

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA



Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Annual Report 2017 - 2018

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2017 -2018

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SECTION 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE

1.1 Duty to establish SACRE

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

1.2 Composition of SACRE

Representation on SACRE is required as follows:-

- such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the LA, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area
- associations representing teachers
- the Local Authority

1.3 Membership of SACRE

The list of members of Swansea SACRE is set out in **Appendix 1**

1.4 Functions of SACRE

- To advise the LA on worship and the religious education to be given in accordance with the agreed syllabus including methods of teaching, advice on materials and the provision of training for teachers
- To consider whether to recommend to the LA that its current agreed syllabus should be reviewed by convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference.
- To consider whether the requirement that religious worship in a county school should be 'broadly Christian in nature' should be varied (determinations)
- To report to the LA and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) on its activities on an annual basis.

1.5 Meetings of SACRE

SACRE met on three occasions during the 2017 –2018 academic year.

October 24th 2017 at Gowerton Comprehensive School
February 15th 2018 at Civic Centre, Swansea
June 5th 2018 at Gower College, Gorseinon

1.6 SACRE Development Plan

SACRE adopted a development plan as a basis for its activities for the period 2015-2018. This development plan can be found in **Appendix 3**.

1.7 Circulation of Report

A list of the organisations receiving the report can be found in **Appendix 5**.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A brief summary of the advice that SACRE has given to the LA follow:

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Issue

To monitor provision and raise standards in RE

Action

1. SACRE considers and analyses school inspection reports. From Summer 2016 - Summer 2017, thirteen Swansea schools were inspected. If any issues emerge regarding religious education, such as non fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up by requesting the action plan and a progress report. Follow up action was necessary with two primary schools. SACRE requested progress reports. One school satisfied SACRE that good progress had been made with the RE agreed syllabus now being fully implemented. The other primary school, on further investigation, it was confirmed that Estyn comments did not relate to RE.
2. SACRE analyses examination results over a three-year period and identifies trends in performance benchmarked against all Wales data. SACRE wrote to schools after analysing examination results. The letter included congratulations for the good results, where appropriate, but also raised issues that schools should be addressing as a result of this analysis.
3. SACRE sent all schools the WASACRE guidance document entitled *Managing the Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education* which was provided free of charge to all schools in Wales. This useful guidance document is intended to support schools dealing with withdrawal and also to share with parents who may be considering withdrawing their child from RE. A short questionnaire was sent to schools to gain an accurate awareness of the instances of withdrawal from Religious Education across schools in Wales. The SACRE clerk circulated this to schools in the local authority and the outcomes for Swansea schools were analysed and presented to SACRE. SACRE requested the questionnaire be re - sent to gain further responses and these were then sent to WASACRE for an All Wales analysis.
4. SACRE, where possible would hold meetings at schools in Swansea for members to familiarise themselves with the delivery of RE in schools. SACRE visited one secondary school and one tertiary college and received a presentation from the RE department on its work and also spoke with students about their perception of the subject and its influence upon them.

THE AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RE

Issue

To fulfil the legal requirement to review the agreed syllabus for RE on a five yearly basis and support its implementation.

Action

1. In 2008 Standing Conference endorsed and adopted a new agreed syllabus for the Authority's schools, which was implemented from September 2008.
2. In June 2013 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the Swansea 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.
1. SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments with the National Curriculum review and the development of the Humanities curriculum. They have responded to WG (Jan '18 and June '18) to the progress regarding the AOLE and their associated Progression Steps and Achievement SACRE are awaiting further details from Welsh Government on

the shape of RE in the curriculum, and advice from WASACRE, before beginning any RE agreed syllabus review.

TEACHING MATERIALS

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

1. All schools were informed of the 2018 Holocaust Memorial Day theme of 'The Power of Words' and that free 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.

TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

Issue

To ensure that teachers are able to access appropriate CPD.

Action

1. With the current Welsh Assembly Government's emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy no subject specific training is on offer.
2. The GCSE RS Lead Practitioners have offered networking meetings to secondary schools.
3. SACRE are aware of the need for CPD of teachers of RE and its Consultant has made enquiries regarding the *Learn, Teach, Lead RE* initiative in England. Two RE Consultants in Wales are willing to explore the facilitating of arrangements for a Network group/s in Wales on a Consortia basis. SACRE will be updated on developments and progress made.

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. In 2016 - 2017, thirteen Swansea schools were inspected. Follow up action was necessary with one primary school. SACRE requested a progress report and were satisfied that statutory requirements were now being met.
2. Schools have been informed by SACRE of appropriate resources and websites that support collective worship in schools e.g. HMD 2018.

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 and receives termly feedback from the meetings of the Association.
2. Members have received various presentations and reports this year:
 - Mrs Vicky Thomas, RE Consultant to SACRE gave presentations on the review of the National Curriculum and its implications for RE and the development of the revised exam specifications.
 - One secondary school and one tertiary college have updated SACRE on the delivery of RE and students have impressed members with their comments and perceptions of their RE/RS studies.

SECTION 2 ADVICE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2.1 The locally agreed syllabus

In the Spring Term 2008 the Standing Conference endorsed and adopted a new agreed syllabus for the Authority's schools, which was 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.

During 2017-18, SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments with the NC review. They have responded to WG (Jan '18 and June '18) to the progress regarding the AOLE and their associated Progression Steps and Achievement Outcomes. SACRE are awaiting further details from Welsh Government on the shape of RE in the curriculum, and advice from WASACRE, before beginning any RE agreed syllabus review.

2.2 Standards in RE

SACRE has adopted a number of strategies for monitoring standards being achieved in religious education in the Authority's schools, which include the following.

2.2a School Inspection Reports

SACRE has examined the relevant sections of LA school inspection reports .During the academic year Summer 2016 - Summer 2017, thirteen Swansea schools were inspected consisting of eleven primary schools, one secondary school, one special school. If any issues emerge regarding religious education such as non fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up by requesting the action plan and a progress report. One primary school had comment on religious education not fully meeting statutory requirements and the LA requested a progress report from the school. SACRE were updated and informed that the RE agreed syllabus was now being fully implemented with a curriculum review in the Summer term. Another primary school had a general comment that: "*The school does not implement its curriculum plans well enough. This means that pupils in key stage 2 do not benefit from a broad enough range of experiences that meet statutory requirements*" SACRE were updated that on investigation the school confirmed that the comments did not relate to RE.

There were some positive comments in the reports. Most schools were meeting National Curriculum and religious education requirements appropriately. There was reference to enriched curricular days and extra-curricular activities enabling all pupils to develop a good understanding of diversity in society and global citizenship. For example reference was made to a school's cultural diversity day where all pupils dress up and experience interesting elements of different countries and cultures. Schools were linking well with the local community and places of worship to provide worthwhile learning experiences for pupils. One school was identified by Estyn as effectively seeking the views of pupils on the curriculum and used as an example that

“pupils’ views about the need for more religious education were included in the school’s curriculum review”.

At secondary level there was reference to pupils using subject terminology well, for example when questioning alternatives to traditions that apply on the Shabbat, the Jewish day of rest.

2.2b Examination Results

Examination results for GCSE and GCE Advanced Level achieved by pupils at secondary schools within the Authority have been analysed and considered. Figures that relate to results over the last three years were analysed to indicate trends in performance. The examination results are compared with the All-Wales figures, where available.

Members noted that in **GCSE Religious Studies Full Course** there was a significant increase in entries this year with 852 pupils entered from 12 schools and this is a year on year increase in entries. This is 35.4% cohort. It needs to be noted that there was also a significant decrease in Short Course entries. Some schools enter via a two short course route and so pupils may have been switched from a one Short Course route to two Short Courses to make a full course. Doing two Short Courses may well mean pupils receive less time than would normally be received from an option route. Four schools enter in triple figures and seven in double figures.

The overall % of A*-A grades for Swansea was 22.8% and this is below previous performance and below the All Wales figure of 24.7%. The overall % of A*-C grades for Swansea was 63.4% and this is below previous performance and below the All Wales figures of 68.3%. The overall % of A*-G grades for Swansea was 98.1% and this is better than last year and comparable with 2015. It is also better than the All-Wales figure of 97.5%

SACRE noted that results are below previous performance at grades A*-A and A*-C but better at A*-G and similarly are below All Wales figures at grades A*-A and A*-C but better at A*-G.

SACRE does not have WED comparative data to discover whether pupils are performing to ability or not but schools will have this data to make their analyses on pupils and departments

The entry figures for **GCSE Short Course** in Religious Education showed a significant drop this year to 615 even though one more school entered (11 schools + PRU). However there was a rise in entries for Full Course. Cohort entry is 25.4% and below 2016 of 33.7% and All Wales 29.8%. Entry numbers show 3 schools entering in triple figures and entering almost a full cohort, one school with over 50 pupils entered and the others have a selected entry.

Results at A*-A is 9.8% and is below previous performance but comparable with the All Wales figure. Results at A*-C is 47.5% and is just below previous performance but better than the All Wales figure of 39.6%. Results at A*-G is 90.6% and is down on previous performance and comparable with the All Wales figure of 90.2%. Overall SACRE noted that results are below previous performance but comparable with or better than All Wales figures.

It is important to bear in mind that some schools enter for two short courses and their results will figure in the Full Course statistics. Those pupils entered for two short courses will be mainly the more able and this will often reflect detrimentally on the A*-A and A*-C results for Short Course.

A significant number continue to be entered for RE either through FC or SC and this is very encouraging because it provides pupils with the opportunity for accreditation for their KS4 study. We must also bear in mind that pupils do not usually opt to follow the Short Course but it is delivered as part of the statutory requirements for RE. A comparison of figures for 2016 & 2017 show the following;

Figures for 2017 when combining FC and SC are 1467 entries (60.8% of cohort)

Figures for 2016 when combining FC and SC are 1601 entries (64.5% of cohort)

At **GCE A level** 51 candidates were entered from 5 schools. Numbers have increased this year although one less school entered. This is 7.5% of cohort.

Results at A*-A is 15.7% and is better than 2016 but below 2015. It is below the All Wales figure of 18.2%. Results at A*-C is 76.5% and is the best result over a 3 year period but still below the All Wales figure of 78.1%. The 100% pass rate is excellent and continues the excellent result of previous years. The All Wales figure is 99.8%

At **GCE AS** level there were a total of 11 candidates in Year 13 from 4 schools and this is a decrease on 2015 & 2016 whilst number of schools entering remained the same.

Grade A was achieved by 0% of students which is below previous performance and below the All Wales figure of 19.1%. At grades A-C the figure is 54.5% and is comparable with 2016 and better than 2015 performance. It is below the All Wales figure of 62.3%. At grades A-E results the 90.9% figure achieving a grade is below the excellent performance of 2016 but better than the All Wales figure of 90.6%.

SACRE also considered the very good results from students at Gower Tertiary College which generally outperformed Swansea schools and the All Wales figures at A level.

It should be noted that definitive conclusions cannot be drawn because the figures represent raw scores and do not necessarily reflect the selectivity of the entry and in some cases the numbers are too small to be statistically significant.

SACRE writes to schools after analysing examination results. The letter includes congratulations for good results, where appropriate, and raises issues that schools should be addressing as a result of this analysis.

Detailed tables of examination results are found in **Appendix 3**.

2.3 Methods of Teaching, Teacher Materials and Teacher Training

Professional Development

With the Welsh Assembly Government's emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy no subject specific training is on offer.

The Lead Practitioners for Religious Studies GCSE have held networking meetings in the Consortia and secondary schools have been invited.

The RE Adviser to SACRE has made enquiries about the *Learn, Teach, Lead RE* initiative in England with a view to facilitating arrangements for a Network group/s in Wales on a Consortia basis.

Teaching Materials

Holocaust Memorial Day 2018 Resources

All schools were informed of the 2018 Holocaust Memorial Day theme of 'The Power of Words'. Spoken and written words can have a huge impact, whether good or bad. The theme explores how language has been used in the past, and how it is used in the present day. 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

SECTION 3

ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

3.1 SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORTS

SACRE has examined the relevant sections of LA school inspection reports .During the academic year Summer 2016 - Summer 2017, thirteen Swansea schools were inspected consisting of eleven primary schools, one secondary school, one special school

Members were presented with a summary of findings from these inspections. If any issues emerge regarding collective worship such as non fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up by requesting the action plan and a progress report. There was an issue with one primary school not fully meeting statutory requirements for collective worship because they were withdrawing pupils for additional literacy support during these sessions. SACRE requested a progress report from the school and the school have now addressed this issue

Evaluative comments in relation to spiritual development were evident in all 13 inspection reports. Three reports made comment on the quality of the provision and where comment was made the good features and areas for development are as follows.

Good features (Primary)

- Collective worship sessions foster a sound understanding of values
- Daily acts of collective worship provide purposeful opportunities for children to reflect on their values and to develop their spiritual awareness appropriately.
- Visiting ministers from different churches lead collective worship and ... enhance the learning experiences of pupils effectively

Shortcomings (Primary)

One school had a comment that

- They provide few opportunities to promote pupils' spiritual development and do not comply fully with statutory requirements for collective worship.

Good Features (Secondary)

The planning and provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural education across the school are an outstanding feature

Shortcomings (Secondary)

None

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

SACRE appreciates the opportunities accorded to members to observe acts of collective worship in schools. One school visit was made this year but no act of collective worship was observed.

SECTION 4 OTHER ISSUES

4.1 WASACRE

SACRE has continued to affiliate to WASACRE and representatives have attended its meetings. During the 2017-18 academic year issues considered at WASACRE meetings have been fully reported back to SACRE and full discussions have taken place. SACRE is represented on the WASACRE executive committee by their professional consultant Vicky Thomas and Alison Lewis (Chair of Swansea SACRE and Executive member of WASACRE). SACRE welcomes the pro-active work of WASACRE in taking up issues that have implications for RE and keeping member SACREs fully informed.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

SACRE was informed of the 2018 Holocaust Memorial Day theme of 'The Power of Words' and that further information about the theme and free educational Holocaust Memorial Day resources can be found on their website www.hmd.org.uk. SACRE resolved to inform schools about the availability of these resources and encourage them to commemorate HMD in some way. SACRE discussed how some schools were embracing the issues raised by HMD very seriously and reference was made to some primary and secondary schools who were conducting activities and acts of collective worship to commemorate the day.

Swansea LA has a system of using secondary schools, on a rota basis, to host the HMD event. This year Ysgol Gyfun Bryn Tawe was the host school for the Holocaust Memorial Day Service. A warm welcome was extended to all by Mr Simon Davies, Headteacher of the school, who reflected upon the significance of HMD commemorations for young people today. The right Worshipful Lord mayor of the City & County of Swansea, Councillor Philip Downing addressed the audience and read the Statement of Commitments which set the tone for the commemorative event.

Pupils of the school made instrumental contributions, poetry readings, choir singing and other musical items. The partner primary schools were also involved in contributing to the event. The Police Young Volunteers group gave a digital presentation on Holocaust and the chair of Governors, Mr Heini Gruffudd, gave a moving personal account of persecution at the hands of the Nazis. Mrs Norma Glass MBE of Swansea Jewish Community read the "Pledge to Make a Difference" by Gwyneth Lewis. SACRE would like to thank all those who contributed to this moving Holocaust Memorial Commemorative service.

SACRE members in attendance commented on how well organised and moving the service was and that involvement of pupils makes the event more meaningful. SACRE members commented that they would like to see a Civic Event that involves the general public and wider audience so that they can be educated on an important piece of history. SACRE Councillor representatives agreed to raise this with Council. SACRE resolved to write to Ysgol Gyfun Bryn Tawe thanking them for their hard work.

4.3 WELSH GOVERNMENT NATIONAL CURRICULUM REVIEW

SACRE has received termly updates on the progress of the National Curriculum Review and its implications for RE in the curriculum. RE remains a statutory curriculum requirement from reception and should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience. Welsh Government sends termly newsletters to SACREs outlining the developmental work of the Pioneer Schools in relation to RE in the Humanities. The Humanities working group have recommended a 'Big Ideas'/What Matters" approach identifying the key knowledge/concepts, skills and competencies for each discipline within the Humanities and then 'building' the AoLE

around them The Humanities working group's recommendations and the January and June SACRE Newsletter Updates from Welsh Government regarding the AOLE and their associated Progression Steps and Achievement Outcomes have been discussed by SACRE. All comments have been forwarded to Welsh Government.

SACRE have been informed of the RE Conference organised by Welsh Government, in collaboration with WASACRE, to provide the opportunity for SACREs to discuss the key approaches to the curriculum recommended by the Humanities group. This will take place in the Autumn Term and SACREs are in the process of identifying the personnel to attend the Conference.

4.4 WASACRE WITHDRAWAL FROM RE QUESTIONNAIRE

Following requests from schools, the Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE) recently published a guidance document entitled *Managing the Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education* which was provided free of charge to all schools in Wales. This useful guidance document is intended to support schools dealing with withdrawal and also to share with parents who may be considering withdrawing their child from RE.

A short questionnaire was sent to SACRE clerks for circulation to schools in their local authority to help WASACRE gain an accurate awareness of the instances of withdrawal from Religious Education across schools in Wales. SACRE were informed of the outcomes of the responses from schools for Swansea LA and agreed that another trawl of schools take place to increase responses. These outcomes have now been sent to WASACRE for an All Wales analysis.

4.5 ESTYN UPDATES

SACRE were informed that the *RE Thematic Review of KS2 & 3* had been undertaken by Estyn and that the outcomes would be made available on June 12th 2018. SACRE will be fully informed of the outcomes at the next meeting in the Autumn Term 2018. SACRE were also informed that Estyn have provided an update to its inspectors on *Spiritual development and the daily acts of collective worship*. SACRE agreed to send this update information to all schools so that they are suitably informed of the requirements.

4.6 TRAINING OF SACRE MEMBERS

As part of it's training for members SACRE proposed the following:

- To keep members updated on developments in RE and collective worship through regular presentations to SACRE members. Mrs V Thomas gave updates on the review of the National Curriculum and its implications for RE
- SACRE, where possible would hold meetings at schools in Swansea for members to familiarise themselves with RE and collective worship in schools. There was one visit this year to schools – Gowerton Comprehensive School and also to Gower College where members received a presentation on the delivery of RE. Students at the College also informed members of their perceptions of their RE/RS studies and SACRE were suitably impressed by their enthusiasm and interest in the subject.
- SACRE, where possible would hold meetings at places of worship in Swansea for members to familiarise themselves with the faith communities and look at the experience that could be offered to schools through school visits. This year there were no visits to places of worship.

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. A special note of

thanks is extended to the clerk to SACRE, James Craven, for all his hard work in making such arrangements.

4.7 MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE

At its summer meeting SACRE were informed of vacant positions and changes of membership of the committee. SACRE discussed the request for membership of Committee A from the Baha'i faith and also the request of a change of membership from the member representing the Humanist Association (currently a co-opted member of SACRE). This is in line with the recent letter from Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams, regarding the right of Humanists to have a full Committee A status. Swansea SACRE prides itself on its inclusive nature and the encouragement of a range of diverse views to be expressed on this committee. Such diversity is to be encouraged. After some discussion the matter was voted upon by the three groups and the vote was carried to recommend to Council to increase Committee A by two persons.

SACRE also discussed the importance of the professional input received by teachers and headteachers on the Committee. Their views are especially important as the nature of SACRE is to be an advisory body to the local authority on matters of religious education and collective worship in schools. At the current time the curriculum in Wales is undergoing review to reflect the recommendations of Professor Donaldson in his report *Successful Futures - Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales*. After some discussion SACRE agreed to recommend to Council to increase Committee B by one place to include a second representative from NAS/UWT which is the second largest teaching union with approximately 300,000 members. The final decision will rest with the Council and the Local Authority.

4.8 RETIREMENT OF PROFESSIONAL RE ADVISER

At its Summer meeting SACRE were informed of the retirement of Mrs Vicky Thomas, Professional RE Adviser to SACRE who was retiring after 28 years service with the committee. It was acknowledged by members that she had made a huge contribution to the smooth running of the Committee and that her long service and work was greatly appreciated. Mrs Jennifer Harding-Richards, head of RE at Bishop Gore Secondary School and member of SACRE, was named as the new RE Adviser to Swansea SACRE.

APPENDIX 1: SWANSEA SACRE MEMBERSHIP 2017/18-

CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS AND OTHER RELIGIONS(15)

Church in Wales (3):

John Meredith, Diocesan Director of Education for the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon

Rev. Ian Drew-Jones, Vicar of Loughor

Helen Marie Davies, Christchurch CiW Primary School

Roman Catholic (3):

Mr Bernard Stuart, Director of Education

Adele Thomas, RE department, Bishop Vaughan Catholic Comprehensive

Vacancy to replace Mr Phil O'Leary, Headteacher, St Davids Catholic Primary School

Nonconformist (3):

Vacancy to replace Wendy Orphan (Baptist)

Vacancy to replace Mrs. Mari Lynne Jones (Welsh Independent)

Mr Brin Jones (Methodist)

Hebrew Community (1):

Mrs Norma Glass

Muslim Community (2):

Ms Shehla Khan EYST

Vacancy to replace Imam Javed, Central Swansea Mosque

Hindu Community (1):

Vacancy to replace Mrs Neelam Birla

Sikh Community (1):

Vacancy

Buddhist Community (1):

Chris Mann

TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS (8):

SHA Vacancy

ATL Vacancy

NUT Mrs Alison Lewis and Ms Jennifer Harding- Richards

NAS/UWT Vacancy to replace Mr Peter Llewellyn

UCAC Rachel Bendall

NAHT Vacancy to replace Katherine Davies

VOICE Mrs Heather Hansen

UCU Briony Knibbs

LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY (7):

Councillor Lynda James

Councillor Sam Pritchard

Councillor William Evans – Vice Chairperson

Councillor Elliot King

Councillor Peter Jones

Councillor Beverley Hopkins

CO-OPTED MEMBERSHIP:

Mr Brian Cainen (Humanist Association)

Mrs Claire Foley – representing primary education

SACRE OFFICERS:

Mrs Kate Phillips - Education Department, City & County of Swansea/ Claire Abrahams .

Mrs Vicky Thomas- Independent Consultant

SECRETARY

Mr James Craven - Education Department, City & County of Swansea.

APPENDIX 2 SCHEDULE AND AGENDA OF MEETINGS

The main items of business on the agenda included:

October 24th 2017 at Gowerton Comprehensive School

- Presentation from Gowerton School
- Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
- Apologies
- Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising
- Schedule of Meetings 2017- 18
- Membership update
- Roles and responsibilities of a SACRE- see attached paper
- SACRE Annual Report 2016-17
- SACRE development plan 2015 – 2018 :Progress Report
- Inspection report Analysis Autumn 2016- Summer 2017
- RE and the National Curriculum: Update
- GCSE Religious Studies : Update
- Inclusive SACREs Award
- WASACRE issues including feedback from AGM at Wrexham; representation at next meeting in Bridgend, hosting arrangements by Swansea, March 2018
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2018
- Estyn Thematic Review of RE Questionnaire to SACREs
- Correspondence

February 15th 2018 at Civic Centre, Swansea

- Apologies
- Minutes of the last meeting
- Matters arising
- Membership Update
- Holocaust Memorial day 2017: Feedback
- Religious studies examination results 2017
- National Curriculum review and assessment: Update
- WASACRE issues- feedback, hosting arrangements, nominations to the Executive, future meetings
- Correspondence

June 5th 2018 at Gower College, Gorseinon

- Welcome presentation from RE department
- Apologies for absence
- Minutes of the previous meeting
- Matters arising
- Schedule of Meetings – 2017 -2018:
- Membership Update; Request for Membership/ letter from Cabinet Secretary
- Withdrawal from RE Survey : Information Update
- National Curriculum Review and Assessment: Update
- Estyn Updates on Spiritual Development and Thematic Review
- WASACRE issues: feedback, Executive voting, future meetings WASACRE revised Constitution
- Correspondence

SWANSEA SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 – 2018 (ACADEMIC YEAR)

Aim 1: To monitor standards in Religious Education and Religious Studies.

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
1.1 Monitor standards through regular review of inspection reports/ Estyn thematic reviews/ school self evaluation reports and recommend, where necessary, action by Local Authority.	Annual agenda item Autumn Term	Full SACRE Adviser	Agenda time Adviser time for analysis	Advice to LA on trends across the county borough; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools; follow up through school visits and review of action plan where necessary.	<p>2015-16 Considered 4.11.15. Two school not fulfilling statutory requirements for RE. Action plan requested and considered. SACRE satisfied that progress has been made</p> <p>2016-2017 Considered 8.11.16. One school not completely fulfilling statutory requirements for RE as learning experiences in religious education were too infrequent. Action plan requested and considered. SACRE satisfied that progress has been made</p> <p>2017-2018 Considered 24.10.18. Progress update requested of 2 schools</p>

<p>1.2 Receive information on results of: Teacher Assessment at end of Key Stage 3; GCSE Religious Studies Full and Short Course; A/AS level Religious Studies.</p>	<p>Spring Term</p>	<p>Full SACRE Adviser</p>	<p>Agenda time Adviser time for analysis</p>	<p>Advice to LA on trends; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools.</p>	<p>2015-16 Considered 1.3.16. Schools informed of outcomes. 2016-2017 Considered 15.3.17. Schools informed of outcomes. 2017-2018 Considered 15.2.18</p>
<p>1.3 Identify INSET needs, monitor and offer advice on training.</p>	<p>Autumn Term</p>	<p>Full SACRE</p>	<p>Agenda time</p>	<p>Training programme received along with figures on uptake; advice to LA.</p>	<p>2015-16 No INSET provided by LA 2016-2017 Lead practitioner meetings on a Consortia basis 2017-2018 Lead practitioner meetings on a Consortia basis. Enquiries made about the <i>Learn, Teach Lead RE</i> initiative in England with a view to facilitating arrangements for a Network group/s in Wales on a Consortia basis.</p>

SWANSEA SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 – 2018 (ACADEMIC YEAR)

Aim 2: To review the agreed syllabus (as appropriate) and support its implementation.

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
2.1 To review the agreed syllabus for Religious Education	Summer 2016 onwards (or as appropriate)	Full SACRE Adviser Working group NAPfRE	Advisory time to review the agreed syllabus. Establish a working group (if applicable). Convene a Standing Conference to adopt the syllabus Publication/ translation costs (as appropriate)	Agreed syllabus reviewed and adopted by Standing Conference. Agreed Syllabus training programme for schools (if required) Agreed syllabus to be implemented the Autumn term after adoption.	2015-16 SACRE has termly updates on curriculum development. SACRE are awaiting further details from Welsh Government on the shape of RE in the curriculum, and advice from WASACRE, before beginning any RE agreed syllabus review. 2016-2017 A series of meetings have taken place between WASACRE and WG to discuss the place of RE in the curriculum. This is ongoing and SACRE have been informed of developments on a termly basis.

					<p>2017-2018 SACRE has received termly updates on development of the Humanities curriculum. They have responded to WG (Jan'18 and June '18) to the progress regarding the AOLE and their associated Progression Steps and Achievement</p>
2.2 Materials to support implementation of the agreed syllabus for RE	Ongoing	Full SACRE Adviser	Advisory time	Support materials available to schools and accessed through Consortium website.	<p>2015-16 Schools sent materials from Carmarthenshire LA 2016-2017 N/A 2017-2018 N/A</p>

SWANSEA SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 – 2018 (ACADEMIC YEAR)

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

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
3.1 Monitor provision for collective worship through regular review of inspection reports/ school self evaluation reports; recommend, where necessary, action by LA.	Annual agenda item Autumn term	Full SACRE and Adviser	Agenda time Adviser time for analysis	Advice to LA on trends across the county borough; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools; follow up through school visits and review of action plan where necessary.	<p>2015-16 Considered 4.11.15. No follow up action was necessary.</p> <p>2016-2017 Considered 8.11.16. No follow up action was necessary.</p> <p>2017-2018 Considered 24.10.18. Progress update requested of one school.</p>
3.2 To support the implementation of statutory collective worship	Ongoing	Advisory service	Advisory time	Provision of INSET (if applicable) Schools informed of resources and websites for collective worship. Schools informed of guidance materials available for collective worship	<p>2015-16 Schools informed of resources to support HMD 2016 including resources for acts of collective worship.</p> <p>2016-2017 Schools informed of resources to support acts of collective worship during HMD 2017.</p>

					2017-2018 Schools informed of resources to support HMD 2018 including resources for acts of collective worship
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SWANSEA SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 – 2018 (ACADEMIC YEAR

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

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
4.1 To update members on the role of SACRE and its implications; recent developments in RE and collective worship; guidance materials from relevant bodies; input from practising teachers and outside providers	Termly/ Annually as required	SACRE members , Adviser, practising teachers, outside providers	Member time; Adviser / Officer time	SACRE members fully aware of their responsibilities. SACRE and schools updated and informed of recent developments and initiatives, both local and national.	<p>2015-16 SACRE visited one school and UWTSD (Swansea) this year and received presentations on RE.</p> <p>2016-2017 SACRE received updates on NC review and the development of exam specifications. Presentation received from GCSE lead practitioner A Lewis.</p> <p>2017-2018 SACRE received updates on NC review and the development of exam specifications.</p>

4.2 Programme of school visits.	Termly/Annually as required	SACRE members, Adviser/Officers	Member time; Officer time to arrange visits	More informed SACRE on provision and practice regarding RE and collective worship in schools.	<p>2015-16 SACRE visited one school this year, and received a presentation.</p> <p>2016-2017 No school visits this year.</p> <p>2017-2018 SACRE visited one school and one tertiary college this year and received presentations.</p>
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APPENDIX 4: EXAMINATIONS ANALYSIS 2017

GCSE FULL COURSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES 2017 (YEAR 11)

	Swansea 2017	Swansea 2016	Swansea 2015	Wales 2017
A*-A	22.8%	24.4%	27.0%	24.7%
A*-C	63.4%	69.8%	76.9%	68.3%
A*-G	98.1%	96.2%	98.0%	97.5%
Entry Number	852 12 schools 35.4% cohort	765 11 schools & 1 PRU 30.8% Cohort	714 13 schools	12,401 39.5% cohort

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES 2017 (SHORT COURSE) Year 11

	Swansea 2017	Swansea 2016	Swansea 2015	Wales 2017
A*-A	9.8%	15.9%	10.4%	9.8%
A*-C	47.5%	49.5%	49.4%	39.6%
A*-G	90.6%	92.2%	92.7%	90.2%
Entry Number	615 11 schools +PRU 25.4% cohort	836 10 schools +PRU 33.7% cohort	862 10 schools	9343 29.8% cohort

* 230 students entered for SC in Year 10 in 2017

GCE RELIGIOUS STUDIES (A LEVEL) 2017 Year 13

	Swansea 2017	Swansea 2016	Swansea 2015	Wales 2017
A*-A	15.7%	11.4%	19.5%	18.2%
A*-C	76.5%	72.7%	70.7%	78.1%
A* -E	100%	100%	100%	99.8%
Entry Number	51 5 schools 7.5% cohort	44 6 schools 6.6% cohort	41 6 schools	1305 11.4%

GCE AS LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES 2017 YEAR 13

	Swansea 2017	Swansea 2016	Swansea 2015	Wales 2017
A	0.0%	13.6%	18.8%	19.1%
A -C	54.5%	54.5%	50.0%	62.3%
A -E	90.9%	100%	93.8%	90.6%
Entry Number	11 4 schools 1.6% cohort	22 4 schools 3.3% cohort	16 3 schools	1291 11.3% cohort

* 30 students entered for AS in Year 12 in 2017

APPENDIX 5 : CIRCULATION OF REPORT

Copies will be sent electronically to the relevant bodies. This report will be available on the WASACRE website for interested parties to download. It will also be put on the SACRE section of the Swansea LA website

City and County of Swansea Education Authority

Department for Education and Skills (DfES)

All members of SACRE

Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all Schools and Colleges in the city and County of Swansea

Diocese of Swansea and Brecon

WASACRE

Minister for Education, Welsh Government

ESTYN