

CITY OF NEWPORT



**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020

A MESSAGE FROM NEWPORT SACRE

The 2019-2020 academic year has been very difficult and challenging for people due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Thoughts of SACRE members are with all those who have been affected by the virus physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually and financially. Our sincere condolences go to those who have lost loved ones.

Members would like to acknowledge those in the education sector for the exceptional work they are doing to provide children and young people in Wales with care, support and education throughout this testing time.

Members would like to remind practitioners engaged with Religious Education that SACRE is here to support you with advice on teaching, learning and resources for Religious Education, as well as advice on RE in the Curriculum for Wales (2022). Additionally, support from SACRE is also available for the Daily Act of Collective Worship.

Newport SACRE welcomes correspondence via the contacts below:

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The Annual Report of Newport Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

2019-2020

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THE ANNUAL REPORT OF NEWPORT STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (2019-2020)

Section 1: Information about SACRE

1.1 Duty to establish SACRE

All Local Education Authorities (LA's) are required to constitute a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) within their local area.

1.2 Composition of SACRE

Representation on SACRE is required as follows: -

- such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the LA, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area
- associations representing teachers
- the Local Education Authority

The Local Authority determined that the SACRE should comprise of six elected members, fifteen representatives of groups representing religion and belief and seven representatives of teachers' associations.

1.3 Membership of SACRE

The list of members of Newport SACRE is set out in Appendix 1

1.4 Functions of SACRE

- To advise the LA on worship and the religious education to be given in accordance with the agreed syllabus including methods of teaching, advice on materials and the provision of training for teachers
- To consider whether to recommend to the LA that it's current agreed syllabus should be reviewed by convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference.
- To consider whether the requirement that religious worship in a county school should be 'broadly Christian in nature' should be varied (determinations)
- To report to the LA and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) on its activities on an annual basis.

1.5 Meetings

Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic SACRE were only able to meet on one occasion during the academic year 2019- 2020. All other urgent business was carried out virtually or via Email.

Thursday, 7th NOVEMBER 2019 at 10.00 pm

The schedule of and content of meetings can be found in **Appendix 2.**

1.6 Circulation of Report

A list of the organisations receiving the report can be found in **Appendix 3.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Spring and summer term SACRE meetings were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Urgent SACRE business was conducted via Email and Microsoft Teams but meetings were not organised virtually as urgent Council business and Health and Wellbeing took priority within NCC. The Local Authority and SACRE have been able to provide support to schools via email and through the partnership work with the South East Wales Education Service (EAS). The EAS Professional Learning Adviser to SACRE, Ms. Paula Webber has been available to provide advice and support to schools on Religious Education and Collective Worship throughout the national lockdown and has continued to work with both the Wales Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (WASACRE) and the National Advisory Panel on Religious Education (NAPfRE). Additionally, the SACRE Clerk has continued to distribute and receive relevant correspondence to schools.

A brief summary of the advice that SACRE has given to the local authority and action taken follows:

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Issue

To monitor provision and raise standards in RE

Action

1. SACRE considers and analyses school inspection reports on an annual basis. If there are any issues regarding RE, such as non fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic only one primary and one secondary school inspection reports were analysed. Estyn made no recommendations with regards to Spiritual Development, Collective Worship or Religious Education in the reports analysed and no follow up was necessary.
2. SACRE has been in the custom of analysing examination results over a three-year period to identify trends in performance benchmarked against Consortia and All Wales data. Schools have then been informed of the outcomes of this analysis and SACRE raises issues that schools should be addressing because of this analysis. During 2019-2020 no examination data was analysed as SACRE was awaiting guidance from WASACRE and Welsh Government on what data could be analysed considering new government guidelines. This process was also delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the cancellation of the summer SACRE meeting.
3. SACRE aims to visit a school on an annual basis to receive a presentation on RE at the school so that strengths and weaknesses can be identified, and issues can be addressed directly. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this was not possible during 2019-2020.

THE AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RE

Issue

To fulfil the legal requirement to review the agreed syllabus for RE on a five yearly basis and monitor its implementation.

Action

1. In 2008 Standing Conference endorsed and adopted a new agreed syllabus for the Authority's schools which was implemented from September 2008.

2. In June 2013 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the Newport Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education with an understanding that the syllabus would be reviewed once further information is received in relation to the assessment and national curriculum review.
3. SACRE has been regularly updated concerning developments with the Curriculum for Wales 2022, the development of the Humanities curriculum and the RVE Framework. They have responded to Welsh Government and Welsh Parliament consultations on the curriculum during 2019-2020. SACRE are awaiting further details from Welsh Government on the shape of RE/RVE in the curriculum, and advice from WASACRE, before beginning any RE agreed syllabus review. SACRE are awaiting sight of a draft copy of the RVE framework as a collaborative approach to the writing of the framework was promised by Welsh Government. SACRE last received a draft version during December 2019.

TEACHING MATERIALS

Issue

To ensure that schools are informed of suitable resources

Action

Newport schools were sent the following information and resources, with SACRE Members also sent a copy of the information

1. All schools were informed of the 2020 Holocaust Memorial Day theme and that free Holocaust resources could be found on the website www.hmd.org.uk – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.
2. RE Learning Resources – Randolph's Spiritual Quest was sent to all primary schools.
3. Farmington Scholarships 2020/21 was sent to all schools.
4. Learning Network Schools and offer of support for RE was sent to all schools.
5. Information about a training the event Understanding Humanism was sent to all primary schools.
6. Questionnaire from Qualifications Wales on reformed GCSE qualifications – sent to all secondary schools.

Information on visits and visitors in South Wales is available to schools upon request.

TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

Issue

To ensure that teachers can access appropriate Professional Learning.

Action

1. The EAS provided RE specific training to secondary school practitioners via Learning Network School leads and the Professional Learning Adviser for RE and SACREs. The focus of training was improving standards in GCSE Religious Studies. However, the practitioners attending also received training on the new curriculum and updates on the work of SACREs, WASACRE and other relevant bodies. There was also a focus on moderation of marking, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources for

Religious Studies. Bespoke support is available to schools from the EAS upon request.

2. SACRE were sent details of free webinar sessions being held on 7th July 2020 by the Association of Religious Education Inspectors Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC). The physical AREIAC Conference was postponed until next year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Issue

To ensure that schools fulfil statutory requirements for collective worship and provide a worthwhile experience for pupils.

Action

1. 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. The provision for collective worship had positive comments stating that schools were promoting pupils' spiritual, moral, and cultural development well. There were no issues regarding collective worship identified in the reports and therefore no follow up action was necessary.
2. Schools have been informed by SACRE of appropriate resources and websites that support collective worship in schools e.g. HMD 2020.
3. SACRE resolved to hold meetings at schools in the Borough and observe an act of collective worship where possible to monitor fulfilment of statutory requirements, provision, and quality of collective worship. No act of collective worship was observed this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

OTHER ISSUES:

Aim: To ensure a more informed SACRE through providing regular updates on local and national issues.

1. SACRE has maintained its membership of WASACRE and receives termly feedback from the meetings of the Association.
2. Members have received presentations this year from their Professional Learning Adviser Ms P Webber. Ms Webber has updated SACRE via email and meetings on developments with the Curriculum for Wales 2022 and the new framework for RE/RVE.
3. SACRE members receive regular training to keep up to date with legislative and educational changes and to understand the role and function of SACREs.
4. SACRE, where possible, would hold meetings at schools in Newport for members to familiarise themselves with RE and collective worship in schools. Unfortunately, this was not possible during 2019-2020 due to the impact of Covid-19.
5. The RE Adviser to SACRE is a member of NAPfRE and regularly attends meetings on SACRE's behalf.
6. SACRE takes seriously Holocaust Education and advises the LA and its schools on this.

Section 2

Advice on Religious Education

2.1 THE LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS

In 2008 the Standing Conference endorsed and adopted a new agreed syllabus for the Authority's schools to be implemented from September 2008. The agreed syllabus closely relates to the National Exemplar Framework for RE. A yearly programme of INSET on the agreed syllabus and support materials, including schemes of work and electronic *Progress in Learning* files for secondary schools, were issued to schools.

During the 2012/13 academic year SACRE was made aware of the announcement by the Minister of a pending review of assessment and the National Curriculum in Wales. This review would involve the introduction of the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework and the identification of revisions to the current assessment and curriculum arrangements. During the Summer Term 2013 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the current syllabus with an understanding that the syllabus would undergo review once the outcomes of the review of assessment, the National Curriculum and the Foundation Phase are made available.

SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments with the Curriculum for Wales 2022 and the place of RE within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience. SACRE are awaiting further draft of the RE/RVE supporting framework from Welsh Government before beginning any RE agreed syllabus review.

2.2 STANDARDS IN RE

SACRE has adopted a number of strategies for monitoring standards being achieved in religious education in the Authority's schools that include the following.

- **School Inspection Reports**

The local authority and its SACRE scrutinised relevant sections of Estyn school inspection reports during 2019-2020. If any issues emerge regarding RE, such as non fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up.

Due to disruption because of the Covid-19 pandemic SACRE analysed just two schools inspected consisting of one primary schools, and one secondary schools. Both met statutory requirements with no subject specific issues in relation to Religious Education mentioned in the reports. Therefore, no follow up action was necessary. Members were presented with a summary of findings from these inspections.

Comments were positive stating that curriculum and statutory requirements were met. In the secondary school many [pupils] show a secure understanding of the purpose of their writing across the curriculum, and use a range of techniques successfully to enhance the quality of their writing, for example when pupils write effectively to justify their opinions on the plausibility of weeping statues in religious education. There is a comprehensive range of provision to develop pupils as ethically informed citizens, their understanding of spiritual and moral issues, to support them with mental and physical health and develop a culture where equality and diversity are celebrated and embraced. Pupils at the school understand a wide range of spiritual values in other beliefs and to discuss these matters in a safe and supportive environment within the school's enhanced 'religion, morals and philosophy' programme.

- **Examination Results**

In previous years, examination results for GCSE and GCE AS /Advanced Level achieved by pupils at secondary schools within the LA have been analysed and considered during SACRE meetings. A three-year analysis would be conducted so that a comparison could be made, and trends identified. Cohort entry numbers were also analysed, and a comparison made to Consortia and All -Wales figures (where available). The 2019 examination results data were not analysed as there has been a change in national guidance surrounding how results are reported and how data is used. WASACRE is currently awaiting information from Welsh Government about how any analysis of data will be gathered and reported going forward. Secondly, analysis of data usually takes place during the spring term SACRE meeting. This was cancelled due to the national lockdown during the COVID-19 -19 pandemic.

Schools were updated on the changes to 2020 GCSE and GCE examinations for Religious Studies by the Education Achievement Service. The EAS Adviser for RE raised issues concerning the examinations for Religious Studies and her views were shared with the WJEC via senior leaders within the EAS.

Newport SACRE distributed a questionnaire from Qualifications Wales on reformed GCSE qualifications to all secondary schools.

During 2020-2021 SACRE will discuss ways in which the LA will be able to provide meaningful information to SACRE about the quality of Religious Education and Religious Studies at ks4 within its schools.

2.3 METHODS OF TEACHING, TEACHING MATERIALS AND TEACHER TRAINING

Professional Learning

The South East Wales Education Achievement Service advertises its courses through CPD online. RE training is available to teachers through the Learning Network Schools and the Professional Learning Adviser for Religious Education. The EAS appointed two Learning Network Schools leads for RE during 2019-2020. Three Learning Network meetings for secondary HODs of RE were held during the academic year. The focus of the network meetings was improving standards in GCSE Religious Studies. However, the practitioners attending also received training on the new curriculum and updates on the work of SACREs, WASACRE and other relevant bodies. There was also a focus on moderation of marking, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources for Religious Studies.

Learning Network Schools for Religious Education

During the Autumn Term SACRE meeting the Professional Learning Adviser for RE and SACRE presented a report which highlighted details of the Learning Network Schools (LNS) RE meetings for 2019-2020.

SACRE were advised that the EAS has invested in building the capacity of schools and educational settings within the region to enable more collaborative ways of working. This approach enables teachers and leaders to learn from each other, and there are several well-established networks of professional practice across the region. The approach has recently been refined through investment in a cluster

model approach, which will enable schools to build capacity and increase collective ownership for the development of effective teaching, learning and leadership. This model will become the main driver to ensure the realisation of the new curriculum and the delivery of professional learning and will support the national changes in accountability and self-evaluation. Ysgol Gwynllyw (Torfaen) and Bassaleg Comprehensive School (Newport) were appointed as the two EAS lead schools for LNS RE for 2019-20. They provided Professional Learning and support to secondary schools across the region. The focus of the LNS for RE during 2019-2020 was GCSE Religious Studies and which also included a need to raise standards at Key Stage 3. SACRE were advised that several Learning Network School events were organised by the EAS during 2019-2020 and would be hosted by the two lead schools. SACRE were informed that places for practitioners and HODs were advertised and could be booked via the EAS CPD online portal.

In addition to the support from LNS schools the PL Adviser is also able to offer support to both primary and secondary schools. Ms. Webber had written to EAS Challenge Advisors to highlight findings derived from the raw data of GCSE results for 2019.

During the Autumn Term meeting following discussion on the details of the LNS events and discussed how they could raise the profile of SACRE and the support that they offer to schools.

Agenda for LNS PL Sessions held during 2019 – 2020 are as follows:

Session 1 (Gwynllyw): Tuesday the 22nd of October 2-4pm – GCSE Review of Unit 1&2 –

- A review of the 2017/18 GCSE examination papers Unit 1&2 – common pitfalls/evaluation questions/where pupils did well/where pupils went wrong/Item Level Data.
- Sharing good practice resources for the new GCSE specification – Unit 1 / 2
- DDPs – EAS presentation.
- Update on Curriculum development
- 'Looking Forward' – English and Welsh materials to be shared with everyone / sharing resource ideas.

Session 2 (Gwynllyw): Wednesday the 11th of December 2-3pm – A Level Review (Unit 2/4/5) –

- A review of the 2017/18 AS/A Level examination papers Unit 2/4/5 – common pitfalls/evaluation questions/where pupils did well/where pupils went wrong/Item Level Data.
- Sharing good practice resources
- 'English and Welsh materials to be shared with everyone / sharing resource ideas.
- Schemes of work.
- Use of video clips.

Session 3 (Bassaleg): Tuesday the 4th of February 2-4pm – Revision Hints, Tips and Techniques –

- What makes good teaching and learning in RE?
- Sharing resources, materials and good practice – to be provided in both English and Welsh.
- Pedagogy.
- How do we deal with the heavy content – Flipped learning/assessment for learning/Skills based learning.
- The Curriculum for Wales 2022 and the RE Framework
- Sharing good practice – Revision hints and tips.
- Sharing revision resources.

Session 4, which was due to be held in March 2020, was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Teaching Materials

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the ability for SACREs to provide the advice they would normally give to schools has been affected. However, the following advice had been offered:

Farmington Scholarships

SACRE provided Newport schools with information about Farmington Scholarships 2020 - 2021 which are free to Teachers of religious education in the UK. Practitioners can study any aspect of religious education they wish but preference will be given to applicants whose work can be seen to be of direct value to the teaching of RE in schools. The Scholarship will cover the cost of tuition, board and lodging where appropriate, essential local travel and, by negotiation with the school, the salary of a replacement teacher up to point 6 of the main pay scale. School/home-based Scholarships may be taken in the form of day release, for instance for one day a week over a term or over the year or for continuous periods up to a maximum of 30 days.

University-based Scholarships may be taken as a block of up to eight weeks or in the form of day release up to 30 days. More information for schools can be found at www.farmington.ac.uk or E-mail: farmington@hmc.ox.ac.uk

NEW RESOURCES FOR THE CURRICULUM FOR WALES 2022

Newport SACRE distributed a new religious education series of resources for the Curriculum for Wales 2022 to primary schools. The resources have been published online and are available as a free download. *Randolph's Spiritual Quest and Search for Meaning Series* for 8- to 11-year-old learners is a *Welsh Government sponsored resource* created to support learning in Religious Education in the Curriculum for Wales 2022. The series reflects an enquiry-based, inter-disciplinary approach to Religious Education, which is set within a Humanities' learning context. The flexible and non-prescriptive character of *Randolph's Spiritual Quest and Search for Meaning Series* makes it an ideal bridging resource, being equally relevant to the current Curriculum for Wales 2008 and the coming Curriculum for Wales 2022.

Themes explored in the series include:

- Bringing Health and Healing
- Caring for the Future
- Living with Nature
- Making Spiritual Journeys 12
- Remembering the Past
- Serving Others

The storybooks, films, music, and teachers' guide are available as FREE downloads on the Welsh Government Hwb website and the St Mary's Centre, Wales, website:

Hwb:

<https://hwb.gov.wales/repository/tree?sort=created&language=en>

St Mary's Centre:

<http://www.st-marys-centre.org.uk/resources/randalphs%20spiritual%20quest.html>

A new version of the Teachers' Guide will be published as soon as the final version of the Humanities' Area of Learning and Experience guidance is available early in 2020 – The current Teachers' Guide quotes from the Welsh Government draft document and some adjustment in language is anticipated.

The hope of the authors is that *Randolph's Spiritual Quest and Search for Meaning Series* helps to stimulate meaningful and exciting new Welsh pathways in Religious Education, which start new journeys shaped to individual school learning contexts.

Training Event for Primary School Teachers – Understanding Humanism

Information about a training event for primary school teachers, arranged by Humanists UK, to be held in London on Thursday 26th March 2020 was distributed to all primary schools by Newport SACRE as an opportunity to further their professional learning.

<https://humanism.org.uk/education/understanding-humanism-primary-teacher-training-2020-london/>

The training included:

- Who are the non-religious and what is a non-religious worldview?
- What is humanism? What do students need to know?
- How can I best teach about humanism in the classroom?

Breaking humanism up into five core blocks of knowledge, the course aimed to help practitioners to deliver outstanding, accurate teaching about the humanist worldview, and suggest and model resources and activities that would support learning.

There are online courses available from Understanding Humanism on their website.

SACRE RE News Bulletin:

A SACRE RE News Bulletin is usually composed by the Adviser to SACRE to share with schools. Due to translation issues, staff long term absence and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic bulletins were not shared with schools during the 2019-2020 academic year. During the 2020-2021 academic year the PL Adviser will explore efficient ways of communicating important information with teachers of RE, including

a playlist format where up to date information can be accessed at any time. In the Autumn Term meeting 2019 SACRE members also suggested an online presence might be useful. This can be explored further.

A list of free resources for schools is available upon request.

This includes suggested useful websites as was information on visits and visitors in South Wales was distributed to schools.

DRAFT

Section 3 Advice on Collective Worship

3.1 SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORTS

The local authority and its SACRE usually scrutinise relevant sections of Estyn school inspection reports as they are received throughout the year. Any issues, such as non fulfilment of statutory requirements for collective worship, are followed up by the LA by requesting the school action plan. During the 2019- 2020 academic year this monitoring took place in the autumn as a result of meetings being cancelled due to the Covid-19 disruption.

Two Newport schools were inspected consisting of one primary school, and one secondary schools. Members were presented with a summary of findings from these inspections.

The Estyn Common Inspection Framework notes that inspectors should only report on instances where the school does not comply with statutory requirements. The schools meet statutory requirements in relation to collective worship.

There is reference to the quality of collective worship in one inspection report and good features are highlighted. Acts of collective worship in the primary school promote pupils' spiritual and moral development successfully by providing regular collective worship assemblies and through class-based discussions.

3.2 APPLICATIONS FOR DETERMINATIONS

No applications were received from schools for determinations to be made on the lifting of the requirements for collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

3.3 SCHOOL VISITS

SACRE appreciates the opportunities accorded to members to observe acts of collective worship in schools. Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic no collective worship was observed this year.

SECTION 4 OTHER ISSUES

4.1 WASACRE

SACRE has continued to affiliate to WASACRE and representatives have regularly attended its meetings. During the 2019-20 academic year issues considered at WASACRE meetings have been fully reported back to SACRE and full discussions have taken place. SACRE welcomes the pro-active work of WASACRE in taking up issues that have implications for RE and keeping member SACREs fully informed. Newport SACRE representatives attend WASACRE meetings and provide feedback to SACRE. Additionally, SACRE is represented on the WASACRE Executive committee by their professional adviser Paula Webber who is an Executive Officer. SACRE is grateful for the advice WASACRE has given during the past year on curriculum development, Welsh Government consultations and proposed legal changes for RE.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic WASACRE meetings in the spring and summer term were cancelled. The WASACRE AGM will take place virtually early in the 2020 Autumn Term.

WASACRE Officers met with WG representative Dr Kevin Palmer to discuss professional learning support needed in light for RE and the new curriculum. There has now been funding agreed for a suite of resources specifically for RE, plus training for all those involved in teaching RE and training of ITT students. The need for training for non-maintained settings specifically was also recognised.

SACRE were emailed by WASACRE on 27th April 2020 to ask Members to submit nominations to WASACRE Executive Committee. Newport SACRE nominated Cllr. Neeta Baicher and WASACRE were advised accordingly.

SACRE were sent the list of WASACRE nominations on 24th September 2020 and asked to submit their individual vote by email to Chair and RE Advisor. SACRE conducted the voting via email due to the disruption by the Covid-19 lockdown. The votes were tallied and SACREs preference was submitted to the WASACRE Chair on 2nd October 2020. The outcome of the WASACRE Executive Elections on 7th October 2020 was also circulated to SACRE Members.

4.2 HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Schools were informed of the 2020 Holocaust Memorial Day and that Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27 January each year and is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Schools were reminded that Holocaust Memorial Day is a time to learn the lessons of the past and recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own - it's a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust produces materials specific to the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme for 2020 was ***“Stand Together”*** and explored how genocidal regimes throughout history have deliberately fractured societies by marginalizing certain groups, and how these tactics can be challenged by individuals standing together with their neighbours and speaking out against oppression.

HMD 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, which is a significant milestone and is made particularly poignant by the dwindling number of survivors who are able to share their testimony. It also marks the 25th anniversary of the Genocide in Bosnia.

Schools were informed by SACRE that further information about the theme and free educational Holocaust resources can be found on their website www.hmd.org.uk – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.

4.3 WELSH GOVERNMENT NATIONAL CURRICULUM REVIEW

SACRE has received termly updates on the progress of the Curriculum for Wales 2022 and its implications for RE in the curriculum. RE remains a statutory curriculum requirement from reception and should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience.

SACRE responded to the Welsh Government consultation *Ensuring Access to the Full Curriculum* before the deadline on 28th November 2019. Newport SACRE are fully in favour of removing the parental right to withdraw their children from RE. SACRE agrees that it is important that all learners access the RE curriculum in order to achieve the Four Purposes. SACRE suggests that it is necessary to ensure that RE is objective, critical and pluralistic in all settings where RE is taught for this to happen. Welsh Government will need to take measures to ensure this is the case in advance of the removal of the right to limit the potential of schools, governors, LA and government from facing court challenges.

SACRE noted that, for the first time, in legislation connected to religious education that the regional consortia has been given a role. This role, along with the role of Estyn, would need to be clarified and discussed with SACREs and WASACRE. What exactly would the roles of SACRE, consortia and Estyn be? SACRE has a statutory role in advising an LA and supporting RE. This role should not be undermined. Newport SACRE takes its functions and responsibilities seriously. Welsh Government should ensure that the role of SACRE to support and advise on RE is retained. However, SACRE could work collaboratively with the regional consortia and Estyn to ensure high quality, objective, critical and pluralistic RE is delivered.

Newport SACRE understands that not all local SACREs have the support from a professional learning advisor that Newport SACRE appreciates. The Advisor to Newport SACRE is an employee of the EAS. Newport SACRE suggest that there needs to be a consistent approach across Wales if the right to withdraw is removed. This would reduce the risk of litigation as there would be greater opportunity for PL.

The confidence of the workforce to deliver high quality RE needs to be raised. Senior leaders in schools should also be trained to ensure they know whether RE in their setting is objective, critical and pluralistic.

SACRE agree that there is a need to move away from the current name for the subject as it reinforces the misunderstanding that schools are educating pupils to be religious. SACRE prefers the name put forward by the Commission on Religious Education of Religion and Worldviews because it allows for the exploration of religion as a concept.

WG Consultation on Religion Values and Ethics

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

SACRE were advised by email of the consultation on Religion Values and Ethics on the new Curriculum for Wales (2022). As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic SACRE members were consulted via email following a draft had been composed by the SACRE officers based on previous discussions around the curriculum. A response was submitted to WG by 27th July deadline on behalf of the Chair. It is the view of SACRE that learners should be prepared for living in a diverse, pluralistic society. Learning about, and from, people of faith and belief will contribute to learners becoming well-rounded citizens. RE should be objective, critical, and pluralistic in practice as well as in law. Therefore, specialist PL and a process for monitoring this is happening is needed. Removing the parental right to withdraw their children from RE makes this more relevant. Additionally, it is important to fully explain what ‘philosophical convictions’ mean in ECHR law. WG should consider how this will be implemented without putting religious and non-religious worldviews into artificial ‘boxes.’ SACRE points out that philosophical convictions can be both religious and non-religious worldviews. SACRE does not support the name change to Religion, Values and Ethics as RE is not synonymous with values and ethics, which are part of the four purposes and SMSC. Responsibility for this lies with every educator and every subject. RE is not citizenship education, and to treat thus is a misconception. The new name for the subject reinforces this misconception. SACRE asks WG to revisit the name change proposal taking on board specialist advice on worldviews. The name Religion and Worldviews was not an option during the previous consultation. SACRE would suggest that this better reflects the nature of the subject and the direction in which it is travelling within the new curriculum.

Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament Consultation on the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill

SACRE was advised by email of the Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament Consultation on the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill on 18th August. This consultation was being carried out by the Children’s Young People’s and Education Committee. SACRE it was agreed that Newport SACRE would submit a response fully supporting the response from WASACRE as the timing, especially in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, did not allow members to meet. This Newport SACRE response was submitted by the 29th September 2020.

The Framework for Religious Education

In the Autumn Term, SACRE members were advised that the work of the RE Framework Group was ongoing, with Paula Webber (EAS PL Adviser RE and SACRE) and Libby Jones (RE Adviser Wrexham) continuing to lead its development. When completed the framework will provide further detail about the relationship between Religious Education, the Agreed Syllabus, and the Areas of Learning and Experience. It was the Welsh Government plan to publish the RE Framework in draft format for consultation in January 2020. This was in order that it would coincide with the publication of the final version of the Curriculum for Wales 2022. Changes to the RE Framework were needed following the redrafting of the Curriculum.

Welsh Government consulted with SACREs on the supporting framework for Religion Values and Ethics during December and January 2020. Information regarding the consultation and the WASACRE feedback was circulated to SACRE. SACRE were sent updates from WASACRE on 24th and 26th March 2020 on the Welsh Government position in relation to the supporting framework and were advised that this consultation has been delayed due to Covid-19.

4.7 TRAINING OF SACRE MEMBERS

As part of its training for members SACRE proposed the following:

- To keep members updated on developments in RE and collective worship through regular presentations to SACRE members. Ms. P Webber gave updates on the Curriculum and its implications for RE
- SACRE, where possible would hold meetings at schools in Newport for members to familiarise themselves with RE and collective worship in schools. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic no visits took place to schools this
- SACRE is very appreciative of the opportunities offered through visits and presentations to become more informed on RE and Collective worship issues in schools and would like to extend their appreciation to all concerned.
- A special note of thanks is extended to the clerk to SACRE, Neil Barnett, for all his hard work in facilitating SACRE and keeping SACRE informed via email throughout the year.

4.8 MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE

At its autumn meeting SACRE were informed of vacant positions and changes of membership of the committee. SACRE were advised that they would sadly lose the longstanding and committed member, Paddy Landers from the SACRE due to retirement. SACRE are very grateful for the dedication this representative has shown. SACRE will seed a replacement to fill this vacancy for a Roman Catholic representative. Tania Simmonds has also joined SACRE as a representative of the teaching profession.

APPENDIX 1 MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE 2017- 2018

Committee A – Representatives of Faith and Belief

Church in Wales - Susie Hunt/ Kath Sperry/ Rebecca Penn

Roman Catholic – Vacancy

Baptist – Huw Stephens

Methodist –Vacancy

Evangelical Churches – Gifty David (Pentecostal)

Presbyterian Church of Wales / United Reformed Church – Sally Roberts

Salvation Army – Vacancy

Hindu – Soam Sharma

Jewish – Abraham Davidson

Sikh – Neeta Singh Baicher

Muslim – Sabina Begum

Wales Humanists – Clare James

Committee B – Representatives of Professional Associations

National Education Union – Tanya Simmonds

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

Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) - Joanne Crawley

National Association of Head Teachers – Heather Vaughan

Secondary Head Teachers' Association (ASCL) – Lana Picton

UCAC – Kirsten Hicks

Committee C - Local Authority Councillors

Cllr. Laura Lacey (Chairperson),
Cllr. Tracey Holyoake,
Cllr. Ibrahim Hayat
Cllr. Rehmaan Hayat
Cllr. W. Routley

Officers to SACRE

Educations/Head of GEMS - Emma Keen

EAS Professional Learning Adviser RE – Paula Webber

Clerk to SACRE – Neil Barnett, Democratic Services Support

DRAFT

APPENDIX 2

SCHEDULE AND AGENDA OF MEETINGS

Autumn Term

Thursday, 7th NOVEMBER 2019 at 10.00 pm

- Welcome and apologies for absence.
- Time of quiet reflection
- Minutes and matters arising of the previous meeting held on 13th June, 2019
- SACRE Membership update
- Presentation – Onyx Link Foundation
- Curriculum development update and the Welsh Government consultation on removing the right to withdraw from RE and change of name for RE
- SACRE Annual Report 2018-2019
- Monitoring Provision and Standards - Newport School Inspection Reports
- Learning Network Schools for Religious Education
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2020
- To consider items for the next SACRE News Bulletin
- WASACRE business
- To confirm the date of the next SACRE meetings for 2019 - 2020

Spring and summer term SACRE meetings were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Urgent SACRE business was conducted via Email and Microsoft Teams but meetings were not organised virtually as urgent Council business and Health and Wellbeing took priority within NCC.

APPENDIX 3 CIRCULATION OF REPORT

Copies will be sent electronically to the relevant bodies. This report will be available on the Local Authority* and WASACRE websites for interested parties to download.

Newport Education Authority

Education Advisory Service (EAS/ South East Wales Consortia)

Welsh Government

Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all Newport City schools

All members of SACRE

WASACRE

Chair of Education

Minister for Education, Senedd Cymru, Welsh Parliament

Nominating Bodies of Faith Communities

ESTYN

** 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