

DATE: 13th JUNE 2019

REPORT TO: Newport Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

SUBJECT: CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update SACRE of the developments being made with regards to Religious Education and the new Curriculum for Wales.

B BACKGROUND

Welsh Government published the draft Curriculum for Wales 2022 on 30th April and are currently conducting a consultation on the curriculum. The guidance contains information on the structure and components of the Curriculum for Wales, the approach to progression, and how the curriculum must be inclusive for all learners. It also includes information on elements of learning that span the whole curriculum. This is part of Welsh Government's national mission to raise standards, reduce the attainment gap, and deliver an education system that is a source of national pride and public confidence. At the heart of the Curriculum are the four purposes which set out the aspirations for all children and young people by the age of 16.

Welsh Government have recently consulted on The White Paper consultation [Our National Mission: A Transformational Curriculum](#) set out the legislative proposals for the new curriculum. Newport SACRE provided feedback following discussion in the Spring Term SACRE meeting.

Religious Education will be placed within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE). Schools will still be expected to deliver the locally agreed syllabus. Voluntary aided schools with a religious character will continue to be able to deliver their denomination syllabi and parents/carers of learners attending voluntary controlled schools can continue to request that their child studies the denominational syllabus rather than the locally agreed syllabus if they wish.

A new supporting framework is currently being developed to provide further detail about the relationship between religious education, the agreed syllabus, and the areas of learning and experience. This is being developed by a group of religious education practitioners, curriculum pioneers, academics, and representatives from Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACREs) and the National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (NAPFRE).

It is the intention that religious education reflects our historical and contemporary relationship in Wales to philosophy and religious views, including non-religious beliefs. Therefore, the current legislation will be amended to ensure the agreed syllabus for religious education takes account of non-religious world views which are analogous to religions (e.g. humanism).

The RE consultant to Newport SACRE, Paula Webber, has acted as Regional Vice Chair of the Humanities AoLE working group in her role as Adviser at the Education

Achievement Service (EAS). Paula Webber and Libby Jones (RE Adviser Wrexham) continue to lead the development of the RE supporting framework. The writing group are meeting for two days per month as well as undertaking work upon the framework during the interim periods. The work is progressing and will be published in draft in January 2020. SACREs will be consulted with on the draft framework in the Autumn Term. It will continue to be a work in progress until the final publication.

Welsh Government are seeking the views of organisations and individuals on the draft curriculum <https://hwb.gov.wales/draft-curriculum-for-wales-2022>. The proforma for feedback can be found at <https://hwb.gov.wales/draft-curriculum-for-wales-2022/have-your-say/>. SACREs are invited to provide feedback. The RE Adviser suggests a collaborative cross region working party might be helpful to provide thorough, detailed feedback. It is suggested that this take place during the second week of July so that teacher practitioners might more easily attend following the examination period. The deadline for feedback to Welsh Government is 19th July, 2019.

Welsh Government are also consulting on the Assessment and Evaluation Framework <https://hwb.gov.wales/draft-curriculum-for-wales-2022/assessment-and-evaluation-framework/> should members wish to respond.

SACRE members are also able to provide individual responses should they wish to do so.

C RECOMMENDATION

SACRE to receive an update on the progress made in the Humanities AoLE, the draft Curriculum for Wales with a focus on Religious Education and the Humanities AoLE.

SACRE to receive an update on the progress being made with regards to the RE supporting framework.

SACRE to consider and respond to the draft Curriculum for Wales. The deadline for feedback is 19th July 2019. SACRE to discuss forming a cross region working party to consider this important feedback or to seek to work collaboratively with SACREs in neighbouring authorities.

D SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Draft Humanities Curriculum –

Interactive Online version - <https://hwb.gov.wales/draft-curriculum-for-wales-2022/humanities/>

Draft Curriculum for Wales - <https://hwb.gov.wales/draft-curriculum-for-wales-2022>.

Have your say - Feedback forms - <https://hwb.gov.wales/draft-curriculum-for-wales-2022/have-your-say/>.

The Assessment and Evaluation Framework - <https://hwb.gov.wales/draft-curriculum-for-wales-2022/assessment-and-evaluation-framework/>