Rheinallt Thomas said officers in the Assembly are aware that it is the right of every SACRE to adopt the National Framework, but that this can only be done legally at a local level by individual SACREs, not at a national level. He also said Welsh Government must go forward carefully if RE is placed within humanities as RE has to be determined locally. GV proposed that WASACRE should make a second request to WG for a statement on the status of an agreed syllabus.

P6. Welsh Baccalaureate – A discussion was held on the consequences of not delivering statutory RE, which isn't just an issue at Key Stage 4. There is a local responsibility to ensure the Agreed Syllabus is being implemented. It was noted that some Pioneer Schools are confused as to the status of the Agreed Syllabus. WASACRE were told that this was discussed at the NAPfRE meeting. Some SACREs intend to write to schools reminding them of the obligation to follow the Agreed Syllabus. It was felt that there should be a consistent message sent out by SACREs across Wales.

Action: VT has written letters from her SACREs to schools reminding them of their statutory requirements and has agreed to share this with NAPfRE members so that they and their SACREs can consider whether to they should write something similar to their schools.

GV raised the issue that only 70 responses were received to the Welsh Bacc Survey and asked whether WASACRE would follow this up to get a fuller picture. Monmouthshire SACRE felt it worthwhile to get broader picture of what is happening across Wales, expressing concern about schools that had not responded to the survey. Dan Foster asked whether a misunderstanding of the statutory nature of an agreed syllabus could mean that Pioneer Schools could be acting illegally. The letters from SACREs would help in reminding them of the statutory nature of the Agreed Syllabus. Local Authority Officers sit on SACRE and they should be the link to schools. A teacher representative said that he is aware that one school in his LA is not complying with its statutory obligation for RE because of the Welsh Baccalaureate. This could be a slippery slope and SACREs have to act on it. PL reminded members that they have been advised by Welsh Government of the process for dealing with schools that are not complying and that SACREs should be following that. Tudor Thomas raised concern that due to the changes in GCSE specifications, the content has become heavier and that is worrying for the RE community in Wales as schools may now only deliver token RE.

It was agreed that WASACRE would not re-send the survey to schools but that each SACRE should follow-up with their own schools and feedback to WASACRE. MM suggested that SACREs should try to ensure that the survey goes directly to heads of department and not the school secretary or the headteacher.

7. Presentation - Support for schools in delivering the new GCSE specification for Religious Studies and the role of Lead Practitioners

Presented by Tonia Antinarzi who is seconded to ERW as Leader of Learning of Non-Core subjects. Tonia's responsibility is to work with lead practitioners to establish networks and to establish support for the non core subjects. Lead practitioners for RE have set up in each of the regions. They are working to create resources to support the implementation of the new WJEC GCSE and are beginning to share information and resources via Hwb. Resources will be translated into Welsh and Quality Assured. Lead practitioners are keen to hear from classroom teachers who would like to work together to create resources. A SACRE rep raised concerns that increased content of the new specification could mean that that grades may not be as high if they are expected to deliver GCSE Religious Studies in an hour a week. VT asked whether there was an intention to share resources wider to other consortia. Tonia affirmed this and said that links are already being made with EAS in Newport. Alison Lewis, a Lead Practitioner, highlighted the difficulty in getting schools to use Hwb but said that the resources are there if they want access them. Tonia said that the launch of Lead Practitioners was on 21st Oct and they have already made a lot of progress. A member asked if there had been involvement from SACREs in this process. Tonia confirmed this and is interested in hearing from schools with strong RE departments, especially Welsh language schools. Tania will share the details of the lead practitioners for RE with WASACRE. Lead practitioners have written to all schools in the area to draw attention to the work they are doing. They are conducting a survey to map strengths.

BJ said that lead practitioners in North Wales have been getting organised and preparing resources. She asked whether they are doubling up on the work in Wales and whether they would benefit from working with colleagues across Wales. Tonia said that she sees her job as coordinating links with other consortia. A member asked who would be Quality Assuring. Tonia said that whilst the WJEC can't endorse the work they were able to check that they were on the right track. They would also be using teachers in the area and Mary Parry as the Advisor. Everything should be ready by the end of June. Tonia will follow up those who aren't involved. MM asked when the GCSE books would be made available. He highlighted the issue that the books only cover 3 religions Christianity, Judaism and Islam. VT agreed that there was an issue that there are no resources for Eastern Religions. Tonia said that the whole course was being mapped out and that it has covered all religions. PL said that there will be a presentation from a lead practitioner in summer WASACRE meeting and we look forward to an update and the end of the process.

8. Updates:

Update: Curriculum Review – BJ said that many of the schools are trying to imagine what the Donaldson Curriculum will look like. Pioneer schools are hoping that by January Step 2 will begin and they will develop models for their Areas of Learning and Experience across Wales. BJ informed WASACRE that Phil Lord, Libby Jones and Gill Vaisey had represented WASACRE at regular Stakeholders' meetings with Welsh Government to discuss the new curriculum. There is also a meeting to be held with officers of the Welsh Government on 14th December. The role of WASACRE in the curriculum review process will be discussed.

A member highlighted a concern about the slow progress in the development of the new curriculum and said that Welsh Government has not given any suggestion of what the curriculum will look like. It was brought to the attention of WASACRE that some schools are under impression they don't have to follow the Agreed Syllabus. BJ also raised the issue of lack of time for teacher training on what good RE is. This is especially important to non-specialists. BJ suggested that we need to scrutinise the contribution of the pioneer schools and would welcome having an input into that. NAPfRE are preparing a document entitled "What is Good RE" to share with schools and are meeting before the end of term to finish this. Members of WASACRE are informed of the progress of the new curriculum and regularly feed back to members.

WASACRE have had correspondence from Carmarthenshire SACRE raising concerns about what RE will look like in the new curriculum and what the role of SACRE will be.

WASACRE have a meeting with The Minister for Education on 2nd March 2017 and will pose a question around the status of the Agreed Syllabus.

A member spoke about the concerns of the Presbyterian Church about the uncertainty of what is happening. They have sent a letter to Carmarthenshire SACRE and WASACRE as well as to Kirsty Williams because they are concerned about how Christianity will be taught in the new curriculum. RT suggested that Church Schools might find it difficult to become part of this curriculum and that the Church in Wales and the Roman Catholic Church should use its links to the Welsh Government to discuss this.

PL asked how RE would work if it is based in the humanities curriculum and suggested that it is important to keep a watching brief on that.

Update: Guidance on Managing the Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education. GV said that the document is now out for consultation with a variety of organisations, faith representatives and educationalists. She is delighted with the support and positive tone in which the document is being received. The document was initially produced in response to a headteacher, but the document has evolved and is now for parents, teachers and all parties. GV shared the document with colleagues in England at the REC Conference and there had been lots of interest. The document will go to a graphic designer for professional design and printing. Translation is needed but it should be available in the Summer Term.

Update on REC

GV said that Rudy Lockhart, CEO of REC, has been actively talking to MPs to ensure they understand what RE is. REC reps attended Party Political Conferences for the Labour and Conservative Parties to raise the profile of RE and to build good relationships with MPs. It was suggested that local SACREs should be informing their local politicians about standards achieved in GCSE locally as this is something they will care about. REQM have a new manager, Linda Rudge.

There is a minimum subscription for REC of £250 but the average being given is £370.

There was a presentation on new resources at the conference.

- 1. Understanding Christianity Project: The National Society aim to raise standards in the teaching of Christianity following a survey which highlighted inadequacies. A resource and two day training package has been created for teachers who will be provided the pack of resources at the end of the course. They are training people to deliver the courses and GV will be attending.
- 2. Understanding Humanism: The Humanist Association has created a website with excellent resources for moral and social education as well as RE. They are hoping to translate all resources into Welsh.
- 3. The Board of Deputies of British Jews has produced a book to support Judaism GCSE Religious Studies: The Definitive Resource by Clive Lawton to help teachers with the quality of education on Judaism.

Update: EFTRE – PL attended the conference in August. The conference discussed what RE looks like across Europe and most countries take a confessional approach. There was discussion about how students are seen as commodities for economic growth with documentation from systems across Europe showing a move away from wellbeing and holistic and spiritual approaches.

PL will attend the Exec meeting of EFTRE next week in Finland.

Update: Welsh Government contact meeting - WASACRE are keeping in contact with WG via regular meetings. The next meeting is in December. Discussions have included 10/94 and the Agreed Syllabus. There has also been discussion on the Welsh Bacc and the new curriculum.

Annual reports issue – This issue is still unresolved and WASACRE will be pushing for WG to maintain its current responsibility to collate the reports as per 10/94. WASACRE will be kept up-dated on progress.

9. Report from the Executive Committee

Minutes from meeting -

P1 Action 1 - Letter to Kirsty Williams.

Edward Evans has written to Welsh Government to ask whether changing the law with regards to Religious Education in England would have an impact in Wales. – What are the residual powers of Westminster? The response received did not adequately address the question and he would therefore write again, this time directly to Kirsty Williams.

REC subscription – PL advised that as a small organisation WASACRE was entitled to pay a reduced subscription to REC and this would be £99.

Lead Practitioners - There will be a presentation updating us on the work done in the Summer meeting. PL said that WASACRE is pleased to see John Mitson is still able to attend and that WASACRE will still draw upon his skills.

The next Executive is meeting next on the 1st Feb.

10. Correspondence

- 1. Letter from Neeter Baicher about the book Unsung by Dr Darminder Singh Chada raising awareness and paying tribute to the Sikh soldiers to the British Empire.
- 2. Kirsty Williams, Cabinet Secretary of Education agreed to a meeting with WASACRE on Thursday 2nd March, 2017 as a result of the request for a meeting LJ sent.
- 3. Pam Evans, CEO of Peace Mala, wrote informing WASACRE about the Peace Mala at Llandaff Cathedral on Thursday 20th July, 2017
- 4. Correspondence with Kathy Riddick, Development Officer, Wales Humanists discussing the place of Humanists in SACRE. Kathy Riddick was invited to attend WASACRE as an observer in order to begin a positive dialogue between the two associations. Kathy was in attendance in the meeting and explained that the Humanist Society wanted non-religious views represented alongside religious views as well as a positive relationship with SACREs. Kathy informed WASACRE that the Humanist Society has school speakers available across Wales. Edward Evans said that a Humanist had faithfully attended and made a valuable contribution to Bridgend SACRE for number of years. However, he reminded WASACRE that we are bound by circular 10/94 and therefore, non-religious belief systems can only be co-opted members and this is still the legal position. PL said that this is an issue for Welsh Government. Kathy Riddick said that the Humanist Society has written to Welsh Government on this issue.

11. A.O.B.

Tania and Leslie have published materials on the St Mary's Website and reminded WASACRE of the A Level journal So far there have been 10 issues with over 40 articles published. There are two new Foundation Phase resources available for free from the St Mary's Centre website. The 'Exploring Why' series and 'Exploring Our World' series are available from http://www.st-marys-centre.org.uk/resoruces

A Level resources for the new curriculum -MP raised the issue of this need, suggesting that we might seek funding for lead teachers to create resources to share in the same way lead practitioners are working on resources for GCSE. She suggested WASACRE and/or the REMW might consider funding this work. TT suggested that the WJEC have a role to play in this. He said that there are textbooks available written by chief examiners. The WJEC is a benefactor and they need to benefit from it and could perhaps act as a coordinator. BJ said that there are new GCSE and A level and groups working together voluntarily. She would be interested in other groups working together in a more formal sense providing a network of sharing good practice who are able to produce resources which is fully endorsed by WJEC. Someone would need to manage this. PL asked who their employer would be. A member suggested using the Hwb to share resources. It was suggested that two or

three teachers could coordinate it. JM discussed the financial issues and suggested that it would be difficult for WASACRE to fund this alone and would need to work with others. GV suggested asking REMW if they could also provide some funding and that we might also think about asking other organisations to help. RT said the residual balances of REMW do not match that of WASACRE but that this could be discussed in the next meeting of REMW.

TT felt strongly that as the WJEC is a profit making organisation and it is their product that they should be key players.

WASACRE voted that it would like to see this investigated further as speed is of the essence.

WASACRE minutes – RT brought it to the attention of WASACRE that old WASACRE minutes are not stored on the website. He suggested that it is important that the reports of the previous conferences are on the website and that with modern technology it would be easy to do this. **Action: PL is to look into is situation.**

PL informed WASACRE that Jen Malcom is retiring. He thanked her for her contribution to WASACRE and expressed best wishes for her retirement and for the future.

12. Date for next meeting: 3rd March 2017, Monmouthshire. Venue: County Hall, Usk.

Future meeting dates:

- Summer 2017, Wrexham
- Autumn 2017, Bridgend
- Spring 2018, Swansea

THE CITY OF NEWPORT

ITEM 13

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 8 MARCH 2017

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS

EDUCATION

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE VOTING

There will be **two vacancies** on the WASACRE Executive Committee at the AGM to fill. (Vicky Thomas and Gill Vaisey have finished their term of office).

Chair

Phil Lord has completed his two years as Chair. Edward Evans will become Chair at the AGM.

Vice Chair

The position of Vice Chair of WASACRE is vacant

Please note

If your SACRE is already represented on the Executive committee, according to the WASACRE Constitution you will not be able to nominate a person from your own SACRE at this time.

Huw Stephens is the Newport representative on WASACRE Executive and therefore Newport SACRE will not be able to nominate.



Cadeirydd/Chairman: Philip Lord

Ysgrifennydd/Secretary:
Paula Webber
23, Bryngwyn Road, Newbridge, NP11 4GX

e-bost/e-mail: Paula.WebberConsultancy@gmail.com

ffôn/ tel : 07540 172596

23 January 2017

Dear Clerk to SACRE,

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

Please find attached a proforma that should be completed and returned to me at the above email/postal address by **Friday 31 March 2017**. I will send to you the list of the nominations before Friday 28 April 2017, so that your SACRE is able to discuss them in their summer term meeting in time for the vote at the Association's AGM in July.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Paula Webber

Secretary to WASACRE



LIST OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS SEPTEMBER 2016/17

Philip Lord- Flintshire (Chair)

Edward Evans- Bridgend (Vice Chair)

Tania ap Sion- Wrexham (Immediate Past Chair)

Paula Webber- RCT (Secretary)

Libby Jones- Wrexham (Assistant Secretary/Welsh Government Liaison officer)

John Mitson-Powys (Treasurer)

Bethan James- NAPfRE

- 1. Vicky Thomas- Torfaen -period of office 2014-2017
- 2. Gill Vaisey- Monmouthshire (REC Rep for WASACRE)- period of office 2014-2017
- 3. Cllr Ernie Galsworthy- Merthyr Tydfil period of office 2015-2018
- 4. Mathew Maidment- RCT- period of office- 2016- 2019
- 5. Huw Stephens- Newport -period of office 2016- 2019
- 6. Mary Parry- Carmarthenshire -period of office 2016- 2019

Vacant seats as of WASACRE AGM July 2017

Quorum is 5 members

Majority vote will count



Agenda Item 14

CITY COUNCIL

Casnewydd

THE CITY OF NEWPORT

<u>ITEM 14</u>

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: MARCH 8TH 2017

SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENCE - Letters sent to schools on statutory requirements for RE/RS

On 6 January 2017

To: The Headteachers of all community maintained Infant, Junior, Primary and Special schools

Dear Headteacher

Statutory Requirements for Religious Education

Newport Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) has asked me to bring to your attention the statutory requirements for Religious Education in state maintained schools. As the curriculum review is getting under way it seems that some schools are confused as to the status of agreed syllabuses in schools.

Religious Education is part of the basic curriculum and therefore sits outside the National Curriculum. The RE curriculum is locally determined by the local authority and its SACRE. This means that there is a statutory requirement for LA's to provide Religious Education according to an agreed syllabus. With regard to the position of the Newport agreed syllabus it was re adopted in 2013 and therefore the current syllabus stays in place with an understanding that the syllabus will be reviewed once the shape of the new Donaldson curriculum is defined. There would need to be a change in legislation for the delivery of RE according to an agreed syllabus to be rescinded.

Professor Donaldson report Successful Futures - Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales recommended that Religious education should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience, and should remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception.

SACRE is aware that the Pioneer schools are now meeting in order to shape the new curriculum. The projected time line for Strand 3, where the *defining and elaborating* of each Area of Learning and Experience (AOLE) and the in-depth subject specific details will be shaped, is from January 2017. Until such time as the detail of the AOLE are shaped and a review of the agreed syllabus takes place then SACRE wish to ensure that schools understand that **coverage of the programmes of study of the locally agreed syllabus is the main statutory requirement.**

I attach a copy of the current Newport agreed syllabus for RE and the programmes of study for KS2 can be found on pages 20-21.

As regards the **Foundation Phase** three broad areas of People, Beliefs and Questions are studied. The detail of that is worked out in Annex 2 pp 34ff under the topic titles of Themselves, Other People and Living Things. This provides a good base for RE in the Foundation Phase

SACRE would like schools to confirm receipt of this information by completing the attached pro forma below and returning to the Clerk to SACRE.

I hope that this information is useful to you.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Powles (Assistant Head of Education, Engagement & Learning) LA representative on Newport SACRE

Statutory Requirements for Religious Education

Name of School	
Name of staff member completing pro forma	
Position in school	
have read and understood the statutory requirements	for RE at Foundation Phase and KS2
YES/ NO (please circle)	

Please return to:

Joy Howells,
Democratic Administration,
Newport City Council
Civic Centre
Newport
NP20 4UR
Tel 01633 210733
joy.howells@newport.gov.uk

To: The Head Teachers of all community maintained Secondary and Special schools

Dear Headteacher

Statutory Requirements for Religious Education

Newport Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) has requested that I bring to your attention the statutory requirements for Religious Education in state maintained schools. As the curriculum review is getting under way it seems that some schools are confused as to the status of agreed syllabuses in schools.

Religious Education is part of the basic curriculum and therefore sits outside the National Curriculum. The RE curriculum is locally determined by the local authority and its SACRE. This means that there is a statutory requirement for LAs to provide Religious Education according to an agreed syllabus and monitor that statutory requirements are being adhered to by schools. With regard to the position of the Newport Agreed Syllabus for RE it was re-adopted in 2013 and therefore the current syllabus stays in place with an understanding that the syllabus will be reviewed once the shape of the new Donaldson curriculum is defined. There would need to be a change in legislation for the delivery of RE according to an agreed syllabus to be rescinded.

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SACRE is aware that the Pioneer schools are now meeting in order to shape the new curriculum. The projected time line for Strand 3, where the *defining and elaborating* of each Area of Learning and Experience (AOLE) and the in-depth subject specific details will be shaped, is from January 2017. Until such time as the detail of the AOLE are shaped and a review of the agreed syllabus takes place then SACRE wish to ensure that schools understand that **coverage of the programmes of study of the locally agreed syllabus is the main statutory requirement.**

I attach a copy of the current Newport agreed syllabus for RE where you can see the programmes of study for all key stages in the secondary school on pages 22-31.

SACRE is particularly interested in the delivery of **Religious Education at KS4** where there appears to be some confusion regarding statutory requirements. SACRE would like to draw your attention to the statutory programme of study which can be found on pages 30-31. Many schools in Wales are providing statutory RE by following either a GCSE Short Course or a GCSE Full Course or a combination of the two courses. SACRE wish to inform you that **this would fulfil statutory requirements** as long as **all** pupils are receiving religious education whether or not they are entered for accreditation.

In 2016, the Wales Association of SACREs conducted a survey of the impact of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (WBQ) on Religious Education in schools across Wales. SACRE understands that some schools are delivering RE at KS4 within the (WBQ) and believe that coverage of the Global Citizenship element of WBQ is sufficient to cover the RE requirements. Newport SACRE would like to ensure that schools understand that the Global Citizenship unit alone would not be sufficient to cover all aspects of the agreed syllabus KS4 programme of study.

SACRE would like schools to confirm receipt of this information by completing the attached pro forma below and returning to the Clerk to SACRE so that the LA and its SACRE can fulfil its monitoring role of RE in the curriculum and be assured that statutory requirements according to the agreed syllabus for RE are being met.

SACRE hope that this information is useful to you.

Yours sincerely Andrew Powles (Assistant Head of Education, Engagement & Learning) LA representative on Newport SACRE

Statutory Requirements for Religious Education

Name of School
Name of staff member completing pro forma
Position in school
I have read and understood the statutory requirements for RE at all key stages
YES/ NO (please circle)
Please return to: Joy Howells, Democratic Administration, Newport City Council

Tel 01633 210733 joy.howells@newport.gov.uk

Civic Centre Newport NP20 4UR

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	SLIP RETURNED	YES/NO
Bassaleg	17/1/17	Yes
Caerleon Comp	16/1/17	Yes
John Frost	11/1/17	Yes
Llanwern High		
Lliswerry High	18/1/17	Yes
Newport High	27/1/17	Yes
St Josephs High	16/1/17	Yes
St Julians	11/1/17	Yes
Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed	6/1/17	Rwyf wedi darllen ac yr wyf yn deall y gofynion statudol ar gyfer Addysg
		Grefyddol - I have read and understand the statutory requirements for
		RE
Total	9 schools	Replied 8

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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Somerton 17/1/17 Yes St Andrews St Julians St Woolos 6/1/17 Yes Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd 27/1/17 Yes Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael 16/1/17 Yes Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnon		· · ·				
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St JuliansYesSt Woolos6/1/17YesYsgol Gymraeg Casnewydd27/1/17YesYsgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael16/1/17YesYsgol Gymraeg Bro TeyrnonYes		,				
St Woolos6/1/17YesYsgol Gymraeg Casnewydd27/1/17YesYsgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael16/1/17YesYsgol Gymraeg Bro TeyrnonYes						
Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd27/1/17YesYsgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael16/1/17YesYsgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnon—————————————————————————————————		6/1/17	Yes			
Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael 16/1/17 Yes Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnon						
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnon						
		, ,				
Total schools 38 Replied 25	Total schools	38	Replied 25			

Malpas CiW Inf	16/1/17	Yes
Malpas CiW Jnr	16/1/17	Yes
St Davids RC	Catholic	
St Gabriels RC	Catholic	
St Josephs RC	Catholic	
Charles Williams school		
St Marys RC	Catholic	
St Michaels RC	Catholic	
St Patricks RC	Catholic	Yes