

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

19TH JULY 2016

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

REPORT OF TEMPORARY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING (COUNCILLOR E HANAGAN)

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide information to Members on the Council's statutory duties to establish a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).
- 1.2 To update Members on the amended constitution of Rhondda Cynon Taf SACRE (Appendix A).
- 1.3 To inform Members of the Annual Report of the RCT SACRE for the academic year 2014-2015 (Appendix B).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the amended constitution which was agreed by the RCT SACRE in December 2015.
- 2.2 Note the content of the Annual Report 2014-2015.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Every Local Authority has a statutory duty to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), to advise the LA on matters concerned with the provision of RE and collective worship (Education Reform Act 1988).

- 3.2 The main function of SACRE is 'to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the Council or as the Council may see fit'.
- 3.3 The broad role of a SACRE is to support the effective provision of RE and collective worship in schools. Each LA should work with its SACRE whether any changes need to be made in the agreed syllabus or in the support offered which might be taken to improve provision.
- 3.4 Each SACRE must publish an annual report on its work.

4 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 No consultation exercise has been required.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 6.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 7.1 The local authority has statutory duties under Section 11 Education Reform Act 1988.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The amended constitution of Rhondda Cynon Taf SACRE was agreed in December 2015.
- 8.2 Changes in the way support for schools is organised and delivered has resulted in a demise of the traditional subject led advisory service to a more school to school self-supporting system. Such changes in working practices has had an impact on the ability of SACRE to fulfil its role and functions with schools.
- 8.3 Co-ordination of the role and functions of the RCT SACRE is now commissioned through the Central South Consortium.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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Item: **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)**

Background Papers

Leaders Scheme of Delegation

Officer to contact:



CONSTITUTION OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF SACRE

Terms of reference

1. To advise the LA on matters connected with collective worship in county schools.
2. To advise the LA on matters connected with religious education which is given in accordance with the agreed syllabus.
3. To decide when, within the five year statutory time scale, the LA should review its agreed syllabus.
4. To consider with the LA and the Agreed Syllabus Conference any changes required to the agreed syllabus.
5. To consider with the LA the support offered to religious education in its schools, with particular regard to methods of teaching, the choice of teaching materials and the provision of training for teachers.
6. To offer advice on any other matters related to its function as it sees fit.
7. To publish an annual report on its work, which must:
 - a. specify any matters on which it has advised the LA;
 - b. broadly describe the nature of the advice;
 - c. set out its reasons for offering advice on any matters which were not referred to it in the first place by the LA.

The report should also follow the current guidance from Welsh Government on its structure and information that should be included in the report.

8. To participate in the LA's statutory complaints procedures in those instances where the complaints relate to religious education and/or collective worship.
9. To receive and make determinations in respect of applications from headteachers of county schools for the lifting or modifying of the requirements that collective worship in such schools must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

Composition and Membership

10. The council shall comprise persons appointed by the local authority to represent respectively:
- a. Such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the LA, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area.
 - b. Such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the LA, ought to be represented having regard to the circumstances of the area.
 - c. The LA.

The council may also include co-opted members.

Rhondda Cynon Taf SACRE has agreed the following membership:

Representatives from religious traditions and denominations.

To optimise the efficiency of the SACRE, membership is sought from a wide range of religious traditions that have adherents living within Rhondda Cynon Taf borough. The nominated representative of the religious tradition must reside within Rhondda Cynon Taf.

14 places from a range of religions and denominations which could include but is not restricted to:

- The Church in Wales
- The Roman Catholic Church
- Free Churches
- Bahá'í Faith
- Buddhism
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Judaism
- Sikhism

Teacher representatives

The relevant statutory provision gives discretion to the authority to determine which associations are to represent teachers and will therefore include.

10 places from a range of teacher associations.

The LA

6 members representing the local authority.

Co-opt members (with no voting rights)

Up to 4 members who have an interest in religious education and collective worship and can assist the committee in its functions.

Appendix A

11. Membership of the Council shall be for a period of four years. Any outgoing members may be re-appointed.
12. Membership of the Council is subject to the condition that the LA has taken all reasonable steps to assure itself that the persons appointed are representative, as the case may be, of the denominations or associations in question.
13. Members representing associations of teachers must include teachers of religious education.
14. Individuals may be removed from the Council if they cease to be representative of the denomination, association or of the Authority they were appointed to represent.
15. Any member of the Council may at any time resign his or her office.

Procedure:

16. The Council shall meet not less than once in each school term.
17. Meetings are open to members of the public unless confidential information is to be disclosed.
18. RCT SACRE is a member of WASACRE (the Welsh Association of SACREs). It shall nominate up to four members, including the RE Consultant, to represent the SACRE at WASACRE meetings.
19. The Council shall elect from its membership a chairperson and vice chairperson at the first meeting in each academic year. The chairperson and vice chairperson in any one year shall not be drawn from the same representative group. An outgoing chairperson may be re-appointed.
20. On any question to be decided by the Council only the representative groups on the Council shall be entitled to vote, and each group shall have a single vote. Before a formal vote is taken opportunity shall be given to each representative group to determine how its vote is to be cast. Resolutions shall be passed to the education department as appropriate.
21. Co-opted members are not entitled to vote.
22. The agenda for each meeting shall be determined by the chairperson and vice chairperson in consultation with the clerk to SACRE, Director of Education Representative and Professional Officer. Any voting member of SACRE shall be entitled to propose items for an agenda.
23. In the case of any member not being able to attend a Council meeting, a substitute may be nominated by the body which that person represents, provided that the substitute meets the eligibility criteria and the Education Directorate of the LA and the Clerk to SACRE is notified in advance of the meeting.

Appendix A

24. A meeting of the Council will be deemed to be quorate if at least one member of each of the three representative groups is present. The validity of proceedings of the Council shall not be affected by a vacancy in the office of any member of the Council.
25. The representative groups on the Council, other than that representing the Local Authority, may call, at any time, for a review of the agreed syllabus current in the Authority. At such time an Agreed Syllabus Conference shall be constituted and convened.
26. The Council shall consider its annual report at the first meeting to be held in each academic year. Upon the Council's ratification of the report it shall proceed to publication.
27. The clerk to the SACRE shall arrange for copies of the annual report to be sent to all county schools within the Authority, to DfES, the National Library and to such other individuals and institutions as the LA sees fit.

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR
THE ACADEMIC YEAR
2014 - 2015**



STRONG HERITAGE | STRONG FUTURE
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
TREETADAETH GADARN | DYFODOL SICR



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SECTION ONE

INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE

1.1 Duty to establish SACRE

All local authorities (LAs) are required to constitute a Standing Advisory Council on 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; and
- the LA.

It is the duty of the LA to ensure that members of the groups are appointed and that they are representative.

1.3 Membership of SACRE

The list of members of Rhondda Cynon Taf SACRE is set out in Appendix 1.

1.4 Functions of SACRE

The main function of a SACRE is 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;
- consider whether to recommend to the LA that its current agreed syllabus should be reviewed by convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference;
- consider applications from schools for determinations (to be exempt from the requirement that worship be “Christian”); and
- report to the LA and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) on its activities on an annual basis.

1.5 SACRE meetings

Two meetings of SACRE were held during the 2014 – 2015 academic year:

- 12th November 2014 - The Pavilions, Clydach Vale
- 10th March 2015 – The Pavilions, Clydach Vale

A record of the main agenda items discussed during the meetings is to be found in Appendix 2.

1.6 Circulation of report

Copies of this report have been circulated to the organisations/establishments listed in Appendix 3.

SECTION TWO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF THE ADVICE GIVEN TO THE LA BY SACRE

2.1 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Aim: To monitor provision and standards in religious education

Action

1. SACRE considers and analyses school inspection reports. If there are any issues regarding religious education, such as the non- fulfilment of statutory requirements, the LA follows this up. During the academic year 2014 – 2015 no such follow up action was necessary.
2. SACRE had resolved to use school self-evaluation as a means of fulfilling its statutory responsibility to monitor provision and standards in religious education. During 2014 – 2015 this decision was being reviewed by the School Improvement Officers to determine if this was the LA's preferred method of monitoring. SACRE is awaiting their decision.
3. SACRE analyses examination results over a three year period and identifies trends in performance benchmarked against All Wales data. Schools are informed of the outcomes of this analysis and any issues raised by SACRE.
4. The LA and its SACRE gather and analyses data via the Consortium regarding key stage 3 teacher assessment in religious education. This information is presented to SACRE and sent to all secondary schools in the LA.

2.2 AGREED SYLLABUS

Aim: To fulfil the legal requirement to review the agreed syllabus for religious education.

Action

1. In 2008 Rhondda Cynon Taf SACRE adopted a new agreed syllabus for the authority's schools to be implemented from September 2008. All schools received a programme of Inset in summer 2008 and received a package of support materials to exemplify the new syllabus. A yearly programme of Inset has continued and specific training on the agreed syllabus has been offered. Comprehensive support materials, including schemes of work and electronic *Progress in Learning* files for secondary schools, have already been issued to schools.
2. In June 2013 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the Rhondda Cynon Taf 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. During 2013 – 2014 SACRE members received updates on the consultations undertaken in relation to the National Curriculum and assessment review.
4. In 2014 – 2015 SACRE considered the Donaldson Report on the review of the curriculum in Wales. It was noted that there would be implications for RE and the Agreed Syllabus and that NAPfRE (the National Advisory Panel for Religious Education) would meet to discuss the issues on 15th April 2015. The Committee resolved to respond to the review as a SACRE before the 8th May 2015 deadline. It was agreed to hold a special meeting in order for members to more fully discuss the review however, this meeting was subsequently cancelled. All members were invited to submit their views to the RE Consultant by email. The RE

Consultant subsequently formulated a response to the review on behalf of Rhondda Cynon Taf SACRE and this was submitted as part of the Great Debate consultation process. SACRE will continue to monitor and respond to developments in this area.

5. In its spring 2015 meeting, SACRE began to consider the value of retaining the core units as a statutory component of the Agreed Syllabus given the move towards a more flexible curriculum. A letter was written to all schools seeking their views on this matter.

2.3 TEACHING MATERIALS

Aim: To ensure that schools are informed of suitable teaching resources

Action

1. All schools were informed of the 2015 **Holocaust Memorial Day** theme and that Holocaust resources can be found on their website www.hmd.org.uk
2. Schools were advised that the formerly published **RE News** was now available to view on line at the following address: www.religious-education-wales.org
3. **Withdrawal Clause and RE**: A guidance document for schools on managing the parental right of pupil withdrawal from RE is being prepared by the RE Consultant.
4. **SACRE RE News Bulletin**: The LA agreed to support the introduction of a termly SACRE RE News Bulletin and distribute to all schools and interested parties.
5. **BBC Programmes for Schools**: Schools were advised of five programmes, one each on Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Judaism and Hinduism made available through the BBC.
6. **Visits to Mosques**: Details of opportunities to visit mosques in Cardiff were distributed to schools.
7. **Video Clips**: Six digital stories created by Muslim children aged 6-13 from Cardiff for use in the classroom and suitable for all ages is freely available and details have been provided to schools.
8. **Leaflet – ‘What Islam Really Says**: The counter-narrative leaflet produced by Cardiff Imams and scholars and facilitated by the Muslim Council for Wales was distributed to all schools on SACRE’s recommendation.

2.4 TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

Aim: To ensure that teachers are able to access appropriate continuing professional development.

Action

1. Due to the lack of take up of advertised courses in 2013 – 2014 and the subsequent need for cancellation, no RE courses were offered by the local authority via Central South Consortium this year.

2.5 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Aim: 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 spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. If there are any issues such as the non-fulfilment of statutory requirements the LA follows this up. During the academic year 2014 – 2015 no such follow up action was necessary as one school had already remedied the identified non-compliance with statutory requirements before the reports were brought to SACRE.
2. SACRE has resolved to use school self-evaluation as a means of fulfilling its statutory responsibility to monitor statutory requirements, provision and quality of collective worship. There was no review of school self-evaluation in relation to collective worship during the academic year 2014 – 2015 as SACRE is awaiting a decision from the LA as to whether they wish to proceed with this process.

2.6 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 meetings of the association by its representatives.

SECTION THREE

SUMMARY OF ADVICE TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

3.1 THE LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS

During the spring term 2008 Standing Conference endorsed and adopted a new agreed syllabus for the authority's schools to be implemented from September 2008. A yearly programme of INSET has continued and specific training on the agreed syllabus has been offered. Comprehensive support materials, including schemes of work and electronic *Progress in Learning* files for secondary schools, have already been issued to schools.

During the 2012 – 2013 academic year SACRE were made aware of the announcement by the Minister of Education and Skills 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. In June 2013 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the Rhondda Cynon Taf agreed syllabus, with an understanding that the syllabus would be reviewed once further information is received in relation to the assessment and National Curriculum review.

During the summer term meeting of 2014 SACRE expressed concern that teacher representatives reported that the teaching of religious education appeared to be suffering at the hands of certain curricular initiatives. SACRE resolved to send a letter to all Headteachers, and copied to the Chairs of Governing Bodies, reminding them of the statutory nature of religious education and the requirements to adhere to the agreed syllabus.

In spring 2015 SACRE considered the Donaldson Report on the review of the curriculum in Wales. It was noted that there would be implications for RE and the Agreed Syllabus. The Committee resolved to respond to the review as a SACRE before the 8th May 2015 deadline and in order to assist its own discussions would consider the report from NAPfRE (the National Advisory Panel for Religious Education) which met on 15th April to discuss the issues.

It was agreed to hold a special meeting in order for members to more fully discuss the review however, this meeting was subsequently cancelled. All members were invited to submit their views to the RE Consultant by email. The RE Consultant subsequently formulated a response to the review on behalf of Rhondda Cynon Taf SACRE and this was submitted as part of the Great Debate consultation process. SACRE will continue to monitor and respond to developments in this area.

In its spring 2015 meeting, SACRE began to consider the value of retaining the core units as a statutory component of the Agreed Syllabus given the move towards a more flexible curriculum. A letter was written to all schools seeking their views and it was agreed to hold an Agreed Syllabus Conference in summer 2015 to discuss the matter further. Limited responses were received from schools. However the Agreed Syllabus Conference was subsequently postponed until further notice.

3.2 STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

EXAMINATION RESULTS

SACRE considered examination performance in the secondary schools for 2014. The examination results for Rhondda Cynon Taf are compared with the Local Consortium, the All – Wales figures and with the results of the previous years. SACRE members are also informed of the percentage of the year 11 cohort being entered for the religious studies GCSE examinations. The examination results are sent to all secondary schools within the Local Authority.

Details are published in Appendix 4 along with results for 2012 and 2013.

GCSE Religious Studies

- In 2014 there was an increase in entries for the GCSE Religious Studies course with 959 candidates from 17 schools. In 2013 there were 812 candidates over 16 schools. There was a slight decrease in the All – Wales figure with 11,368 students in 2014 against 11,414 students entered for the examination in 2013 compared with 10,221 in 2012 and 9,464 in 2011.
- The cohort entry for Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2014 was **35.2%** which is higher than the entry for 2013 which was **30.45%** and higher than the figures for 2012 (27.4%) and 2011 (29.5%).
- The overall % of **A* - C** grades for Rhondda Cynon Taf was **70%** which is very slightly below the performance of 2013 (70.94%) and the performance of 2012 (70.9%). Performance at A* - C of 70% in RCT is slightly below the Consortium figure of 73.6% and the All Wales figure of 72%.
- The overall % of **A* - G** grades for Rhondda Cynon Taf was **98%** which is comparable with previous performance, the Consortium performance of 98% and the All Wales figure of 98%.
- The overall % of **A* - A** grades for Rhondda Cynon Taf was **24.1%** which is below the performance of 2013 (30.91%) and the results for 2012 (28.7%) and 2011 (27.7%). It is significantly below the Consortium performance of 34.8% and below the All Wales figure of 31% (33% in 2013).

GCSE Religious Studies short course

- In 2014 the GCSE Religious Studies short course saw a significant decrease in the number of students who were entered from Rhondda Cynon Taf. 969 students were entered in 2014 compared with 1655 students from 17 schools in 2013. In 2012 there were 1442 candidates and in 2011 there were 1378 students entered. Across Wales 12191 were entered for the short course examination compared with 12765 students in 2013 and 13,070 in 2012.
- Some schools in Rhondda Cynon Taf enter almost a full cohort and others have a selected entry. The average cohort entry for Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2014 was **35.5%**. This is much lower than the average cohort entry in 2013 which was 62.05% and for 2012 (51.7%), 2011 (49.1%) and 63.4% in 2010.
- The overall % of **A* - C** grades for Rhondda Cynon Taf was **50.4%** which is slightly higher than the performance in 2013 of 49.37% but below the performance of 2012 (56.7%) and above the performance of 2011 (45.6%).
The % pass rate of 50.4% is below the Consortium performance of 52.4% and slightly below the All Wales figure of 53%.
- The overall % of **A* - G** grades for Rhondda Cynon Taf was **93.9%** which is comparable with performance of 2013 (93.23%) but below the previous performance of 2012 (97.7%) and 2011 (96.9%). Performance at A*-G is comparable with the All Wales figure of 94%.

- The overall % of **A* - A** grades for Rhondda Cynon Taf was **11.1%** which is below the 2013 performance of 17.10% and the Consortium performance of 16.6% and the All Wales figure of 15%.

Religious Studies A Level

- In 2014 the Religious Studies A Level course was entered by 140 over sixteen schools. This figure is slightly lower than for 2013 when 154 students were entered and for 2012 when 155 were entered but an increase against figures for 2011 (115 students). The number of candidates who sat the examination across Wales was 1432 which is slightly higher than the figure of 1422 in 2013 and is slightly lower than the number of entries for 2012 (1,447) but higher than entries in 2011 (1,301).
- The % pass rate for grades **A* – G** was **96.43%** which is comparable with previous performance. Performance is comparable with the Consortium figure of 97.15% and with the All Wales figure of 98%.
- The % pass rate for grades **A* – C** was **65.71%** which is below the figure for 2013 of 75.32% and for 2012 (77.4%) and that of 2011 (66.1%) and 2010 (68.6%). Performance at A*-C is below the Consortium figure of 75.71% and the All Wales figure of 79%.
- Thirteen students achieved A* - A grade this year (**9.29%**) which is below the performance of 2013 at 13.64% and the performance of 2012 (16.8%) and the figure for 2011(12.2%). Performance at A*-A is significantly below the Consortium performance of 16.32% and the All Wales figure of 18%.

KEY STAGE 3 DATA

Members of Rhondda Cynon Taf SACRE also consider the levels awarded by teachers to pupils at the end of key stage 3. Comparisons are made with previous performance in religious education and also with core and foundation subjects of the National Curriculum. The data is sent to all secondary schools within the Local Authority.

End of key stage 3 levels are published in Appendix 5.

SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORTS

SACRE, with the LA's agreement and co-operation, receives reports from professional officers on standards and provision and reviews summary reports of inspection findings as well as Estyn surveys as they occur.

During 2014 one nursery school, fourteen primary schools and two secondary schools were inspected in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The Estyn Common Inspection Framework notes that inspectors should only report on instances where the school does not comply with statutory requirements.

Eleven schools are noted as having good links with the local clergy and make use of visitors and or visits to places of worship and SACRE noted this good practice.

Letters were sent to each of the schools from SACRE acknowledging the respective good practice.

SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION

SACRE had resolved to use school self-evaluation as a means of fulfilling its statutory responsibility to monitor provision and standards in religious education. During 2013 – 2014 two SACRE representatives agreed to share their self-evaluation with members. Members were supportive of this method of reporting schools' self-evaluation and expressed a wish that it continues to be shared with SACRE. However, during 2014 – 2015 the decision to request self-evaluation reports was being reviewed by the School Improvement Officers to determine if this was the LA's preferred method of monitoring. SACRE is awaiting their decision.

3.3 METHODS OF TEACHING, CHOICE OF TEACHING MATERIALS, TEACHER TRAINING

3.3.1 TEACHING MATERIALS

Holocaust Memorial Day

All schools were informed of the 2015 Holocaust Memorial Day theme and that Holocaust resources can be found on their website www.hmd.org.uk – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship materials and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.

RE News

Schools were advised that the formerly published RE News was now available to view on line at the following address: www.religious-education-wales.org

Guidance on the Withdrawal Clause

The RE Consultant is writing a guidance document for schools on managing the right of withdrawal from RE. This will be offered to WASACRE as a resource to be shared with all schools across Wales.

BBC Key Stage 2 Resources

New RE programmes were recently broadcast by the BBC 2 in March 2015. The five half hour programmes, one each on Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Judaism and Hinduism have been produced with the support of Lat Blaylock, a key figure in the RE world. The BBC will not sell these programmes on DVDs but they will be available on BBC Clips if schools missed recording the broadcasts.

Visits to Mosques

Schools were advised that the Muslim Council of Wales can be contacted to arrange an educational visit to a mosque. They will discuss the possibilities with the school and advise of the most local mosque that can provide an appropriate visit. They have a group of volunteers who are at hand to show pupils around the mosque facilities and also to do a short talk on Islam and answer questions related to the particular aspect of Islam being studied. All volunteers used undertake a DBS/ CRB check.

For further information and to arrange a visit schools can contact:

Nahida Begum (Executive Assistant to Saleem Kidwai OBE, KFO, FRSA Secretary General Muslim Council of Wales) Tel: 029 2048 7667 extension 214 Email: nahida@muslimcouncilwales.org.uk

Video Clips

A very useful series of six digital stories created by Muslim children aged 6-13 from Cardiff for use in the classroom and suitable for all ages is freely available on-line at <http://vimeo.com/channels/learningtobeamuslim> and schools were reminded of this valuable resource.

3.3.2 INSET

Central South Consortium INSET

Due to the lack of take up of advertised courses in 2013 – 2014 and the subsequent need for cancellation, no RE courses were offered by the local authority via Central South Consortium this year.

WASACRE training

Members were pleased to hear that WASACRE is in the process of considering a possible training programme for teachers across all authorities in Wales. It is hoped that these events would be free of charge to schools. Further details will be made available to SACREs as soon as available.

SECTION FOUR

SUMMARY OF ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Monitoring of collective worship has continued through a review of inspection report findings.

4.1 SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORTS

During the academic year of 2014 – 2015 SACRE members received details of school inspections undertaken between spring and autumn 2014 which included one nursery school, fourteen primary schools and two secondary schools

Positive comments in relation to spiritual development were evident in all inspection reports.

The Estyn Common Inspection Framework notes that inspectors should only report on instances where the school does not comply with statutory requirements. Estyn noted one instance of non-compliance with statutory requirements in relation to collective worship in one primary school. However, the school had rectified this situation prior to the report being presented to SACRE.

There is reference to the quality of collective worship in six of the inspection reports for spring 2015.

Good features identified include reference to collective worship:

- Pupils have appropriate opportunities to reflect in school assemblies
- Regular whole-school gatherings provide valuable opportunities to reinforce important values, such as kindness and fairness, and provide time for children to sit quietly and reflect.
- The school's provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good, for example in collective worship through the use of stories, such as Dr. Barnardo and Anne Frank.

Letters to all of the schools were sent from SACRE to acknowledge the appropriate provision of collective worship.

4.2 SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION

SACRE had resolved to use school self-evaluation as a means of fulfilling its statutory responsibility to monitor provision and standards in religious education. During 2013 – 2014 two SACRE representatives agreed to share their self-evaluation with members. Members were supportive of this method of reporting schools' self-evaluation and expressed a wish that it continues to be shared with SACRE. However, during 2014 – 2015 the decision to request self-evaluation reports was being reviewed by the School Improvement Officers to determine if this was the LA's preferred method of monitoring. SACRE is awaiting their decision.

4.3 DETERMINATIONS

As last year, 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.

SECTION FIVE

SUMMARY OF OTHER ISSUES

5.1 WASACRE

SACRE continues to support the work of the Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE) and recognises the value of the body in promoting religious education and collective worship on a national basis. During 2014 - 2015 issues considered at WASACRE meetings have been fully reported back to SACRE.

5.2 National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (NAPfRE)

The RE Consultant to the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE, Gill Vaisey, is a member of NAPfRE and regularly attends meetings on SACRE's behalf. In this way SACRE is able to keep abreast of developments in Wales and play a crucial role in informing decisions and policies that affect religious education.

5.3 Curriculum Review: Successful Futures: Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales.

SACRE received and discussed a presentation regarding the Curriculum Review: *Successful Futures: Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales*.

The Committee decided it wished to respond to the review as a SACRE before 8th May 2015. The RE Consultant subsequently formulated a response to the review on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE and this was submitted as part of the Great Debate consultation process.

NAPfRE met on 15th April 2015 to discuss the implications for RE of *Successful Futures: Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales*. Following a full day of analysis of the Review's recommendations, NAPfRE formulated its response to the Great Debate. The group will monitor further developments in the curriculum review and respond accordingly on an ongoing basis as appropriate.

Appendix 1

SACRE MEMBERSHIP

AS AT 31ST JULY 2015

LA: 6 Places
 Religions and denominations: 14 Places
 Teacher Associations: 10 Places

ORGANISATION	NAME
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	County Borough Councillor Mark Adams
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	County Borough Councillor Jeffrey Elliott
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	County Borough Councillor Geraint Hopkins
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	County Borough Councillor Jane Ward
Church in Wales	Father Haydn England-Simon
Church in Wales	The Reverend Peter Lewis
Catholic Church	Wendy Lavagna
The Evangelical Movement of Wales	Mr Brian Rogers
Baptist Union of Wales	The Reverend David Brownutt
SHA	Dr Sue Mitchell
NASUWT	Mr Mathew Maidment
NASUWT	
ATL	Dr Alec Clark
NAHT	Mr Rob James
ICAC	Mrs Llinos Rees
Valleys Religious Education Teachers Association	Mrs Lynda Davies

Appendix 2

RECORD OF SACRE MEETINGS

Two meetings of SACRE were held during the 2014 – 2015 academic year:

- 12th November 2014 - The Pavilions, Clydach Vale;
- 10th March 2015 – The Pavilions, Clydach Vale; and

12th November 2014 – The Pavilions, Clydach Vale

- Apologies
- Election of chair person
- Election of vice chair person
- Minutes of the last meeting
- Matters Arising
- SACRE Annual Report 2013-14
- Monitoring Standards
- WASACRE
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2015
- Correspondence
- Dates of next meetings

10th March 2015 – The Pavilions, Clydach Vale

- Apologies
- Minutes of the last meeting
- Matters arising
- Constitution and membership
- Curriculum Review
- Review of the Agreed Syllabus
- Curriculum Review
- Religious Studies examination results 2014
- Estyn overview of inspection reports
- All Wales response to requesting and receiving Self Evaluation reports
- 'What Islam Really Says' Leaflet
- WASACRE
- Correspondence
- Any other business

Appendix 3

LIST OF ORGANISATIONS TO WHICH THIS REPORT HAS BEEN SENT

- All schools in Rhondda Cynon Taf
- DfES
- Welsh Government
- Estyn
- Directors of Education, all other Welsh LAs
- Wales Association of SACREs
- University of Wales Trinity St David
- Welsh National Centre for Religious Education-Bangor
- Central South Consortium
- Church in Wales (Diocese of Llandaff)
- The Roman Catholic (Archdiocese of Cardiff)
- Other Churches
- Association of Religious Education Teachers in Wales
- National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
- Religious Education Movement Wales
- Cytun
- Swansea Metropolitan University

SACRE analysis of Religious Studies examination results**GCSE Religious Studies**

	RCT 2012	RCT 2013	RCT 2014	Consortium 2014	All Wales 2014
A* - A	28.7%	30.91%	24.1%	34.8%	31%
A* - C	70.9%	70.94%	70%	73.6%	72%
A* - G	99%	98.4%	98%	98%	98%
Entry	790 students 15 schools	812 students 16 schools	959 (35.2% of cohort) 17 schools	4236 (42.6% of cohort)	11, 368 students (32.3% of cohort)

GCSE Religious Studies Short Course

	RCT 2012	RCT 2013	RCT 2014	Consortium 2014	All Wales 2014
A* - A	16.9%	17.10%	11.1%	16.6%	15%
A* - C	56.7%	49.37%	50.4%	52.4%	53%
A* - G	97.7%	93.23%	93.9%	92.3%	94%
Entry	1442 students 18 schools	1655 students 17 schools	969 students (35.5% of cohort) 15 schools	3856 students (38.7% of cohort)	12191 students

A level Religious Studies

	RCT 2012	RCT 2013	RCT 2014	Consortium 2014	All Wales 2014
A* - A	16.8%	13.64%	9.29%	16.32%	18%
A* - C	77.4%	75.32%	65.71%	75.71%	79%
A* - G	97.4%	97.40%	96.43%	97.15%	98%
Entry	155 students 16 schools	154 students 17 schools	140 students 16 schools	527 students	1432 students

Appendix 5 **Rhondda Cynon Taf Key Stage 3 Year 9 Religious Education Levels 2014**

GIRLS	NOR	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	EP	Total	% L 5+	% L 6+	% L 7+	% NL
Total numbers	1054	0	0	10	93	435	365	132	13	0	1048				
Percentages		0	0	1	9	41	35	13	1	0		99.4	89.7	48.4	0.6
Consortium numbers	3784	0	10	52	328	1473	1341	500	59	1	3764		3,374.0	1,901.0	0.5
Consortium percentages		-	0.3	1.4	8.7	38.9	35.4	13.2	1.6	0.0		99.5	89.2	50.2	0.5

BOYS	NOR	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	EP	Total	% L 5+	% L 6+	% L 7+	% NL
Total numbers	1091	0	0	26	245	489	248	73	5	0	1086				
Percentages		0	0	2	22	45	23	7	0	0		99.5	74.7	29.9	0.5
Consortium numbers	3940	0	19	155	728	1730	989	276	17	1	3915		3,013.0	1,283.0	0.6
Consortium percentages		-	0.5	3.9	18.5	43.9	25.1	7.0	0.4	0.0		99.4	76.5	32.6	0.6

ALL PUPILS	NOR	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	EP	Total	% L 5+	% L 6+	% L 7+	% NL
Total numbers	2145	0	0	36	338	924	613	205	18	0	2134				
Percentages		0	0	2	16	43	29	10	1	0		99.5	82.1	39.0	0.5
Consortium	7724	0	29	207	1056	3203	2330	776	76	2	7679		6,387.0	3,184.0	0.6
Consortium percentages		-	0.4	2.7	13.7	41.5	30.2	10.0	1.0	0.0		99.4	82.7	41.2	0.6

