



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

### **CABINET**

**17<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023**

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

#### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND WELSH LANGUAGE (COUNCILLOR R 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 1).
- 1.3 To inform Members that the Annual Report of the RCT SACRE for the academic year 2021-2022 is available (Appendix A).

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the content of the Annual Report 2021-2022.

#### **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.

4.5 In line with the Curriculum for Wales (CfW), each authority must also create a standing advisory committee (SAC) to perform much the same role as SACRE for the Religious, Values and Ethics (RVE) element. The RVE element is being phased in over a period of six years and the SAC and SACRE will co-exist until the eventual demise of the SACRE. This group has been established and has the same membership as the SACRE and considers RVE issues in separate meeting time.

## **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 changes in the provision of traditional subject led advisory service to a more school-to-school self-supporting system. Such changes in working practices have required SACRE/SAC to fulfil its role and functions with schools using a consultative model.
- 12.2 Due to the disruption during the academic year, communication and some progress has been hampered and the promised national frameworks have been delayed. The decision to delay the introduction of a qualification framework to match the CfW, in particular, looks like it will result in a two-year gap where schools will be using legacy qualifications whilst delivering the CfW. This will bring in its train a number of difficulties at a variety of levels.

### **Other Information:-**

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

Education and Inclusion Scrutiny

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

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

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

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

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**17<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023**

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

**Background Papers**

None

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



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

**Annual Report 2021 – 2022**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021- 2022

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# **THE ANNUAL REPORT OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**2021-2022**

## **A MESSAGE FROM RHONDDA CYNON TAF SACRE MEMBERS**

The 2021-2022 academic year continued to be an unprecedented time for people due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The thoughts of SACRE members are with all those who have been affected by the virus, including those who have become ill and who may have lost loved ones.

Members would also like to express gratitude to everyone in the education sector for the sterling work you are doing to provide children and young people in Wales with care, support, and education throughout this difficult time.

The Local Authority and SACRE has been able to provide support to schools via email and through partnership with Central South Consortium Joint Education Services (CSCJES). The CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE, Donna Graves, has been available to provide advice and support to schools on RE, RVE and Collective Worship throughout this period and has worked with the Wales Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (WASACRE) and the National Advisory Panel on Religious Education (NAPfRE). Additionally, the SACRE Clerk has continued to distribute and receive relevant correspondence to schools. SACRE meetings were moved online, to continue their function during Covid-19.

Members would like to remind practitioners engaged with RE/RS/RVE that SACRE is here to support you with advice on teaching, learning and resources. Additionally, support from SACRE is also available for the Daily Act of Collective Worship.

Rhondda Cynon Taf SACRE welcomes correspondence via the contacts below:

The Clerk to SACRE: [Eirwen.Davies@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:Eirwen.Davies@rctcbc.gov.uk)

## **SECTION 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE**

### **1.1 Duty to Establish SACRE**

All local authorities are required to constitute Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) within their local area.

### **1.2 Composition of SACRE**

The membership of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education is determined by the Education Acts of 1944, 1993, the Education Reform Act of 1988 and the 2021 Curriculum and Assessment Act in Wales. SACRE has three constituent groups; each group being entitled to one vote:

- members appointed to the group to represent a religion, denomination or non-religious philosophical conviction shall, so far as is consistent with the efficient discharge of the group's functions, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that religion, denomination or non-religious philosophical conviction in the area;
- associations representing teachers;
- the Local Authority (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 members representing each of these groups for 2021- 2022 are listed in Appendix 1.

### **1.4 Functions of SACRE**

The main function of a SACRE is to:

- advise the LA about religious education and collective worship;
- require the authority to review the agreed syllabus;
- consider applications from schools for determinations (to be exempt from the requirement that worship be "Christian");
- publish an annual report on its work;
- play a part in the local statutory complaints procedure where cases are referred to it relating to religious education or collective worship.

Advice may relate to:

- pedagogy;
- the choice of teaching resources;
- the provision of professional learning;
- any other matter relating to religious education (RE), religion, values and ethics (RVE) and collective worship which SACRE considers appropriate.

### **1.5 Record of Meetings**

Three meetings of SACRE were held on the Microsoft Teams virtual platform during the academic year 2021-2022:

- Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021



- Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022

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 2: ADVICE GIVEN BY SACRE**

### **2.1 The Locally Agreed Syllabus**

The Rhonda Cynon Taf Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) has fulfilled its legal requirement to review and agree the agreed syllabus for Religious Education during this academic year. Rhondda Cynon Taf SACRE support the agreed syllabus put in place by the ASC and Local Authority. This includes a new Locally Agreed syllabus in line with the requirements for Religion, Values and Ethics within the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021.

In February 2022 the ASC endorsed the re-adoption of the current Rhondda Cynon Taf agreed syllabus for religious education with an understanding that the syllabus would be replaced by the Curriculum for Wales agreed syllabus as it rolls out across schools and settings from September 2022. Secondary schools have been advised to continue to follow this syllabus until the completion of the roll out of RVE. This Syllabus had previously been re-adopted in 2013

Welsh Government published the statutory guidance for RVE on Hwb, on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022. SACRE advised the LA on the statutory guidance for RVE to convene the Agreed Syllabus Conference in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021. Between February and July 2022, the ASC convened to produce a new agreed syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021, to be presented to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. In July 2022 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and SACRE adopted a new agreed syllabus for the authority's schools to be implemented from September 2022 for all primary schools' learners, up to and including Year 6. For Year 7 learners, schools in the region had the flexibility to roll out the Curriculum for Wales to year 7 in September 2022, or to roll out the Curriculum for Wales for Years 7 and 8 together in September 2023. During the period of curriculum roll out, as a secondary school or setting 'adopts' the Curriculum for Wales Framework for a particular year group, this Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council agreed syllabus will supersede the current/legacy Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council agreed syllabus.

This new agreed syllabus sets out the details regarding teaching and learning in the mandatory element of Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) in line with the Curriculum for Wales, for all schools and settings maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. The document has been adopted as the agreed syllabus for RVE in Rhondda Cynon Taf, in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021. Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council has adopted the document as the agreed syllabus for RVE in May 2022, following a formal recommendation to the Local Authority by the Agreed Syllabus Conference in July 2022. Copies of the 2022 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council agreed syllabus are available on the council's website, CSCJES website and from the SACRE Clerk.

## 2.2 Standards in Religious Education

SACRE provided advice to the LA on standards in religious education. However, the Covid -19 pandemic had made it impossible for SACRE to undertake school visits. Changes to Welsh government guidance on school performance data and reporting of Key Stage three assessment data has changed the way that SACRE has been able to monitor school performance in RE in the Secondary sector. SACRE has continued to consult Estyn reports for evidence of standards of RE provision, and no issues have been raised with regard to RE or collective worship.

## 2.3 Curriculum

SACRE has received termly updates and detailed advice from the CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE regarding curriculum developments as they relate to RE/RVE and collective worship. With the passing of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill, RE is, from September 2022 re-named as 'Religion, Values and Ethics' (RVE). RVE is the statutory curriculum requirement from 3 years until the age of 16 and forms 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. The publication of the final statutory guidance for RVE, was delayed until the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022. SACRE members have received detailed information and advice on the statutory Guidance for RVE with opportunities to comment and put forward questions. The Rhondda Cynon Taf ASC, was convened by the Local Authority, according to the RVE legislation in the Curriculum for Wales. In February 2022 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the current Rhondda Cynon Taf agreed syllabus for religious education with an understanding that the syllabus would be replaced by the Curriculum for Wales agreed syllabus as it rolls out across schools and settings from last September 2022. Secondary schools have been advised to continue to follow this syllabus until the completion of the roll out of RVE.

SACRE has been advised on the curriculum changes to RVE. Welsh Government plans for a fully inclusive education system where all learners have the equality of access to a broad, balanced curriculum and make progress towards the "Four Purposes" recommended in the Donaldson Review. As part of this equality of access, the Welsh Government has changed the legislation regarding the parental right of withdrawal, from RVE under the new curriculum. Parents legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship is still permitted as RVE and collective worship are separate entities. SACRE held discussions about possible future enquiries and concerns from stakeholders in regard to this matter. SACRE also explored the changes to Religion, Values and Ethics as a statutory requirement of the Curriculum for Wales and is mandatory for all learners from ages 3 to 16. The guidance states that mandatory *"Religion, values and ethics (RVE) is a statutory requirement of the Curriculum for Wales and is mandatory for all learners from ages 3 to 16. RVE forms part of the Humanities Area. This Area encompasses geography; history; religion, values and ethics; business studies. These disciplines share many common themes, concepts and transferable skills, whilst having their own discrete body of knowledge and skills."* <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/humanities/designing-your-curriculum/#religion,-values-and-ethics-guidance> SACRE discussed that the new Rhondda Cynon Taf agreed syllabus reflects that:

- the religious traditions in Wales are in the main Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Wales

- the fact that a range of non-religious philosophical convictions are held in Wales

SACRE discussed that Rhondda Cynon Taf schools and settings also need to take note of the following legislative changes which will have a significant impact on schools:

- There is no parental right to withdraw their children from the academic subject of RVE within the Curriculum for Wales
- Maintained schools with nursery age children and funded non-maintained nursery settings must provide RVE for all their learners from age three, from September 2022

The RVE Guidance offers specific RVE concepts, in addition to the concepts provided in the mandatory Humanities Statements of What Matters. The [statements of what matters in this Area](#) allow learners to explore and critically engage with a broad range of religious and non-religious concepts, which should be carefully considered and underpin curriculum design. In addition, this guidance offers the RVE disciplinary lens and can help schools and settings consider relevant content for their curriculum design. In the guidance it states: *“the RVE lens is divided into a number of sub lenses through which the RVE concepts can be viewed and explored. The sub lenses are interconnected and are not intended to be units or topics. They draw on a recognised body of knowledge for RVE in Wales and help to ensure sufficient breadth and depth for RVE in the Humanities. The sub lenses lend themselves to all of the statements of what matters and are also relevant to other Areas and to the realisation of the four purposes. They help schools and settings understand significant aspects of RVE and identify opportunities for RVE within the statements of what matters to support curriculum development”*. <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/humanities/designing-your-curriculum/#religion,-values-and-ethics-guidance>

SACRE and the ASC discussed spiritual development in the curriculum for Wales framework. One of the features of the **four purposes** of the curriculum is that learners are now supported to develop as healthy, confident individuals, ready to live fulfilling lives as valued members of society. RVE has many valuable and distinctive contributions to make to this.

Rhondda Cynon Taf SACRE will continue to provide supporting materials, in addition to the agreed syllabus, to support practitioners in their curriculum planning and pedagogy, offering breadth and depth of knowledge, skills and experiences for learners across the region. These will be regularly updated and are designed to provide ongoing support for practitioners. These are intended to be ‘live’ and working documents, materials and resources to reflect the evolution of the Curriculum for Wales. In addition, SACRE acknowledges and supports the wide range of available professional learning resources and opportunities provided by CSCJES for RVE and Religious Studies (RS) practitioners.

## 2.4 Examination Results

Through the CSC Practitioner networks, schools were updated on the changes to the 2022 GCSE and GCE examinations for Religious Studies. The practitioners and CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE raised issues concerning the examinations for Religious Studies and views were shared with SACRE, WASACRE, NAPfRE and the WJEC.

During 2022-2023 SACRE will discuss ways in which the Local Authority will be able to provide meaningful information to SACRE about the quality of Religious Education and Religious Studies at KS4 within its schools.

SACRE was informed and discussed the national challenges facing RE/RS and the rapid decline in GCSE and A Level entry, since 2017. The RE Council of England and Wales published a report. SACRE were provided with a national update and discussed concerns. Concerns shared with WASACRE and NAPfRE.

## **2.5 School Inspection Reports**

In order to fulfil its functions effectively, SACRE considers inspection reports and Estyn surveys. The inspection findings of two non-maintained nursery settings, eleven primary schools, one secondary school, two through schools and one special school were published. Positive comments were made by Estyn relevant to RE/RVE and the provision of collective worship. SACRE were very pleased to note these positive comments on RE and collective worship.

If any issues emerge regarding religious education, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up requesting their action plan. Estyn made no such recommendations with regards to Spiritual Development, Collective Worship or Religious Education within these schools.

SACRE are aware of changes in reporting narrative by ESTYN in their school inspection reports. Concerns relating to these changes and the less informative style on Spiritual Development, RE/RVE and Collective Worship have been shared with WASACRE, ESTYN, the Local Authority and the Welsh Government. Discussions are ongoing in terms of monitoring the curriculum provision, pedagogy and standards in these areas in order for SACRE to fulfil its duty to report on these.

## **2.6 Professional Learning**

SACRE has continued to provide advice and guidance to schools on pedagogy and resources. CSCJES, as regional provider of school improvement services and professional learning support to schools and practitioners, has provided a wide range of professional learning programmes, materials and approaches shared with schools in the region.

CSCJES appointed a Lead Practitioner for RS to lead the half termly Secondary Religious Studies Network Meetings. The focus of the network meetings was improving standards in GCSE Religious Studies. However, the practitioners attending also receive training on the Curriculum for Wales and updates on the work of SACRE, WASACRE and other relevant bodies. There was also a focus on moderation, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources for Religious Studies.

The Consortium facilitated a new Primary Humanities Lead Practitioners' Network, which is a teacher-led network attended by primary practitioners of Humanities and RVE. Half termly meetings have been offered online and are primarily focused on designing the RVE and Humanities curriculum, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources.

SACRE were advised that CSCJES has invested in capacity for delivering bespoke support for RE/RS and RVE. This enables schools to receive direct support from the Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE, for example in developing their understanding of the Curriculum for Wales, planning and designing their RVE and Humanities curriculum. Cluster schools also work together, with the support of the adviser to co-construct and collaborate their RVE and

Humanities curriculum design along the learning continuum, from 3 to 16 years. Bespoke support is brokered through a schools Improvement Partner, allowing schools to build capacity and to increase the collective ownership for the development of curriculum, pedagogy and leadership. This model was the main driver to ensure the realisation of the new curriculum for September 2022 and the delivery of professional learning and will support the national changes in accountability and self-evaluation. RVE practitioners can access CSCJES professional learning and resources on pedagogy.

## 2.7 Pedagogy and Resources for Practitioners

The principle of subsidiarity in Curriculum for Wales, and CSCJES have offered a range of professional learning opportunities, for all practitioners within the region, focusing on sharing practice and empowering teachers. Examples of the resources and materials shared to support schools by CSC and SACRE include:

- The 2021 Interfaith Week, Sunday 14 November to Sunday 21 November, resources included lesson plans, case studies, collective worship material suitable for primary to post-16 <https://www.interfaithweek.org>
- The 2022 Holocaust Memorial Day theme 'One Day' with resources including lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk)
- WASACRE's resources and advice for RE and collective worship
- Welsh Government consultations and publications for Humanities and RVE
- Secondary RS Network Meetings for curriculum leads
- Primary Humanities Network Meetings for all primary RVE practitioners
- 'Exploring approaches to developing rich RVE within the Curriculum for Wales' materials, produced by Lat Blaylock from REToday, for primary and secondary practitioners
- An educational calendar for religious celebrations shared with schools
- The 'Lessons from Auschwitz Project' details were shared with schools
- New Humanism UK teaching resources from [www.understandinghumanism.org.uk](http://www.understandinghumanism.org.uk) and that schools could request a local Humanist speaker
- The 'Church in Wales Pilgrimage – the Gower' links and materials
- The 'History of Religion in Wales' resource
- The LGBTQ+ History Month resources
- Resources on BBC Bitesize for KS3 RVE 'Identity, Belonging and Cynefin'

- The 'Stand with Refugees: Creative teaching ideas for Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 learners' resources
- The cross regional Curriculum Design Project with Lucy Crehan resources published on Hwb
- The Jewish History Association of South Wales resources and website link to support RVE <https://www.jhasw.com/>.
- The Prof. Brian Cox's interview on the Sunday Morning show sharing profound, philosophical, spiritual perspective talking about the 'biggest questions' of all, addressing the statements of WM in the Humanities AoLE plus other AoLEs <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0017pff/sunday-morning-22052022>
- The Welsh Government publication, 'Teaching controversial issues: A guide for teachers' exploring the value of taking a global citizenship approach to teaching about controversial issues to all age groups, including guidance, classroom strategies and practical teaching activities: <https://hwb.gov.wales/repository/resource/dda70ba6-e800-4a61-a066-5ab2608c12cf>

CSCJES's Associate Adviser for RVE/RE and SACRE compiled a comprehensive range of free to access classroom resources for RE. These were available to all RCT schools. Including information posters to be used with practitioners and other stakeholders e.g. 'What's Changed in RVE?', 'What's not changed in RVE?', 'What is RVE?' and 'Learning Journeys in RVE'.

Teachers were invited to share good practice with SACRE at the meetings.

WASACRE commissioned specific professional learning relating to RVE, with Welsh Government funding and SACRE welcomed the pilot and introduction prior to rollout of publication in the autumn term in 2022. **These materials will be shared with schools when available.**

## **SECTION 3: ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **3.1 School inspection reports**

SACRE has continued to ensure that it supports schools to fulfil their statutory requirements for collective worship and provide a worthwhile experience for pupils. SACRE has monitored Estyn reports for recommendations relating to 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. SACRE has continued to inform schools of appropriate information and resources relating to collective worship. Due to the covid pandemic, there have been challenges in SACRE monitoring and observing collective worship during this academic year.

Collective worship is inspected separately to RVE but also sits within IA4 under Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) and is referred to explicitly. 'In all schools that do not provide denominational education, inspectors should consider whether there are appropriate acts of collective worship.' There was no indication of non-compliance with statutory requirements in relation to collective worship in the inspection reports for the region for 2021-2022.

WASACRE guidance on collective worship has been made available to schools through CSCJES website, community networks and professional learning sessions.

### **3.2 Applications for determinations**

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

### **3.3 School visits**

No school visits were possible this year due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. It is hoped that, as the situation improves, members will be able to visit schools and that at least one meeting per academic year can take place in one of Rhondda Cynon Taf's schools, with input from teachers, leaders and pupils.

## **SECTION 4: SUMMARY OF OTHER ISSUES**

### **4.1 WASACRE**

SACRE continues to support the work of the WASACRE and recognises the value of the body in promoting religious education and collective worship on a national basis. SACRE is invited to send up to four members to each termly WASACRE meeting and the CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE receives regular feedback from them and other representatives who attend WASACRE meetings. Full discussions take place at SACRE on the issues raised by WASACRE. All WASACRE meetings for 2021-2022 and the AGM were held online using the Microsoft Teams virtual platform.

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

SACRE was fully represented on NAPfRE by the CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE. 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. SACRE has also received reports and information this year from Estyn, and Welsh Government relating to RVE.

### **4.3 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 CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE to SACRE members
- 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/RVE in Rhondda Cynon Taf's schools and have opportunities to be addressed by teachers, leaders and learners of RE/RVE

- 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 CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE, who gave detailed feedback from these meetings to SACRE members
- shared online free webinar training sessions, with the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE)  
<https://nasacre.org.uk/training-and-support/>
- provided the WASACRE handbook for new members of SACRE  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Fblfp8Wk5NZFUZD1BFcBpxy0r5pBkavK/view>

#### **4.4 Youth Representation on SACRE**

SACRE have been exploring possibilities with regard to youth representation on SACRE. To do, 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. Plans for a potential 'Youth SACRE' will be further explored in the next academic year.



## APPENDIX 1

### SACRE MEMBERSHIP AS AT APRIL 2022

LA: 6 Places

Religions and denominations: 14 Places

Teacher Associations: 10 Places

ORGANISATION	NAME
<b>LA Officers</b>	Gaynor Davies, RCT Martyn Silezin, RCT Eirwen Davies, RCT Clerk to SACRE
<b>LA members</b>	
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	County Borough Councillor Jeffrey Elliott (VICE CHAIR)
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	County Borough Councillor Ann Crimmings
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	County Borough Councillor Mark Adams
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	County Borough Councillor Sharon Rees
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	County Borough Councillor Geraint Davies
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	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	
NAS/UWT	Mr Mathew Maidment (Bryncelynnog Comp)
NEU	Lynsey Parsons (Cwmlai Primary)
NAS/UWT	Catherine Drew (Tonyrefail CS)

<b>Co-opted members</b>	
Co-opted	Jane Ward
Co-opted	Anastasia O'Reilly
CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE	Donna Graves

## **SACRE MEMBERSHIP AS AT JULY 2022**

LA: 6 Places

Religions and denominations: 14 Places

Teacher Associations: 10 Places

<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>NAME</b>
<b>LA Officers</b>	Gaynor Davies, RCT Martyn Silezin, RCT Eirwen Davies, RCT Clerk to SACRE
<b>LA members</b>	
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	County Borough Councillor Jeffrey Elliott (VICE CHAIR)
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	County Borough Councillor Ann Crimmings
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	County Borough Councillor Geraint Hopkins
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	Vacancy
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	Vacancy
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	Vacancy
<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	
NAS/UWT	Mr Mathew Maidment (Bryncelynnog Comp)
NUT	Lynsey Parsons (Cwmlai Primary)
NAS/UWT	Catherine Drew (Tonyrefail CS)
NAS/UWT	Ffion Parker (Tonyrefail CS)
NEU	Tracey Evans (Ton Pentre JS)

<b>Co-opted members</b>	
Co-opted	Jane Ward
Co-opted	Anastasia O'Reilly
CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE	Donna Graves

In the course of the year there were changes to the membership of committee C, due to the elections in May 2022.

## APPENDIX 2

### Record of Meetings and Main Agenda Items

#### All meetings were held online, via Microsoft Teams

##### **Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

- Welcome and apologies
- Membership updates, election/re-election of Chair and Vice Chair
- Notification of AOB
- Minutes of the last meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- Action Points and Matters Arising
- SACRE Annual Report 2020 – 2021
- Curriculum updates
- WASACRE business
- Right to withdraw
- Holocaust Memorial Day
- Agreed Syllabus Conference
- Discussion for future venue and dates for SACRE spring and summer 2022 meetings
- Discussion and reflection of effective RE Teaching and Learning
- AOB

##### **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

- Welcome and Apologies
- Membership updates
- Minutes of the last meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021
- Action points/Matters Arising
- Notification of AOB
- Curriculum
- Agreed Syllabus Conference
- WASACRE business
- Qualifications
- Support for Schools
- Schedule of future meetings
- AOB

##### **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

- Welcome and apologies for absence
- Membership updates
- Minutes from the last meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

- Matters arising and actions
- Curriculum
- Agreed Syllabus Conference
- WASACRE business
- Qualifications
- ESTYN Reports
- Support for Schools
- Training for SACRE Members
- Schedule of dates for future meetings
- AOB

## APPENDIX 3

### CIRCULATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

#### List of Organisations to which this report is being 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
- Religious Education Council for England and Wales
- Cytun
- Swansea Metropolitan University
- Cardiff Metropolitan University

**Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**  
**Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

**Constitution**

**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.

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.

Any amendments required to these ToR, to keep in line with the Curriculum for Wales legislation, will be made in the next year.