



## **Report of the activities of the Association 2022-2023**

It has been a very busy year for the Association, especially with the Curriculum for Wales roll out beginning in September, the process of preparing the agreed syllabi for RVE, and the Qualifications Wales consultation.

### **1. This year the Association met on three occasions.**

Our Autumn meeting on 16 November 2022 was hosted by Blaenau Gwent SACRE / SAC through TEAMS. Our spring meeting on 21 March 2023 was hosted by Pembrokeshire SACRE / SAC through Zoom. Our Summer meeting, today, was hosted by Denbighshire SACRE / SAC through Zoom. We are grateful for the continued support of SACREs / SACs with their hosting of these meetings.

### **2. The Executive Committee met on three occasions:**

5 October 2022 (TEAMS), 8 February 2023 (Zoom) and 17 May 2023 (Zoom), all of which took place on-line through either TEAMS or Zoom. The Executive Committee had a full agenda throughout the year that included the following items and activities.

- a. The continued consideration and response to developments relating directly to RVE and RE within the Curriculum for Wales.
- b. Advice and support given to advisors and SACs in Wales in relation to locally agreed syllabi for RVE, working arrangements for SACREs / SACs, as well as other matters.
- c. Representatives from the WASACRE Executive Committee (with a NAPfRE representative) met with Welsh Government colleagues as part of our established regular cycle of meetings. These meeting gave opportunity to raise issues of importance to local SACREs / SACs.
- d. At the request of the Welsh Government, WASACRE was asked to conduct an informal desk-based review of agreed syllabi for RVE. A WASACRE team of specialists undertook the task on behalf of the Executive Committee, and the report was submitted to the Welsh Government on 27 March 2023. The report is part of a wider supportive approach being taken by the Welsh Government during the early stages of curriculum roll out and it also offers a valuable opportunity to share practice across Wales within the contexts of both local determination and collaboration.

- e. The first fruits of the major national professional learning partnership between the Welsh Government and WASACRE were published on the Welsh Government Hwb. The first batch of professional learning modules was published in March 2023, comprising five playlists for headteachers, secondary, primary, early years, and ALN. Work continued on the second and third batches of modules. This initiative came about through WASACRE raising the need for such baseline national professional learning and developing a robust proposal for consideration by Welsh Government colleagues. All resources have been rigorously quality assured before publication on the Welsh Government Hwb.
- f. Representatives from the WASACRE Executive Committee (often with a NAPfRE representative) met with various organisations both within and outside Wales on a number of occasions throughout the year. Within Wales this included an Estyn meeting and also meeting with those working on the Community Focused schools guidance and the relevance of SACs within it. Other meetings included those with Regional RE Hubs and the RE Council for England and Wales raising questions about relationships between the organisations and potential impacts on the Curriculum for Wales roll out for RVE. In addition, there was a meeting with NASACRE representatives to explore future connections. Representatives from WASACRE attended the NAPfRE 30 years celebration and AGM.
- g. WASACRE has continued to provide both a forum and support for guidance on national consultations affecting RVE in Wales. This year was concerned with two Qualifications Wales consultations relating to the GCSE Religious Studies Qualification and the Full Qualifications Offer.
- h. In the spring term, WASACRE subscribed to a Zoom account to enable simultaneous translation in meetings. After exploring several options, WASACRE is pleased to be in a position to renew its commitment to bilingual meetings, after moving online during the Covid period.
- i. Preparations for a major WASACRE Conference for RVE in partnership with NAPfRE.
- j. The provision of funding for a teacher to attend the EFTRE conference.

### **3. Accounts:**

The Treasurer's report for 2021-2022 was shared at the summer AGM of 2022. A statement of accounts and a report explaining the information was presented. It was noted that income exceeded expenditure for the year by £7,722.90. All SACREs / SACs have paid their subscriptions. It was noted that the financial position remained in a healthy condition and that the level of funds available to WASACRE, to fund its planned activities, was encouraging. The recommendation was made that an increase to the yearly subscription in line with inflation of 3% to £495 was proposed and agreed to.

### **4. New members of the Executive Committee:**

At the Summer AGM 2022 three members were elected to the executive committee for the period of 2022-2025: Vicky Barlow (Flintshire); Mathew Maidment (RCT); Louise Brown (Monmouthshire). Edward Evans was elected as Vice Chair.

Tania ap Sion took the position of Chair, and Rachel Samuel moved to Immediate Past Chair.

#### **5. WASACRE constitution amendments:**

At the Summer AGM 2022 WASACRE members accepted and approved amendments to the Association's constitution.

#### **6. NAPfRE and WASACRE presentations:**

As there were no 'physical meetings' NAPfRE presentations have been kept to a minimum and focused on the most immediate priority.

- The Blaenau Gwent meeting on 16 November 2023 received a presentation from Rachel Samuel and Paula Webber on the Qualifications Wales Consultation: New GCSE – Religious Studies.
- The Pembrokeshire meeting on 21 March 2023 received a National Professional Learning presentation by Libby Jones on the professional learning resources being developed by WASACRE and recently published on the Welsh Government Hwb.
- In today's Denbighshire meeting we have received a presentation from Leah Crimes, Headteacher of St Brigid's School in Denbigh on 'Emerging practice from a "faith" school perspective'.

As Chair of WASACRE, I would like to thank all our SACREs / SACs for their commitment to the Association and their support. Also, for all the hard work of our Executive Committee members without whom our activities would not be possible.