

Committee: **Executive Committee**

Date of meeting: **13<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

Report Subject: **Rights, Value, Ethics (RVE) Syllabus**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr S. Edmunds, Executive Member for People / Education**

Report Submitted by: **Lynn Phillips, Corporate Director of Education**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
√	√					13.07.22		Syllabus Conference 01.07.22

## 1. Purpose of the Report

This report asks the Executive Committee to adopt the Rights, Value and Ethics (RVE) Syllabus for use in Blaenau Gwent schools.

## 2 Scope and Background

- 2.1 The Agreed Syllabus sets out the requirements that schools should follow in order to meet statutory requirements. In June 2013 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the Blaenau Gwent 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.
- 2.2 SACRE (Standing Advisory Conference for Religious Education) has been updated on the developments with the National Curriculum review and the development of the Humanities curriculum. Schools have been advised that they should follow the current agreed syllabus until further notice.
- 2.3 Following the release by Welsh Government on the new Curriculum for Wales, a Syllabus Conference was held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 so that consultation on the proposed syllabus could take place. The Syllabus Conference is the process through which SACRE undertake consultation on the proposed syllabus and this meeting was advertised on the Councils' webpage.
- 2.4 Welsh Government made provision for local authorities to adopt or adapt this guidance as their Agreed Syllabus.

### 3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 This report has been approved by Education DMT, CLT for submission to Executive Committee.

#### **Option 1:**

For the Executive Committee to receive the report and adopt the agreed syllabus for use in primary schools from September 2022 and for those all through/ secondary schools implementing Curriculum for Wales from 2023 as set out in paragraph 6.14.

#### **Option 2:**

For the Executive Committee to not adopt the proposed syllabus and offer guidance as to what changes should be made.

### 4. **Evidence of how this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

#### 4.1 **Statutory Responsibility**

4.1.1 The Local Authority is required to have in place an agreed RVE syllabus for use in its schools.

#### 4.1.2 **Corporate Plan Education Aims**

- Minimise the impact of COVID-19 on learner development and progress, including improving the digital competency of all learners and staff in the wider Blaenau Gwent school community.
- Ensure high quality leadership and teaching that secures good progress for all learners, particularly the vulnerable and those who are eFSM. (Entitled to free school meals)
- Improve wellbeing for learners at all stages of development.
- Secure strong progress in skills, particularly in English and mathematics at key stages 3 and 4.
- Support schools who are identified as causing concern through regional protocols to secure improvement, in conjunction with the Education Achievement Service (EAS).

#### 4.1.3 **Blaenau Gwent Wellbeing Plan**

The content of the RVE syllabus is clearly aligned to the objectives in the Blaenau Gwent Wellbeing Plan which aims for everyone to have the best start in life. Through this plan it seeks to ensure that the education provision is appropriate and able to meet the needs of children and young people so that their progress is as good as it ought to be.

## 5. **Implications Against Each Option**

### 5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

5.1.1 Schools have a delegated budget from which they fund RVE. There is no impact on schools or the Councils' budget in the short medium or long term through the adoption of the proposed RVE syllabus

### 5.2 ***Risks***

The Directorate risk register identifies risks and the adoption of the proposed syllabus does not present as a risk. Should option 2 be agreed there is a risk that those schools implementing Curriculum for Wales will not have an RVE syllabus that meets their needs.

### 5.4 ***Legal***

The Local Authority EAS is required to hold a syllabus conference and determine the RVE syllabus for use in its schools. The proposed Syllabus sets out the requirements that schools should follow in order to meet statutory requirements.

### 5.5 ***Human Resources***

None for this report.

## 6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 A Syllabus Conference was held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. Prior to this meeting the syllabus conference was advertised on the Blaenau Gwent Website and amongst Blaenau Gwent schools. All SACRE representatives were also invited to the conference.

6.1.2 There were 10 people in attendance at the meeting. The SACRE advisor took attendees through the proposed curriculum and the following key issues were noted:

- The overarching approach to the curriculum noting the links to key guidance documents
- From September 2022 the parental right to withdraw from RVE is not permitted in all primary schools and for those secondary all though schools opting into the Curriculum for Wales. This is not the same for Collective Worship as parents have the right to withdraw. It was also agreed that within the draft syllabus that reference should be made to the determination process that schools can follow in respect of Collective worship arrangements
- Complaint and concerns process was updated to clarify arrangements

6.1.3 The draft minutes of the Syllabus Conference will be brought before SACRE at their next meeting scheduled for later this term.

6.1.4 The Conference concluded with a vote amongst those entitled to do so and resolved that the Local Authority should adopt the RVE syllabus as

laid before conference on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 from September 2022 to September 2027. The RVE syllabus will be used by those primary schools and those all age/ secondary schools who are implementing the Curriculum for Wales from September 2022. All other schools will implement from September 2023 and will continue to use the current syllabus that was agreed in June 2013 until they implement the Curriculum for Wales.

6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

SACRE is required to consult and agree a syllabus for RVE for use in Blaenau Gwent schools.

6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

Involvement of partners (e.g. Schools, Faith representatives, elected members, teachers, parents) are fundamental to securing buy in to the final proposed RVE syllabus for use in Blaenau Gwent schools.

6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

In June 2013 the Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the Blaenau Gwent syllabus for Religious Education. Consultation on the proposed RVE syllabus has taken place. The proposed syllabus is aligned to the Curriculum for Wales changes and will be the Curriculum that is in use following adoption. SACRE will be required to consult on the next RVE syllabus in 5 years' time.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

A key element of the Council's work is to monitor settings and ensure appropriate support to secure continuing high standards. SACRE also participates in this work through scrutinising the teaching of religious education through Estyn Inspection reports reflects the extent to which settings and the Local Authority has been effective in providing support to ensure that the teaching of RE continues to be done to a high standard.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

The constitution of SACRE exemplifies the collaboration and partnership working that is in place to support the effective delivery of religion values and ethics education in Blaenau Gwent schools.

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

The proposed RVE syllabus is part of the Humanities area of learning.

6.8 ***EqIA***

An EQIA has been completed for this report.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The EAS provides school improvement support to Blaenau Gwent schools and SACRE are supported by a Curriculum Partner (SACs and

RVE). As part of the forward work programme for SACRE they will monitor the implementation of the RVE curriculum amongst schools.

### **Background Documents /Electronic Links**

Appendix 1 – BG Syllabus