



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

**18<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022**

#### **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)**

#### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND WELSH LANGUAGE SERVICES, COUNCILLOR RHYS LEWIS**

**Author: Martyn Silezin, 14-19 Strategy Officer (Tel: 07508472085)**

#### **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 constitution of Rhondda Cynon Taf SACRE (Appendix A).
- 1.3 To inform Members that the Annual Report of the RCT SACRE for the academic year 2020-2021 is available (Appendix B).

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the content of the Annual Report 2020-2021.

#### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To ensure that Members are reassured that our statutory obligations are met.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Every local authority (LA) has a statutory duty to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), to advise on matters concerned with the provision of Religious Education (RE) and collective worship (Education Reform Act 1988).
- 4.2 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’.

4.3 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 to identify whether any changes need to be made in the agreed syllabus or in the support offered which might be taken to improve provision.

4.4 Each SACRE must publish an annual report on its work.

## **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

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

## **6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no Welsh Language implications as the contents of the report is for information only.

## **7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

7.1 No consultation exercise has been required.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

8.1 There are no financial considerations.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

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

## **10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

10.1 Educational performance has a clear link to the Council’s priority of Building a Strong Economy. Improved educational performance will have a positive impact on this priority.

10.2 SACRE brings together the views and experiences of several groups to enhance the delivery of religion, values, and ethics (RVE) in RCT schools to promote inclusion and understanding of a number of groups. Thus, leading to a more cohesive community.

10.3 The effective delivery of RVE helps to reduce extremist views and to promote wellbeing in an individual. In turn, this helps to reduce intervention in the future

leading to a healthier and more resilient community that values equality both on a local and global scale.

- 10.4 Embedded in the delivery of RVE is the Welsh culture and language and compliments the delivery in other areas of the new curriculum.
- 10.5 The RCT SACRE works with a number of National bodies to help inform national decisions in the delivery of RVE.

## **11. STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS**

- 11.1 The introduction of the Curriculum for Wales will require the SACRE to establish an Agreed Syllabus (AS) which will roll out over the coming years to replace the Agreed Local Syllabus (ALS). This syllabus will have to pay due regard to the national guidelines whose publication has been delayed due to the pandemic. This may cause a squeeze on the introduction in time for schools to plan their effective delivery.

## **12. CONCLUSION**

- 12.1 Changes in the way support for schools are organised and delivered have resulted in the provision of a traditional subject led advisory service to a more school-to-school self-supporting system. Therefore such changes in working practices have required SACRE to fulfil its role and functions with schools using a consultative model.
- 12.2 Due to the disruption during the academic year resulting from the COVID pandemic, communication and progress has been hampered and the promised national frameworks have been delayed.

### **Other Information:-**

#### ***Relevant Scrutiny Committee***

Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee

#### ***Contact Officer***

Martyn Silezin, 14-19 Strategy Officer (Tel: 07508 472085)



**Rhondda Cynon Taf**  
Standing Advisory Council on  
Religious Education

**Annual Report  
for the Academic Year  
2020 - 2021**

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### 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”)
- report to the LA and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) on its activities on an annual basis.

### 1.5 **SACRE meetings**

Three meetings of SACRE were held during the 2020– 2021 academic year:

- 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020
- 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021
- 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021

All meetings were held online, via Microsoft Teams.

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 are circulated to the organisations/establishments listed in Appendix 3.

<b>SECTION 2</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>
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## 2.1 Religious Education

**Aim:** To monitor provision and standards in religious education

**Action:**

1. SACRE ordinarily considers and analyses school inspection reports. If there are any issues regarding religious education, such as the non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, the LA is alerted in order to follow up on these issues. As the inspection cycle was suspended for this academic year, SACRE has been unable to utilise this method for monitoring standards in religious education.
2. In past years SACRE has analysed examination results over a three-year period and identified trends in performance benchmarked against all Wales data. Schools are usually informed of the outcomes of this analysis and SACRE raises any issues schools should be addressing as a result of this analysis. From summer 2019, Welsh Government introduced new arrangements which prevented the sharing of individual school performance data, Local authority aggregated data and national data. As a result, this analysis did not take place and this continued in 2019-20 due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. SACRE is awaiting guidance from WASACRE on the nature of information that can be shared with SACRE members because of changes to guidance on the sharing of school data from the Welsh Government.
3. The LA and its SACRE usually gather and analyse data regarding key stage 3 teacher assessment in religious education. Due to the continuing pandemic and the major impacts of its disruption of pupils' education, this data has not been requested from schools for this report.
4. SACRE has previously sent all schools the WASACRE guidance document entitled *Managing the Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education*. This useful guidance document is intended to support schools dealing with withdrawal and also to share with parents who may be considering withdrawing their child from RE. It is noted, that under the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act, 2021, the parental right to withdraw children from

Religion, Values and Ethics will cease. The right for parents to withdraw their children from collective worship will remain.

## **2.2 Agreed syllabus**

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

**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 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. Since 2013 and throughout the academic year 2020-2021, SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments relating to Religion, Values and Ethics within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience in the new Curriculum for Wales. SACRE members have been fully involved in consultations and feedback on developments around the new curriculum and in particular proposals for changes to external qualifications at age 16 (Qualifications Wales) and the development of the guidance on the design and delivery of mandatory RVE (Welsh Government private and public consultations).
4. SACRE still awaits final details from Welsh Government confirming the shape of the statutory guidance for RVE to convene the Agreed Syllabus Conference. SACRE receives advice from WASACRE on the latest developments. WASACRE is involved in these curriculum developments and reports to SACREs on decisions taken by Welsh Government.

## **2.3 Teaching materials**

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

**Action:**

1. All schools are informed of the 2020 Holocaust Memorial Day theme. Holocaust resources can be found on their website [www.hmd.org.uk](http://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. During the pandemic, SACRE's Consultant, Angela Hill, compiled a comprehensive catalogue of free to access classroom resources for RE, with an emphasis on materials suitable for home learning, online lessons and



socially distanced lessons in the classroom. These were circulated to all Rhondda Cynon Taf schools. The accompanying letter reminded Headteachers of the duty to continue to provide good quality RE as a statutory requirement under law and explained the benefits of good RE for pupil wellbeing and development. Teachers were invited to share good practice with SACRE.

## **2.4 Training for teachers**

**Issue:** To ensure that teachers are able to access appropriate CPD

**Action:**

1. With the current Welsh Assembly Government's emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy no subject specific training is on offer.
2. The RS Lead Practitioners' Hwb continues to offer networking meetings to secondary school Heads of RE and teachers of RE, primarily focused on improving outcomes in external qualifications.
3. SACRE is aware of the continuing need for CPD of teachers of RE and also of the shortage of RE specialists.

## **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 (SMSC) and the LA follows up on any non-fulfilment of statutory requirements by requesting their action plan. There no schools inspected in Rhondda Cynon Taf this year due to the pandemic, therefore, no non-fulfilment of statutory requirements identified. The provision for collective worship had positive comments stating that schools were promoting pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development well.
2. SACRE has continued to inform schools of appropriate resources and websites that support collective worship in schools, including resources and advice on collective worship during the months of the pandemic. WASACRE, via SACREs, provided comprehensive advice and a list of free to access resources to help schools to continue to provide collective worship during the pandemic.

## **2.6 Other issues**

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

**Action:**

1. SACRE has maintained its membership of the Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE) and receives termly feedback from meetings of the association.
2. Members have received presentations and reports this year at each termly meeting, as well as SACRE circulating information and minutes from WASACRE in between these meetings.
3. SACRE members from faith and belief communities have been encouraged to offer their services to schools in the form of providing online collective worship sessions or observing collective worship in the county's schools.
4. SACRE is exploring options for engaging young people with its work. It has worked collaboratively with the County's secondary schools and has co-opted a youth SACRE member. SACRE will now explore further possibilities, i.e. establishing a 'Youth SACRE'.

<b>SECTION 3</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF THE ADVICE GIVEN TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b>
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### **3.1 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.

In 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 2020-21, SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments affecting RVE in the new Curriculum for Wales. In March 2021, SACRE responded to a Qualifications Wales consultation '*Qualified for the Future*' which proposed changes to external qualifications at age 16. SACRE also responded to a private Welsh Government consultation on the statutory guidance for RVE in April 2021 and the subsequent public consultation on the same in July 2021. The finalised and definitive statutory guidance for the design and delivery of RVE in the Curriculum for Wales is required to enable SACRE to begin the necessary agreed syllabus review, and to call an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

### **3.2 Standards in Religious Education**

SACRE has adopted a number of strategies for monitoring standards achieved in religious education in the authority's schools: these have included analysing school inspection reports, reviewed examination results and analysing end of key stage 3 data, although these measures have not been possible in informing this report, due to Covid-19 pandemic as well as new Welsh Government arrangements for the sharing of data from schools. SACRE has written to all schools reminding them of the statutory duties relating to RVE, signposting them towards high quality learning and teaching materials and inviting schools to contact SACRE should they need further support or guidance, or to share good practice.

### **Examination results**

This annual report SACRE would usually include analysis of examination performance in Religious Studies GCSE full and short course, and AS and A Level for 2020, comparing examination results in the county with the All-Wales figures and with the results in previous years. Due to new arrangements for sharing data introduced by Welsh Government and explained on page 5 of this report, this analysis has not taken place. It is also worth noting that grades for external qualifications in Wales for summer 2020 were centre determined as pupils were unable to sit examinations during the pandemic.

### **School inspection reports**

In order to fulfil its functions effectively, SACRE considers inspection reports and Estyn surveys. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, no school inspections were undertaken in the period covered by this annual report in Rhondda Cynon Taf. SACRE does, however, note that during the academic year 2020-2021, two primary schools and one secondary school in Rhondda Cynon Taf made sufficient progress in addressing Estyn's recommendations from prior inspection to be removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn review. No comments were made by Estyn relevant to the provision of RE and/or collective worship.

## **3.3 Methods of teaching, choice of teaching materials, teacher training**

### **Continuing professional development**

WASACRE has continued to provide resources and advice for RE and collective worship which was distributed to schools via SACRE.

SACRE's Consultant, Angela Hill, compiled a comprehensive catalogue of free to access classroom resources for RE, with an emphasis on materials suitable for home learning, online lessons and socially distanced lessons in the classroom. These were circulated to all Rhondda Cynon Taf schools. The accompanying letter reminded Headteachers of the duty to continue to provide good quality RE as a statutory requirement under law and explained the benefits of good RE for pupil wellbeing and development. Teachers were invited to share good practice with SACRE.

<b>SECTION 4</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF THE ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP</b>
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Monitoring of collective worship has continued through a review of inspection report findings.

SACRE circulated advice and resources compiled by WASACRE to aid schools to fulfil their obligations around collective worship under the challenging and constantly evolving circumstances brought about by the pandemic and invited schools to contact us if they needed any further support. No schools made contact with SACRE regarding this issue.

#### **4.1 School inspection reports**

The Estyn Common Inspection Framework notes that inspectors should only report on instances where the school does not comply with statutory requirements in relation to collective worship. There were no full school inspections during the academic year 2020-2021, and therefore, no indication of non-compliance with statutory requirements in relation to collective worship.

#### **4.2 School self-evaluation**

It was decided in 2018 that SACRE would not continue to use the school self-evaluation proforma as a means of monitoring provision and standards in religious education.

#### **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.

<b>SECTION 5</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF OTHER ISSUES</b>
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#### **5.1 WASACRE**

SACRE continues to support the work of WASACRE and recognises the value of the body in promoting religious education and collective worship on a national basis. During 2020 - 2021 issues considered at WASACRE meetings have been fully reported back to SACRE. SACRE is represented on the WASACRE executive committee by teacher representative, Mathew Maidment, who is an elected member of the WASACRE Executive committee as well as Angela Hill, SACRE's professional consultant. Both attend regular meetings.

## **5.2 National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (NAPfRE)**

SACRE was represented on NAPfRE by its independent consultant, Angela Hill. This has facilitated SACRE in keeping abreast of developments across Wales and has enabled it to play a crucial role in informing decisions and policies that affect religious education. NAPfRE have worked closely with Welsh Government and other stakeholders during the development of the new curriculum, and this year on the development of statutory guidance for Religion, Values and Ethics in the Curriculum for Wales.

## **5.3 Curriculum developments**

SACRE has received termly updates and detailed advice from its consultant regarding curriculum developments as they relate to RE/RVE and collective worship. With the passing of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill, RE will, from 2022 be re-named as 'Religion, Values and Ethics' (RVE). RVE will be a statutory curriculum requirement from nursery until age 16 and will form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience. The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act, 2021 removes the current parental right to withdraw children from all or part of RVE in Wales. There are also significant changes in relation to the status of locally agreed syllabi which have been discussed by SACRE. Further clarification on these matters is awaited with the publication of the final statutory guidance for RVE, which has been delayed and is expected by December 2021. SACRE members have received detailed information and advice on these issues with opportunities to comment and put forward questions. SACRE has responded to the two Welsh Government consultations relating to the statutory guidance for RVE this academic year (one private SACRE consultation in April 2021 and the subsequent public consultation in July 2021). In March, SACRE also responded to the *Qualified for the Future* consultation issued by Qualifications Wales, seeking views on proposals relating to qualifications at age 16.

## **5.4 Training of SACRE members**

As part of training for members, SACRE has:

- Kept members updated on developments in RE/RVE and collective worship through regular presentations, discussions and advice from SACRE's consultant to SACRE members. This year Angela Hill gave updates on curriculum developments relating to the New Curriculum for Wales, including the Qualifications Wales *Qualified for the Future* consultation and the Welsh Government consultations on the Guidance on the design and delivery of mandatory Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) and their implications for the future of RVE in Wales.
- Discussed intentions to hold future meetings at places of worship in Rhondda Cynon Taf for members to familiarise themselves with the faith communities, when the situation with the pandemic allows.

- Considered reinstating meetings held at local schools so that members can see first-hand educational contexts for RE in Rhondda Cynon Taf's schools and have opportunities to be addressed by teachers, leaders and learners of RE.
- Invited its members to attend the three annual meetings of Wales Association for SACREs (WASACRE) as well as ensuring that the SACRE was represented at WASACRE by its Consultant, Angela Hill, who gave detailed feedback from these meetings to SACRE members

## **5.5 Youth representation on SACRE**

SACRE have been exploring possibilities with regard to youth representation on SACRE. To date, SACRE has held several discussions on this issue and is working collaboratively with secondary schools in the local authority to consider how best to ensure young people's voices are heard in relation to issues affecting their education in Religion, Values and Ethics and also on matters relating to collective worship. So far, SACRE has co-opted one 'youth member'. Plans for a potential 'Youth SACRE' will be further explored in the next academic year.

<b>Appendix 1</b>	<b>SACRE Membership</b>
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Local authority: 6 Places  
 Religions and denominations: 14 Places

Teacher Associations:

10 Places

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>RCT CBC – LA Officers</b>	
	Gaynor Davies
	Martyn Silezin
	Eirwen Davies, RCT Clerk to SACRE
<b>RCT CBC - LA members</b>	
	County Borough Councillor Jeffrey Elliott (VICE CHAIR)
	County Borough Councillor Ann Crimmings
	County Borough Councillor Mark Adams
	County Borough Councillor Sharon Rees
	County Borough Councillor Geraint Davies
	County Borough Councillor Geraint Hopkins
<b>Religions and denominations</b>	
Baptist Union of Wales	The Reverend David Brownutt (CHAIR)
Church in Wales	The Reverend Peter Lewis
Catholic Church	Wendy Lavagna
Sikh	Mrs Balbir Kaur
Bahá'í	Carol Adams
Jewish	Prof. David Cohen
Church in Wales	Ruth Moverley
Humanists UK	Mike Reynolds
Muslim faith	Mark Bryant
<b>Teacher associations</b>	
NAS/UWT	Donna Graves (Y Pant Comprehensive)
NAS/UWT	Mr Mathew Maidment (Bryncelynnog Comprehensive)
NEU	Lynsey Parsons (Cwmlai Primary)
NAS/UWT	Catherine Drew (Tonyrefail Community School)
<b>Co-opted members</b>	
Co-opted	Jane Ward
Co-opted	Anastasia O'Reilly
<b>RE Consultant</b>	Angela Hill

Three online meetings of SACRE were held during the 2020–2021 academic year on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

**17<sup>th</sup> November 2020:**

- Welcome and apologies for absence
- Membership updates, election/re-election of Chair and Vice Chair
- Minutes of the last meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- Action Points and Matters Arising
- SACRE Annual Report 2019 – 2020
- Discussion of youth representation on SACRE
- WASACRE business
- Outcomes of consultation on legislative proposals for RVE
- WJEC updates
- Supporting RE and collective worship in the ‘new normal’
- AOB
- Schedule of future meetings for the academic year 2020-2021

**13<sup>th</sup> April 2021:**

- Welcome and apologies
- Membership updates
- Minutes of the last meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020
- Action points/Matters Arising
- WASACRE business
- Update on assessment of RS at GCSE, AS and A Level
- Youth representation on SACRE
- Update on supporting RE and collective worship in schools in the ‘new normal’
- May consultation on Draft Framework for Religion, Values and Ethics
- AOB
- Schedule of future meetings

**15<sup>th</sup> June 2021:**

- Welcome and apologies for absence
- Minutes from the last meeting
- Matters arising and actions
- Membership updates
- Correspondence: Welsh Government response to letter regarding delaying the new Curriculum
- Welsh Government public consultation: Guidance on the design and delivery of Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE)
- Proposed arrangements for external examinations in 2022
- WASACRE business



- Discussion of future venues for SACRE meetings
- AOB
- Schedule of dates for future meetings

<b>Appendix 3</b>	<b>List of organisations to which this report is being sent</b>
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- 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
- Religious Education Council for England and Wales
- Cytun
- Swansea Metropolitan University
- Cardiff Metropolitan University

<b>Appendix 4</b>	<b>Development plan</b>
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**Aim 1: To monitor standards in Religious Education and Religious Studies.  
Work with school staff to support the above and to add value to work of the SACRE**

*Questions to consider*

- *How well do we know how our schools and the SACRE is doing?*
- *Do we have enough information to make judgements?*
- *What else could we do?*
- *Is there any way we can support teachers' professional development –CPD?*
- *What do we need to do to help schools understand the role of SACRE?*

<b>Areas of development</b>	<b>Schedule Actions to consider</b>	<b>People involved</b>	<b>Time and costs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Progress at June 2021</b>
1.1 Monitor standards through regular <b>Review of inspection reports/ Estyn thematic reviews/ school self-evaluation reports and recommend, where necessary, action by Local authority.</b>	Annual agenda item autumn term  SACRE to schedule discussions during 2021-2022 meetings on arrangements for using inspection reports to monitor standard when inspections resume and when RVE becomes part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience within the New Curriculum for Wales	Full SACRE Consultant	Agenda time Consultant time for strategic planning and analysis	Advice to LA on trends across the county borough; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools; follow up through school visits and review of action plan where necessary.	Inspection analysis will resume once Estyn re-instate school inspections. SACRE's consultation has kept abreast of schools requiring monitoring visits. No issues relating to RE or collective worship were raised.

Areas of development	Schedule Actions to consider	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress at June 2021
<p>1.2 Receive information on results of: Teacher Assessment at end of Key Stage 3; GCSE Religious Studies Full and Short Course; A/AS level Religious Studies.</p>	<p>By spring term meeting 2022, SACRE to discuss Welsh Government's new arrangements for analysing data, and consider how best to keep in touch with schools to monitor standards in RE/RVE</p>	<p>Full SACRE Consultant</p>	<p>Agenda time Consultant time for strategic planning and analysis of information</p>	<p>SACRE should be in a position to offer advice to LA on trends and issues arising across the county and, where appropriate, in relation to individual schools during the next academic year</p>	<p>This data has not been scrutinised this academic year due to revised arrangements relating to the pandemic as well as Welsh Government's new arrangements for utilising comparative data.</p>
<p>1.3 Identify CPD needs, monitor and offer advice on training.</p>	<p>Ongoing during 2021-2022</p>	<p>Full SACRE</p>	<p>Agenda time Consultant time for strategic planning and delivery</p>	<p>Training programme implemented and delivered, along with figures on uptake, and feedback (with analysis) from participants; advice to LA.</p>	<p>The Lead Practitioners' Hwb for secondary Heads and teachers of RE has continued termly meetings online termly, focussing on developing resources and improving outcomes for external RS examinations, and, this year on centre-determined grades. There remains a shortage of specialist RE CPD, particularly for primary schools, and the new curriculum will continue to make demands for this. SACRE awaits definitive statutory</p>

Areas of development	Schedule Actions to consider	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress at June 2021
					guidance from Welsh Government to move forward with this.
1.4 Involve staff in schools more closely with work of the SACRE	ongoing	Full SACRE teachers	Agenda time Consultant time	Improved understanding of all SACRE members of work in schools and better understanding of the work of the SACRE	School staff contributed to discussions on all matters of SACRE work and contributed to SACRE's responses to the two Welsh Government consultations this academic year as well as the Qualifications Wales consultation. Meetings at school venues will be reinstated as soon as this is possible. Correspondence was sent to schools to remind them of statutory duties around RE and to guide them with resources. Schools were encouraged to enter into a dialogue with/share good practice via SACRE. During the spring term 2021, SACRE's consultant reported on the work of the

Areas of development	Schedule Actions to consider	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress at June 2021
					SACREs across the five CSCJES authorities to Directors of Education and discussed curriculum development affecting RVE.

**Aim 2: To review the agreed syllabus (as appropriate) and support its implementation, taking into consideration the new curriculum arrangements for RE as they are implemented**

*Questions to consider*

- *How will new curriculum arrangements impact actions?*
- *What support will schools need?*
- *How can SACRE members be best updated on new curriculum?*

Areas of development	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
2.1 To review the agreed syllabus for Religious Education	Autumn 2021 onwards/as soon as the Welsh Government publishes definitive and final guidance for RVE in the Curriculum for Wales	Full SACRE Consultant Working group WASACRE NAPfRE	Advisory time to review the agreed syllabus. Establish a working group (if applicable). Convene a Standing Conference to adopt the syllabus Publication/ translation costs (as appropriate)	Agreed syllabus reviewed and adopted by Standing Conference. Agreed Syllabus training programme for schools. Agreed syllabus to be implemented the autumn term after adoption/on commencement of new curriculum.	Curriculum issues are discussed at termly SACRE meetings. As SACRE still unclear about potential changes with new curriculum developments this will need to be on the agenda at each meeting. SACRE still awaits definitive statutory guidance on RVE in

Areas of development	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
					the new Curriculum for Wales to progress.
2.2 Materials to support implementation of the agreed syllabus for RE	Ongoing	Full SACRE Consultant	<p>Consultant and members' time</p> <p>Agenda time in meetings and possible extra ordinary meetings/working parties plus the Agreed Syllabus Conference</p> <p>Working group/teachers</p>	Support materials available to schools and accessed through Consortium website.	WASACRE and NAPfRE can be contacted to advise. Statutory guidance for RVE has yet to be published.
2.3 To keep updated on progress in terms of implementation of RVE in new curriculum	In line with WG implementation process	Full SACRE Consultant	Consultant time	Schools well informed and prepared to introduce new arrangements	Curriculum development is to be on each agenda. Members have participated in in-depth discussions on issues relating to the place of RVE in the New Curriculum and have contributed to 2 further WG consultations, plus one from Qualifications Wales.

**Aim 3: To monitor provision and provide support for collective worship.**

*Questions to consider*

- *Are there other ways SACRE members can monitor the above?*
- *Links with Estyn?*

<b>Areas of development</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>People involved</b>	<b>Time and costs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Progress</b>
3.1 Monitor provision for collective worship through regular review of inspection reports/ school self-evaluation reports; recommend, where necessary, action by LA.	Annual agenda item autumn term	Full SACRE and Adviser	Agenda time Adviser time for analysis	Advice to LA on trends across the LA; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools; follow up contact and review of action plan where necessary.	This method of analysis has been unavailable this academic year but will resume once the situation in schools becomes more settled and once Estyn resumes its inspection cycle.
3.2 To support the implementation of statutory collective worship	Ongoing	Consultant, SACRE members as volunteers	Consultant time Volunteer time	Schools informed of resources and websites for collective worship. Schools informed of guidance materials available for collective worship	Schools were all provided with comprehensive guidance and direction towards resources for collective worship. Headteachers were reminded, in the accompanying correspondence of their duty to continue to provide collective worship even if social distancing/lockdown measures were in force.

**Aim 4: To ensure a more informed SACRE through providing regular updates on local and national issues related to RE and collective worship in schools.**

*Questions to consider*

- *How can SACRE member's best develop their role as a Council?*
- *In what other ways can we ensure that schools and local community understand the role and wok of SACRE?*
- *What do we need to do to improve as a SACRE?*

<b>Areas of development</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>People involved</b>	<b>Time and costs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Progress</b>
4.1 To update members on the role of SACRE and its implications; recent developments in RE/RVE and collective worship; guidance materials from relevant bodies; input from practising teachers and outside providers	Termly/ Annually as required	SACRE members, Consultant, practising teachers, outside providers	Member time; Consultant / Officer time	SACRE members fully aware of their responsibilities. SACRE and schools updated and informed of recent developments and initiatives, both local and national.	Input form teacher representatives at SACRE meetings has helped to progress this, alongside advice from SACRE's consultant and updates from WASACRE and, where appropriate, NAPfRE
4.2 Programme of school visits.	Termly/ Annually as required	SACRE members, Adviser/ Officers	Member time; Officer time to arrange visits	More informed SACRE on provision and practice regarding RE and collective worship in schools.	This has not been possible due to the pandemic. SACRE will discuss and resume its scheduled meetings at local schools in the coming academic year, as the situation permits.
4.3 To ensure that members are	Termly/Annually as required	SACRE members,	Member time; Officer time to arrange visits	see 4.1	Ongoing as development plan



Areas of development	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
aware of strengths and areas for development of the SACRE		Adviser/ Officers			updated
4.4 To develop cross-SACRE working across the 5 local authorities of CSCJES Consortium	Cross-SACRE working may facilitate the development of the new agreed syllabus for RVE and may be ongoing throughout 2021-2022, with judgements made about continuation thereafter at a later date	SACRE members/ Officers and adviser	Member time, office time, adviser time	Working with other SACREs to share good practice and to gain better insight into issues around RE and collective worship across the 5 local authorities.	This development point has been necessarily put on hold to enable SACRE to fulfil its core duties during the challenging circumstances this year, not only in relation to Covid-19 but also in regard to supporting three consultations on RVE.
4.5 To develop ways of involving the County's learners' engagement with SACRE and explore the possibility of a 'Youth SACRE'	ongoing	SACRE members, teachers, co-opted youth members	Member time, officer time, teachers' time, consultant time for strategic planning	Working with schools in the local authority to explore how best to engage young people with the work of SACRE, to enable them to have a meaningful voice around future developing affecting RVE and collective worship.	SACRE has worked with one of the LA's secondary schools and has co-opted a young person onto the SACRE. From here, SACRE will explore how best to develop youth involvement for the benefit of pupils across the LA.

**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:
  - specify any matters on which it has advised the LA;
  - broadly describe the nature of the advice;
  - 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.

In order to qualify for membership of RCT SACRE, all members must either reside within Rhondda Cynon Taf or be employed by Rhondda Cynon Taf Council.

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.

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.

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.
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.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**18<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND WELSH LANGUAGE SERVICES, COUNCILLOR RHYS LEWIS**

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

**Background Papers**

None

**Officer to contact:** Martyn Silezin, 14-19 Strategy Officer (Tel: 07508 472085)