

ANNUAL REPORT



Cyngor Bwrdeisdref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

2020-2021

A MESSAGE FROM BLAENAU GWENT SACRE

Blaenau Gwent SACRE members would like to express their gratitude to all those working within the education sector for their care, support and dedication to the children and young people of Blaenau Gwent throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2020-2021, like the previous academic year, has been an unprecedented time bringing challenges we could never have imagined. The thoughts of SACRE members are with all those who have been affected by the virus, including those who have become ill, and those who have sadly lost loved ones.

Members would like to remind practitioners that we can provide advice and support for teaching, learning and blended learning resources for Religious Education and for what will hopefully be a return to a more normal way of working during the forthcoming year. We can also provide advice on RE in the Curriculum for Wales 2022 as schools design school level curricular for its implementation. Additionally, support from is available for planning and delivering collective worship during this current climate.

Blaenau Gwent SACRE welcomes correspondence from schools via:

- Michelle Jones, Strategic Education Improvement Manager, michelle.jones@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
- Hayley Jones, EAS Partner for RVE and SACRE: hayley.jones@swaleseas.org.uk

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SECTION 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE

1.1 Duty to Establish a SACRE

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

1.2 Composition of SACRE

Representation on SACRE is required as follows:

- Such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the Local authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area
- Associations representing teachers
- The Local Authority

1.3 Membership of SACRE

The list of members of Blaenau Gwent SACRE is set out in Appendix 1.

During 2020-2021 SACRE efforts to fill vacancies were curtailed due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and some positions remain vacant. SACRE has written to several organisations on several occasions in recent years including CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales), the Interfaith Council for Wales and the Onyx Link Foundation to maintain representation with limited success to date.

It was noted that the Chair can invite anyone to a meeting to make presentations etc. and that this may be a possible way to identify suitable persons for co-option

SACRE have been awaiting confirmation of the changes to the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) legislation in order to review its constitution and terms of reference. This is now planned for 2021-2022.

1.4 Functions of SACRE

- To advise the Local Authority 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 from teachers.
- To consider whether to recommend to the Local Authority that its current Agreed Syllabus should be reviewed by convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference.
- To consider whether the requirement of religious worship in a county school should be 'broadly Christian in nature' should be varied (determinations)
- To report to the Local Authority and Welsh Government on its activities on an annual basis.

1.5 Meetings

Due to the disruption brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic SACRE were unable to meet during the 2020 -2021 academic year. SACRE officers and members dealt with urgent correspondence and Welsh Government consultations via email.

SACRE had resolved that, where possible, during the academic year of 2020-2021 meetings will take place on the Microsoft Teams virtual platform.

1.6 Circulation of the Report

Copies of this report are circulated electronically to those organisations and establishment listed in Appendix 3. It is also available on the Local Authority and WASACRE website.

SECTION 2: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ADVICE GIVEN BY SACRE

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the work of Blaenau Gwent SACRE during 2020-2021. SACRE has been able to provide support to schools via email and through the partnership work with the South East Wales Education Service (EAS). The EAS Professional Learning Adviser to SACRE, Ms. Paula Webber has been available to provide advice and support to schools on Religious Education and collective worship throughout the national lockdown and has continued to work with both the Wales Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (WASACRE) and the National Advisory Panel on Religious Education (NAPfRE). Additionally, the SACRE Clerk has continued to distribute and receive relevant correspondence to schools.

Summary of the advice given to the local authority by SACRE:

2.1 ADVICE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Monitoring the provision and standards in RE

Issue

To monitor provision and standards in RE

Action

1. It is the custom of SACRE to consider and analyse school inspection reports. If there are any issues regarding RE, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up. During 2020-2021 SACRE was unable to monitor RE in this way.
2. SACRE usually visits schools on an annual basis to receive a presentation on RE at the school. However, an impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was that this planned visit did not take place.
3. It has been the practice of SACRE to analyse examination results over a three-year period to identify trends in performance benchmarked against all Wales data. This analysis did not take place in the academic year 2020 – 2021. Additionally, there are new regulations surrounding data collection from schools. WASACRE are awaiting guidance from the Welsh Government as to what purposeful analysis of data might take place to monitor the quality of RE in schools in the future. SACRE will then consider how best to monitor the quality of religious education in Blaenau Gwent schools in liaison with the LA and the EAS.

Issue

To fulfil the legal requirement to review the agreed syllabus for RE on a five yearly basis and ensure the agreed syllabus is being implemented in schools

Action

1. In 2008 Blaenau Gwent SACRE endorsed and adopted the National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education as its agreed syllabus. This was implemented into schools.
2. The 2008 agreed syllabus remains in place after being re-adopted by SACRE. SACRE will review the agreed syllabus in 2018-2019 in line with legal requirements.
2. SACRE has since received updates via email of developments with the Curriculum and the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience.
3. During 2020-2021 SACRE responded to the Welsh Government consultation on the Guidance for Religion Values and Ethics in the Curriculum for Wales 2022.
4. Following the publication of the RVE guidance SACRE will advise the local authority to convene an Agreed Syllabus conference where the adoption or adaption of the framework as the Blaenau Gwent Agreed Syllabus will be discussed.

TEACHING MATERIALS

Issue

To ensure that schools are informed of suitable resources for RE.

Action

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

1. All schools were informed of the 2021 Holocaust Memorial Day theme and that free Holocaust resources could be found on the website www.hmd.org.uk – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.
2. Farmington Scholarships 2021-2022 information was sent to all schools.
3. Learning Network Schools information and the offer of support for RE was sent to all schools via the EAS.

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

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR TEACHERS

Issue

To ensure that teachers can access appropriate professional learning.

Action

The EAS has offered RE specific training to secondary school practitioners via Learning Network School leads and the Professional Learning Adviser for RE and SACREs. During 2020-2021 the EAS provided opportunities for RVE specific PL to both primary and secondary school practitioners via Learning Network Schools heads of Humanities meetings and the Professional Learning Adviser for RVE and SACREs. The focus of the training provided for Humanities and RVE included the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales 2022, the changes to legislation around RVE, Blended Learning and Diversity, and improving standards in GCSE Religious Studies. There was also a focus on providing space for practitioners to share their experiences of trying to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic, teacher led assessment for GCSE and A Level, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources for Religious Studies.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Issue

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

Action

1. SACRE monitors the sections of inspection reports that are concerned with collective worship and SMSC and the LA follows up on any non-fulfilment of statutory requirements by requesting their action plan.
2. Schools have been informed by SACRE of appropriate resources and websites that support collective worship in schools e.g. HMD 2021. During 2019-2020 Blaenau Gwent SACRE sent schools the WASACRE document entitled *Advice for Schools in Wales During the Covid-19 Pandemic* during the national lockdown. This advice remains available to schools within the county on the WASACRE and EAS websites.
3. Due to the cancellation of meetings during the Covid-19 pandemic SACRE were unable to observe collective worship during this academic year.

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.
2. The RE Adviser to SACRE is a member of NAPfRE and regularly attends meetings on SACRE's behalf.
3. SACRE members receive regular training to keep up to date with legislative and educational changes and to understand the role and function of SACREs.
4. SACRE takes seriously Holocaust Education and advises the LA and its schools on this.
5. SACRE has received updates on the development and implementation of the Curriculum for Wales 2022 and the implications for religious education. Updates were given by email due to the Covid-19 pandemic. SACRE has responded to Welsh Government consultations on Curriculum for Wales. SACRE members consulted on a draft of the national RVE Framework.
6. SACRE, where possible, would hold meetings at schools in Blaenau Gwent for members to familiarise themselves with RE and collective worship in schools. This year it was not possible to hold a meeting within a school due to the cancellation of meetings.

SECTION 3: ADVICE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

3.1 The Locally Agreed Syllabus

2008 Agreed Syllabus

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

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

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

Agreed Syllabus Review

SACRE have responded to the Welsh Government consultation on the Curriculum for Wales Religion Values and Ethics Guidance. SACRE is awaits the publication of the final draft of guidance for Religion Values and Ethics that will support the Curriculum for Wales 2022 and to which Agreed Syllabus Conferences must have regard when producing the Blaenau Gwent Agreed Syllabus. The LA will convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference during 2022 following the final publication of the guidance.

3.2 Standards in religious education

SACRE has adopted several strategies for monitoring standards being achieved in religious education in the Authority's schools that include the following:

- School Inspection Reports

The local authority and its SACRE scrutinised relevant sections of Estyn school inspection reports. If any issues emerge regarding RE, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up. The monitoring of standards via inspection reports has been disrupted during 2019-2020 due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Estyn only inspected schools needing significant improvement.

- **Examination Results**

In previous years, examination results achieved by pupils at secondary schools have been analysed and considered during SACRE meetings. A three-year analysis would be conducted so that a comparison could be made, and trends identified. Cohort entry numbers were also analysed, and a comparison made to Consortia and All -Wales figures (where available). The 2020 examination results data were not analysed as there has been a change in national guidance surrounding how results are reported and how data is used. WASACRE is currently awaiting information from Welsh Government about how any analysis of data will be gathered and reported going forward.

Schools were updated on the changes to 2021 GCSE and GCE examinations for Religious Studies by the WJEC and the Education Achievement Service.

SACRE is awaiting further information from Qualifications Wales on the development of qualifications for the new curriculum.

3.3 Methods of Teaching, Teaching Materials and Teacher Training

Professional Learning

Comprehensive advice on methods of teaching and the choice of teaching materials is provided by the authority. Schools also have access to the RE Adviser to SACRE via the EAS for individual school support.

The EAS appointed Ms. Paula Webber as a full time Professional Learning Adviser for RE and SACRE from September 2018. The EAS provides a range of training courses for schools which are advertised centrally through CPD on-line. This has included RE specific training to primary and secondary school practitioners via Learning Network School leads and the Professional Learning Adviser for RE and SACREs.

During 2020-2021 the Adviser to SACRE has been employed to support SACREs on a part time basis. She attended Humanities network meetings and the following Professional Learning relevant to RE was offered within the region:

The Education Achievement Service provides Professional Learning to schools within Blaenau Gwent on behalf of the Local Authority. The EAS appointed two Learning Network Schools leads for Humanities during 2020-2021. This is a move away from the RE specific LNS support that has been offered in previous years. During 2020-2021 the EAS provided PL to both primary and secondary school practitioners via Learning Network Schools heads of Humanities meetings and the Professional Learning Adviser for RVE and SACREs. The focus of the training provided for Humanities and RVE included the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales 2022, the changes to legislation around RVE, Blended Learning, Diversity, and improving standards in GCSE Religious Studies. Practitioners attending also received updates on the work of SACREs, WASACRE and other relevant bodies. There was also a focus on providing space for practitioners to share their experiences of trying to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic, teacher led assessment

for GCSE and A Level, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources for Religious Studies.

LNS Humanities network meetings held during 2020 – 2021, always including specific references to RVE, encompassed the following:

- Plans for blended learning and distance learning
- Managing effective T&L in a Covid classroom
- Models of Blended Learning and Accelerated learning
- Supporting years 11 and 13 with catching up and how to manage the delivery of the course, plans to cover content and skills in the remaining time considering the course adaptations.
- Updates on the development of the RVE framework/guidance and locally agreed syllabi
- Change of name to RVE
- RE to be 'objective critical and pluralistic'
- Religious and non-religious worldviews including the sharing of the Theos Think Tank animation on worldviews.
- Removal of the parental right to withdraw children from RE/RVE brought in with the Curriculum for Wales 2022
- Legislation around RVE in different types of schools
- The Welsh Government consultation on the draft RVE guidance and its implications for Humanities in the new curriculum
- Consideration of updates from the WJEC on teacher assessed grades.
- Webinars – focusing on illustrating approaches to curriculum for Wales that could be blended learning opportunities.
- Sessions from LNS schools illustrating your new curriculum journey. Sharing resources that illustrate new curriculum approaches in a blended model.
- Examples of resources, particularly blended learning approaches and materials as well as revision materials.
- Exploring your locality
- Diversity in Humanities
- Developing a vision for Humanities
- BAME experiences and contributions in the curriculum.
- Updates on qualifications reform

Lead practitioners now cover all humanities subjects and are available to work with schools to provide bespoke support for RE. It is up to schools to decide the approach to curriculum design and implementation, however all five Humanities subjects will need to be visible. As learners move to progression steps 4 and 5, they will need to be more aware of differences between the subjects. It is the role of SACRE to advise the LA. If concerns are raised, and Professional Learning is needed, SACRE can advise that the LA to procure the necessary resources/training from the EAS.

Estyn Updates

SACRE and schools are aware of the recommendations of the RE Thematic Report on KS2 and 3 that had been undertaken by Estyn in June 2018. SACRE members continue to ensure there is consideration of the recommendations during SACRE meetings when RE is being discussed.

Teaching Materials

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

Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 Resources

Schools were informed of the 2021 Holocaust Memorial Day and that Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27 January each year and is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Schools were reminded that Holocaust Memorial Day is a time to learn the lessons of the past and recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own - it's a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust produces materials specific to the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme for 2020 was "Be the light in the darkness". It encouraged everyone to reflect on the depths humanity can sink to, but also the ways individuals and communities resisted that darkness to 'be the light' before, during and after genocide.

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

LNS Schools for RE

South East Wales Education Achievement Service (EAS) advertises their courses through CPD online. The Education Achievement Service appointed Ms. Paula Webber as a full time Professional Learning Adviser for RE and SACRE from September 2018. Ms Webber offered bespoke support for Religious Education within the region during 2020-2021.

Practitioners involved in the LNS meetings worked collaboratively to produce and share resources for GCSE Religious Studies. Digital and blended learning resources are available on the EAS website for Humanities including RVE. Resources are available to both primary and secondary schools in the EAS Humanities Teams space and all recordings of meetings are recorded and stored in the files there for practitioners to return to. Bespoke support is also available as required.

Farmington Scholarships

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

Managing the Right to Withdraw from Religious Education

Upon request Adviser to SACRE continues to advise schools to use the WASACRE publication on Managing the Right to Withdraw from Religious Education. A copy of this was provided to every school in Wales during 2017-2018. The document is available bilingually is available in hard copy form. The document is subject to copyright and for sale so therefore a PDF copy is not available for download or distribution. Welsh Government are removing the parental right to withdraw their children from RVE in September 2022.

SACRE RE News Bulletin

A SACRE RE News Bulletin is usually composed by the Adviser to SACRE to share with schools. Due to staff long term absence and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic bulletins were not shared with schools during the 2020-2021 academic year. Instead schools were supported and kept informed about resources via regular updates at the EAS Humanities PL sessions.

Visits and Visitors

A list of suggested useful websites as was information on visits and visitors in South Wales has been distributed to schools in recent years and remains available to schools upon request. This has been shared with Humanities schools via the Microsoft Teams.

Blaenau Gwent SACRE, through its members, is very proactive in supporting schools by regularly advising on and distributing resources to schools. In addition, many of its representatives of religion and belief make individual visits to schools to support with RE lessons. SACRE will continue to consider further ways in which it can support schools through its work.

SECTION 4: ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

4.1 School Inspection Reports

It is the practice of Blaenau Gwent SACRE to consider and analyse school inspection reports to ascertain whether schools are meeting the legal requirement to provide a daily act of collective worship. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic Estyn only carried out minimal inspections. SACRE did not analyse reports. However, as a result of queries from the EAS region WASACRE produced guidance on conducting collective worship during the pandemic which was passed on to schools within the County. Schools were also made aware that the EAS adviser and SACRE members were available to support schools with collective worship. The guidance from WASACRE acknowledged that collective worship might assist with wellbeing during this challenging time.

Recommendations

If there are any issues regarding RE, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up. SACRE were advised that Estyn has made no recommendations with regards to spiritual development, collective worship or Religious Education during the academic year.

During 2019-2020 SACRE discussion on spiritual development had led to an interest in supporting outdoor learning for RE considering the Covid-19 pandemic.

Following analysis of inspection reports SACRE usually writes to schools congratulating them on their success in inspections and to offer additional advisory support where necessary.

Self-Evaluation Reports

SACRE continue to request self-evaluation reports from schools outlining the range and quality of provision for Religious Education and Collective Worship. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic this work was interrupted, the wellbeing of learners and practitioners being of paramount importance.

4.2 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.

4.3 School Visits

SACRE appreciates the opportunities accorded to members to observe acts of collective worship in schools. Members did not have the opportunity to host a SACRE meeting at a school this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

SECTION 5: OTHER ISSUES

WASACRE

Blaenau Gwent SACRE is a member of the Welsh Association of SACREs and its representatives regularly attend meetings.

During the 2020-2021 representatives from Blaenau Gwent SACRE were present at the spring and summer WASACRE meetings hosted by Blaenau Gwent and Powys SACREs through TEAMS. Issues considered at WASACRE meetings have been fully reported back to SACRE. SACRE welcomes the pro-active work of WASACRE in taking up issues that have implications for RE and keeping member SACRE's fully informed. Blaenau Gwent SACRE has received regular feedback from Ms Webber and those representing SACRE at WASACRE meetings.

During 2020-2021 the following activities of WASACRE were noted.

- WASACRE Executive members have met with Welsh Government representatives on numerous occasions including with Kevin Palmer to discuss how and when a professional learning package will be funded and developed. A proposal for a national approach to PL for RVE will be further developed in the coming year.
- WASACRE representatives attended the Children, Young People and Education Committee meeting on behalf of WASACRE to discuss RVE within the Curriculum for Wales and the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill.
- WASACRE contacted with WJEC regarding short course fees, which meant a late payment fee for all centres if they wished to enter a student for the full GCSE following good short course results. WJEC response was extremely positive and resulted in the removal of this issue.
- WASACRE has written to all RE teachers acknowledging the difficult times and offering its support and that of the local SACRE. SACRE Members were in favour of the letter being sent.
- WASACRE has offered funding for blended learning resources to be produced by NAPfRE members.
- WASACRE has written to local authorities to survey how many have appointed non-religious representatives to its SACRE.
- A research report on worldviews compiled by the RE Council for England and Wales will be sent to SACRE members for information.
- The WASACRE website has been redesigned and a Facebook profile is to be established. WASACRE is trying to build a following on Twitter – Members were invited to follow and tweet @WASACRE. SACRE is looking forward to the new platforms for information sharing that the new website will provide.
- WASACRE prepared a briefing paper for Welsh Government September 2020. The aim of the paper was to make recommendations to support Welsh Government in providing appropriate guidance for ASCs, SACREs and local authorities (LAs), on the development, recommendation and adoption the first RE/RVE Agreed Syllabus.
- WASACRE prepared of a paper for Welsh Government recording all aspects of circular 10/94 that would still be relevant following the new curriculum bill.

- SACRE welcomes the updated WASACRE handbooks such as 'So you are joining your local SACRE;' and Collective worship documentation.
- Blaenau Gwent SACRE welcome the prospective WASACRE conference to coincide with the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales and RVE guidance. WASACRE set up a small working group to discuss and develop this further. At present the group is waiting for the completion of the consultation on the RVE guidance and the discussions on the Professional Learning package prior to continuing with the development of the concept.
- WASACRE's maintenance of the relationship with the RE Council for England and Wales through meetings with Deputy Chair, Dave Francis and other representatives.

NATIONAL ADVISORY PANEL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (NAPfRE)

The RE Adviser to Blaenau Gwent SACRE, Paula Webber, is Vice Chair of NAPfRE and regularly attends meetings on SACRE's behalf. In this way SACRE can keep abreast of developments in Wales and play a crucial role in informing decisions and policies that affect religious education. NAPfRE have been consulting closely with Welsh Government and other stakeholders during the development of the new curriculum.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

The Curriculum for Wales 2022 is part of Welsh Government's national mission to raise standards, reduce the attainment gap, and deliver an education system that is a source of national pride and public confidence.

Blaenau Gwent SACRE received termly updates on the developments being made with regards to Religious Education and the new Curriculum for Wales 2022. In the Autumn Term SACRE received and noted the Welsh Government consultation on Religion Values and Ethics and the Senedd Children Young People and Education Committee consultation on the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill.

SACRE is updated on the development of the framework for RE. It was noted that the 'framework' has now become statutory 'guidance' with the publication of the draft guidance for Religion Values and Ethics. SACRE continues to monitoring the progress of the RVE guidance in order to consider the local responsibility to produce an Agreed Syllabus that has regard to the Curriculum for Wales 2022. It is anticipated that the RVE might in due course be adopted or adapted in a Blaenau Gwent Agreed Syllabus Conference as the Blaenau Gwent Agreed Syllabus.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL

The RE Adviser to Blaenau Gwent represents the Wales Association of SACREs on the Religious Education Council for England and Wales and attends its biannual meetings where she can represent SACREs across Wales and be kept informed of national developments across England and Wales. The REC for England and Wales have been working closely with WASACRE and Welsh Government during the curriculum development process.

TRAINING OF SACRE MEMBERS

Blaenau Gwent SACRE members receive training on the Roles and Responsibilities of SACRE at the beginning of each academic year.

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

- Updates on developments in RE and collective worship through regular presentations to SACRE members
- SACRE, where possible, hold meetings at schools in the Borough for members to familiarise themselves with RE and collective worship in schools.

This was not possible during the academic year 2019-2020 due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

SACRE is very appreciative of the opportunities offered through visits and presentations to become more informed on RE and Collective worship issues in schools and would like to extend their appreciation to all concerned.

APPENDIX 1

BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY COUNCIL: Membership of SACRE as at 31st July 2020

Representatives of the Local Education Authority:

County Cllr Keren Bender, Executive Member – Active Living and Learning
County Cllr John Morgan, Chair – Education, Active Living and Learning Scrutiny,
County Cllr Diane Rowberry

Representatives Of Religious Denominations (14 places)

Church In Wales	The Reverend Nick Perry
Roman Catholic Church	Vacancy
Methodist Church	The Reverend Roy M. Watson
Baptist Church	Fran Bellingham
Jehovah's Witnesses	Nigel Sharpe
The Family Church Brynmawr	Stuart Wheatman
Church on the Rise	Wayne Evans
Vacancy	
Bahá'í Community	Mrs. Christine Abbas (vice Chairperson)
Muslim	Dr. Muzafar Jilani
Hindu	Mr. Soam Sharma
Jewish	Mr. Abraham Davidson
Buddhist	Mr. Neil Taylor
Sikh	Mr. Balwant Singh Boghal

Representatives Of Teachers' Associations (8 places)

N.A.S.	Mrs. Clare Lane
N.U.T.	Ms. Rebecca Lloyd
NASUWT	Mr. David Lewis
N.U.T	Mrs. Elizabeth Arthur
N.A.H.T.	Mr. Paul West
N.U.T	Ms. Alison Lyndon-Jones
N.U.T	Mrs Angela Lloyd
N.U.T	Mrs. Jo Baker

Co-option

British Humanist Council	(vacant)
Coleg Gwent	Mr John Sexton
Coleg Gwent	Mr Carl Hickling
GEMS	Ilona Dziedzic

Officers:

Ms. Kelly Evans	Clerk to SACRE
Ms. Deborah Jones	Minutes Secretary
Ms. Gill Vaisey	RE Consultant
Ms. Michelle Jones	Head of School Improvement

APPENDIX 2: SCHEDULE AND AGENDA OF MEETINGS

No meetings were held due to the COVID pandemic.

APPENDIX 3: Circulation of the Report

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

- Blaenau Gwent Education Authority
- Education Advisory Service (EAS/ South East Wales Consortia)
- Welsh Government
- Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all Blaenau Gwent City schools
- All members of SACRE
- WASACRE Chair of Education
- Minister for Education
- Senedd Cymru
- Welsh Parliament
- Nominating Bodies of Faith Communities
- ESTYN

Local Authority website can be accessed from the Main Council website/ Education page:
<https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/schools-learning/>