



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

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

Attendance

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

1. Cyflwyniad a chroeso / *Introduction and welcome*

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

2. Adfyfrio tawel / *Quiet reflection*

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

3. Ymddiheuriadau / *Apologies*

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

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

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

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

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

6. Materion yn codi / *Matters arising*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. Cyflwyniad NAPfRE/ NAPfRE presentation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. Diweddariadau/Up-dates:

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

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

The following points were raised by members.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adolygiad Cwricwlwm / *Curriculum Review*- Libby Jones

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

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

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

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

10. Gohebiaeth /*Correspondence*

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE CITY OF NEWPORT SACRE

DATE: JUNE 8th 2016

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Background

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

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

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

Question 1

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

Response

Yes - 86%
No- 14%

Question 2

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

Response

Yes - 84%
No 16%

Question 2a

If YES, is the RS GCSE course taught within:

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

Response

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

Question 3

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

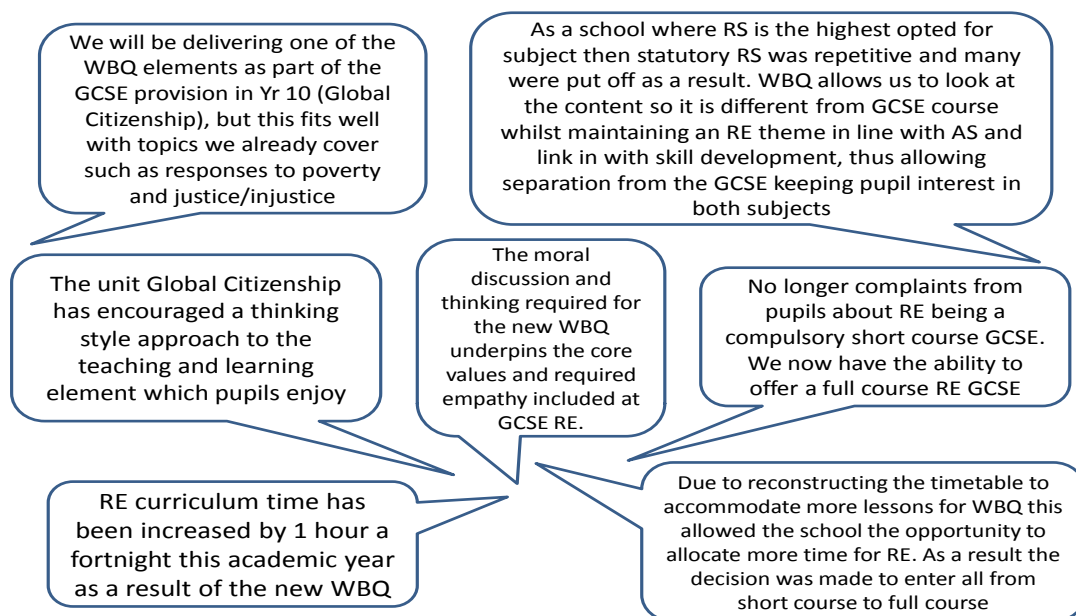
Response

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

Question 4

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

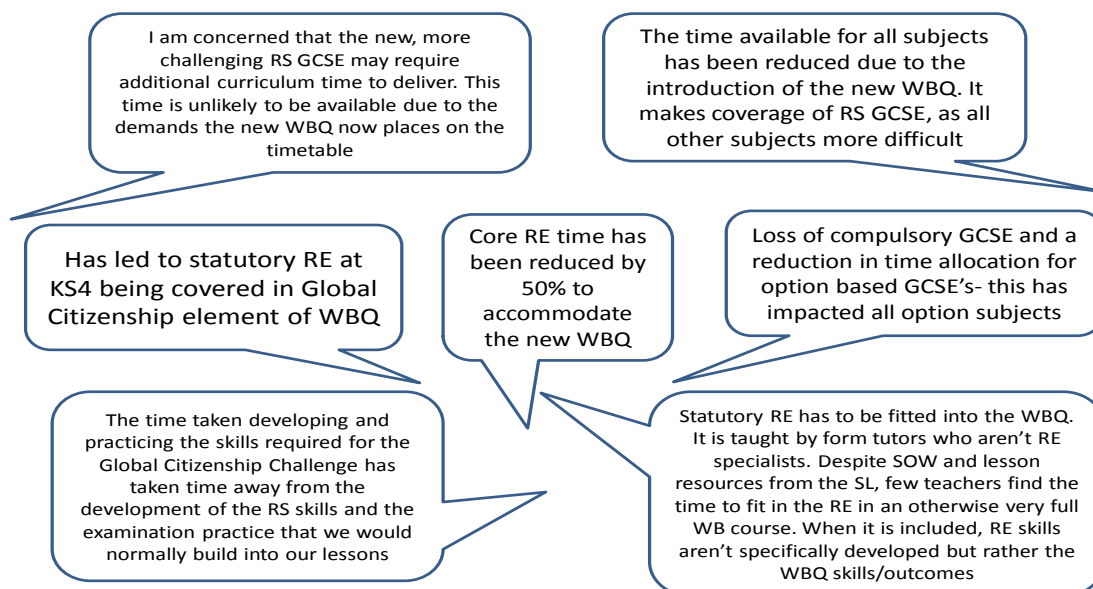
Positive impact on RE



Question 5

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

Negative impact on RE



Question 6

Do you require any support from your local SACRE?

Yes = 11%

No = 76%

No response = 13%

Responses to the offer of support from SACREs

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

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

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

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

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

THE CITY OF NEWPORT SACRE

DATE: JUNE 8th 2016

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

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

1. Mary Parry – Carmarthenshire SACRE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Moses Tutesigensi- Powys SACRE

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

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

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

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

4. Mathew Maidment – Rhondda Cynon Taf SACRE

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

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

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

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

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