

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA



Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Annual Report 2020 - 2021

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2020- 2021

CONTENTS		PAGE
Section`1	Information about SACRE	3
1.1	Duty to establish SACRE	
1.2	Composition of SACRE	
1.3	Membership of SACRE	
1.4	Functions and Duties of SACRE	
1.5	Meetings	
1.6	Development Plan	
1.7	Circulation of Report	
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ADVICE GIVEN BY SACRE		4-5
Section 2	Advice on Religious Education	6-7
2.1	The locally agreed syllabus	
2.2	Standards in RE	
2.3	Methods of Teaching, Teacher Materials and Teacher Training	
Section 3	Advice on Collective Worship	8
3.1	School Inspection reports	
3.2	Applications for Determinations	
3.3	School Visits	
Section 4	Other Issues	9-10
4.1	WASACRE	
4.2	Holocaust Education	
4.3	Welsh Government National Curriculum Review	
4.4	Estyn Updates	
4.5	Training of SACRE Members	
4.6	Membership of SACRE	
Appendices		
Appendix 1	Membership of SACRE	11-12
Appendix 2	Schedule of meetings and agenda items	13
Appendix 3	SACRE Development Plan 2018-2021	14-20
Appendix 4	Circulation of Report	21

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 two occasions during the 2020-21 academic year.

October 20th 2020 –Microsoft TEAMS (cancelled);
February 10th 2021 – Microsoft TEAMS;
July 1st 2021 – Microsoft TEAMS.

1.6 SACRE Development Plan

SACRE adopted a development plan as a basis for its activities for the period 2018-2021. 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 4**.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Issue

To monitor provision and raise standards in RE

Action

Due to the pandemic and the impact that this has had on all schools, Swansea SACRE has halted its monitoring of provision and standards.

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. This was further endorsed in 2019.
3. 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 (Welsh Government) consultation document on the framework for RVE (July 2021) and are awaiting further details from Welsh Government on the shape of RVE (Religion, Values and Ethics) in the curriculum, and advice from WASACRE (Wales Association of SACRE), before beginning any RVE agreed syllabus review, in line with the RVE framework and guidance that is currently being developed. This is scheduled for Spring term 2022 following the publication of the RVE guidance from the Welsh Government.

TEACHING MATERIALS

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

1. All schools were informed of the 2020 Holocaust Memorial Day theme of 'Stand Together' 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.
2. The SACRE aspect of the LA web site has been updated and is becoming populated with some teaching resources.
3. SACRE has set up a share space for T&L resources as well as SACRE documents to be available for all schools and teachers in Swansea.
4. Each SACRE meeting will incorporate an aspect of teaching and learning as an agenda item.
5. Swansea SACRE has worked closely with ERW (South West Wales consortium) and provided collaborative network days which focus on teaching and learning and shared working.

6. Resources that are shared with SACRE are distributed to both primary and secondary schools and where appropriate, added to the SACRE web pages.

TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

Issue

To ensure that teachers are able to access appropriate CPD.

Action

1. Training has been limited due to restricted capacity caused by the pandemic. Swansea SACRE has hosted two network days for teachers of RE, both held on Microsoft TEAMS.
2. Regular emails have been shared with RE leads across Swansea to share PL opportunities.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Issue

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

Action

There has not been any monitoring undertaking during this year due to the COVID pandemic. However, resources to support with collective worship have been shared with both primary and secondary schools and a number of bespoke collective worship presentations have been created and shared with schools via the virtual school in Swansea.

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. The vice chair of SACRE (Alison Lewis) is also a member of the WASACRE Executive and provides feedback termly. Both Jennifer Harding-Richards (RE Adviser) and Alison Lewis attend WASACRE meetings and deliver feed back at each SACRE meeting. Jennifer Harding-Richards is also a member of the National advisory panel for Religions Education (NAPfRE) and the National association for teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) and feeds back termly.
2. Members have received various presentations and reports this year:
 - Presentation on the Curriculum for Wales and RVE from Jennifer Harding-Richards (Spring 2021).
 - Presentation on the role of the RE secondary school network from Heather Hansen (Spring 2021).
 - Presentation on the response of Swansea council in supporting pupils throughout the pandemic from Rob Davies (Spring 2021).
 - Presentation on the RVE consultation from St Giles Centre, Wrexham (Summer 2021).
 - Presentation on the OFSTED research review into worldviews (Summer 2021).
 - Presentation on the new Agored Cymru qualification for core RE from Jennifer Harding-Richards (Summer 2021).

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, was 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, the 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. This was further endorsed during the Summer 2019 meeting.

During 2020-21, Swansea SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments with the Curriculum for Wales developments. They have responded to WG consultations (Jan 2019, June 2019, June 2021) to the progress regarding the AoLE and their associated Progression Steps and Achievement Outcomes and role of RVE. Swansea SACRE will be putting together a timeline for 2021-2022 to facilitate the development of the new locally agreed syllabus which will become statutory within Swansea schools from September 2022.

2.2 Standards in RE

Swansea SACRE has not undertaken any monitoring or reviewing of standards over the last year due to the pandemic and the impact of this on schools.

2.2a School Inspection Reports

None to review.

2.2b Examination Results

No analysis has been made of the CAG process within schools.

2.3 Methods of Teaching, Teacher Materials and Teacher Training

Professional Development

Swansea SACRE have supported the RE network within secondary schools. The strong network provides opportunities for RE colleagues across Swansea and NPT to meet together, consider curriculum developments and share best practice. Feedback from the meetings is taken to SACRE meetings to discuss and consider if further support is needed.

Colleagues across both the primary and secondary phases have been regularly updated during the pandemic, of virtual CPD events and training to support their virtual teaching and learning as well as providing professional development for colleagues.

Teaching Materials

See above.

SECTION 3 ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

3.1 SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORTS

None have been undertaken.

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. None have been undertaken during this academic year.

SECTION 4 OTHER ISSUES

4.1 WASACRE

SACRE has continued to affiliate to WASACRE and representatives have attended its meetings. During the 2020-2021 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 Alison Lewis (Chair of Swansea SACRE) and on WASACRE by Jennifer Harding-Richards (RE Adviser). SACRE welcomes the pro-active work of WASACRE in taking up issues that have implications for RE and keeping members of SACRE fully informed. Each SACRE meeting that follows WASACRE has an agenda item based on WASACRE discussions. Swansea SACRE has utilised the collective worship guidance produced by WASACRE during the pandemic to support blended learning.

4.2 HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Due to the pandemic, Swansea HMD 2021 was entirely a virtual event. The RE adviser to SACRE, Jennifer Harding-Richards was heavily involved in the organisation of the event and lead and co ordinated the involvement from the educational sectors.

A large number of cross phase schools prepared and recorded items for the event and these were edited together to create a very moving and poignant tribute to the victims of the Jewish holocaust and subsequent genocides. The link to the items from the schools can be seen [here](#).

Furthermore, the faith representatives from SACRE collaboratively undertook the candle lighting in a demonstration of interfaith solidarity. The link for the event is [here](#) and [here](#).

4.3 WELSH GOVERNMENT NATIONAL CURRICULUM REVIEW

Swansea SACRE continues to be actively involved in the curriculum developments and the role/ purpose of RVE from 2021. Both the RE adviser, Jennifer Harding-Richards and the SACRE chair, Alison Lewis, regularly attend WASACRE meetings to ensure that they are kept updated of developments.

All consultations to WG have been completed with full participation and involvement from SACRE members and discussions have been undertaken during SACRE meetings.

Swansea SACRE is confident in its ability to ensure that the new agreed syllabus will be set in place by September 2022, together with opportunities for training, professional support and advice which will be provided for all schools across the local authority.

4.4 ESTYN UPDATES

No updates.

4.5 TRAINING OF SACRE MEMBERS

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

- To keep members updated on developments in RE and collective worship through regular presentations to SACRE members. The RE Adviser gives termly updates on the review of the Curriculum for Wales and its implications for RE.
- As all SACRE meetings have been held virtually for 2020-21, there has not been the opportunity to undertake school visits or have school presentations,

4.6 MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE

Swansea SACRE prides itself on the inclusive nature of its membership and encourages a range of diverse views to be expressed on the committee and during meetings. The membership is strong and diverse and provides a real reflection on both the 'religious and secular' nature of the local authority.

Swansea SACRE currently have one co opted member from the Welsh medium sector who has been invited to provide a further dimension to the committee. We have also been fortunate to 'co opt' a recently retired RE specialist who has undertaken examining work with the WJEC and provides further expertise and depth to our membership.

The committee now has two senior leaders from schools across the authority as well as a number of practising RE teachers.

Membership is now almost at full capacity; there is currently one vacancy for a representative from the Sikh community as well as two vacancies for Councillors; these will be filled by Democratic Services.

Over the next academic year, Swansea SACRE will be reviewing its constitution and exploring whether any changes need to be made to membership in moving forward.

APPENDIX 1: SWANSEA SACRE MEMBERSHIP 2020-2021

CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS AND OTHER RELIGIONS (17)

Church in Wales (3):

John Meredith, Director of Education

Revd Ian Folks, Central Swansea Ministry Team

Revd Dr Jonathon Wright, Priest in Charge, the Benefice of Swansea St Peter (Cockett)

Roman Catholic (3):

Mr Paul White, Director of Education

Adele Thomas, RE department, Bishop Vaughan Catholic Comprehensive

Ann Jones, St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Clydach

Nonconformist (3):

Mr Paul Davies

Mr Kevin Davies

Mr Brin Jones (Methodist)

Hebrew Community (1)

Mrs Norma Glass

Muslim Community (2)

Moshen Elbeltagi

Sheikh Eunus Ali

Hindu Community (1)

Mrs Sarita Sood

Sikh Community (1)

Vacancy

Buddhist Community (1)

Mr Chris Mann

Humanist Association (1)

Mr Brian Cainen

Baha'i representative (1)

Rita Green

TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS (7):

SHA Jeffrey Connick (Secondary HT/ Welsh medium)

NEU Alison Lewis (Secondary teacher)

NAS/UWT Claire Foley (Primary teacher)

UCAC Rachel Bendall (Higher Education RE lecturer)

NAHT Bev Phillips (Primary HT)

VOICE Mrs Heather Hansen (Secondary head of Department – Faith school)

UCU Briony Knibbs (Further education RE lecturer)

LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY (6):

Vacancy to replace Councillor William Evans

Vacancy to replace Councillor Elliott King

Councillor Yvonne Jardine

Councillor Lynda James
Councillor Sam Pritchard
Councillor Peter Jones

CO-OPTED MEMBERSHIP:

Mrs Ruth Jenkins – representing secondary education
Mrs Tanya Long – retired RE HoD/ chief examiner for WJEC)

SACRE OFFICERS:

Mrs Jennifer Harding-Richards - RE Advisor
Mr Rob Davies- Education Department, Swansea Council

SECRETARY

Miss Agnieszka Majewska - Education Department, Swansea Council

APPENDIX 2 SCHEDULE AND AGENDA OF MEETINGS

The main items of business on the agenda included:

February 10th 2021 – Microsoft TEAMS

1. Apologies for absence: AM
2. Membership update: JHR
3. Accuracy of minutes and matters arising: HH:
4. HMD 2021: JHR
5. Curriculum for Wales & RE Framework: JHR
6. Development Plan update: JHR
7. Swansea/ NPT RE Network update: HH
8. Swansea LA update: RD
9. Agored Cymru Qualification

July 1st 2021 – Microsoft TEAMS

1. Welcome: AL
2. Apologies for absence: AM
3. Accuracy of minutes: AL
4. Matters arising: AL
5. Membership update: JHR
6. Development plan update: JHR
7. LA update: RD
8. RVE Consultation – it would be helpful if you could view the short presentation from the St Giles Centre, Wrexham, prior to the meeting. It can be found [here](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page)
 - (a) Presentation: JHR
 - (b) WASACRE feedback: PD/ RG/ BP
 - (c) Discussion: All members
9. Agreed Syllabus Conference
10. OFSTED RE research review report
[Research review series: religious education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

11. Schedule of meetings: 2021-2022

APPENDIX 3

Swansea SACRE Development Plan 2018-2021

Swansea SACRE's statutory duties include:

- ✓ To require the local authority to review its current Agreed Syllabus after 5 years – this review is pending the development of the new curriculum in Wales.
- ✓ To advise the LA on matters such as
 - Meeting statutory requirements;
 - How the agreed syllabus for RE is best delivered;
 - Methods of teaching;
 - Resources and teaching materials to be used;
 - Training of teachers.
- ✓ To monitor the provision for RE and collective worship and consider any action it may take to improve such provision.
- ✓ To consider complaints about the provision and delivery of statutory RE and collective worship.
- ✓ To consider any application from a school for a “determination” to lift the requirement for the majority of acts of worship in that school to be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”.
- ✓ To publish an annual report giving details of its work, advice given by SACRE to the local authority, and deal with matters about which the authority has sought advice from SACRE.

Swansea SACRE puts its purposes into action through working with both teachers and pupils to improve the quality and outcomes of RE in our schools, in line with the Local Authority's purposes and strategic plan, relating especially to issues of standards of learning and of diversity and inclusion.

Our plans for 2018-21 are expressed in two key areas of activity: improving standards of RE, becoming an increasingly effective SACRE.

Key activity 1: Developing and improving standards in RE and Collective Worship

Focus/ Key Task	Frequency/ Time Scale	Key Outcomes/ Success Criteria	Resource Implications/ Cost
Intention: To analyse Estyn reports on a yearly basis (RE and Collective Worship)			
To monitor standards through annual review of Estyn reports/ thematic reports. Followed by school evaluation reports if necessary.	Annually. Agenda item/ feedback at Autumn meeting.	Annual report to SACRE. Follow up with schools – excellent practice and recommendation areas. Review of action plan/ school visits if necessary. To share good practice identified by Estyn with SACRE/ RE co-ordinators.	Time: RE Adviser.
Intention: To monitor and evaluate pupil outcomes at KS4&5			
To analyse KS4 s/c and f/c results; To consider trends and differences amongst learner groups; To compare with Wales/ National outcomes; To share with schools and provide support if needed.	Annually. Agenda item – Spring term.	Collation of statistics. Evaluation of trends. Feedback to schools. Identification of CPD needs, if required.	Time: RE Adviser/ Data Manager. Time: SACRE Clerk.
Intention: To support RE practitioners within the LA to implement recommendations from the Estyn KS 2/3 report			

<p>To provide professional learning opportunities for teachers of RE; To support schools with planning for the new curriculum; To advise schools to address sensitive issues and how to deal with parental concerns; To provide schools with guidance on approved places of worship; To support leaders within schools with their responsibilities under the 'counter terrorism and security act' 2015.</p>	<p>Ongoing – 3 years.</p>	<p>Practitioners are empowered to deliver RE within the classroom and supported to start planning for the new curriculum. Schools are informed of the protocol with regard to parental concerns and are supported with regard to legislation.</p>	<p>Time: RE Adviser. PREVENT trainer (LA). Time: RE practitioners (SACRE).</p>
<p>Intention: To develop communication with schools and provide every day support/ sharing of good practice</p>			
<p>To collate contact list of RE co-ordinators within the authority. To utilise communication methods to share resources/ events/ outside agencies and updates. To provide telephone/ email support for RE teachers as required. SACRE agenda items to share RE updates. Termly emails to RE co-ordinators to share updates. To explore the use of social media (twitter/ facebook) as a platform for communication.</p>	<p>Ongoing – 3 years.</p>	<p>Enhanced communication with schools. Enabling RE co-ordinators to be updated about reports and events. Good practice and support shared throughout the LA. RE teachers feel supported and valued. SACRE members kept updated and informed. Communication is improved.</p>	<p>Time: SACRE Clerk/ RE Adviser.</p>
<p>Intention: To review and develop the LA Agreed Syllabus on the legally required 5 year cycle</p>			

To liaise with advisers within Wales (NAPfRE/ WASACRE), Welsh Government and LA to determine process following the introduction of the new curriculum.	Due now, but delayed awaiting the new curriculum.	TBC	Time: RE Adviser/ SACRE working party. Convene a standing conference to adopt the syllabus. Publication/ translation costs.
Intention: To support practitioners with the teaching of RE within the Agreed Syllabus, WJEC qualifications and in planning for the new curriculum			
To plan, organise and deliver professional learning opportunities for RE practitioners within the LA.	At least one bespoke training session per year: 2018/2019 – KS2/KS3 transition in the new curriculum. 2019/2020 – 2020/2021 – Working alongside ERW with the delivery of the twice yearly network meetings	CPD sessions organised and delivered. Evaluation of sessions collated and analysed. Liaise with RE co-ordinators as to CPD when required/ needed.	Cost of agencies involved. Time: SACRE clerk/ RE Adviser. Time: RE practitioners (SACRE). Time: Faith groups (SACRE). 2018/2019 - £50 per delegate.

Key activity 2: Developing Partnerships and Initiatives that contribute towards an effective SACRE

Focus/ Key Task	Frequency/ Time Scale	Key Outcomes/ Success Criteria	Resource Implications/ Cost
Intention: To raise the profile of SACRE and strengthen partnerships			
To build a solid relationship between schools and SACRE; To explore how SACRE can support RE and collective worship within schools;	Ongoing – 3 years.	Schools are aware of the role of SACRE and utilise the support offered. LA audit of RE provision is undertaken and shared with	Time: SACRE Clerk/ RE Adviser. Time: SACRE members. Funding for prizes.

<p>To explore and evaluate the provision of RE within schools and hold meetings within schools as required.</p> <p>To organise the SACRE web site to ensure that it is fit for purpose and accessible to all.</p> <p>To share funding opportunities (research bursaries/ ECW) with practitioners.</p> <p>To provide an annual newsletter to schools regarding the work of SACRE.</p> <p>To involve pupils within the LA authority with the work of SACRE; youth SACRE's/ competitions (essay writing & designing SACRE logo).</p> <p>To display LA RE work within the civic centre.</p>		<p>SACRE – follow up with schools as required.</p> <p>Web site is accessible as a digital network tool.</p> <p>Newsletter and competitions are organised and successful.</p>	
Intention: To develop a full and active membership of SACRE			
<p>To audit current membership;</p> <p>To explore communities within the LA who are not represented;</p> <p>To involve all members in the setting of the agenda;</p> <p>To develop a mutually agreed development plan;</p> <p>To explore the possibility of changing meeting times to accommodate members.</p>	Ongoing – 3 years.	SACRE members are informed and aware of updates.	<p>Time: RE Adviser/ SACRE Clerk.</p> <p>Time: SACRE members.</p>
Intention: To collate information on visiting speakers/ places to visit/ RE initiatives and share with schools			

<p>To update information regarding local speakers/ school visits on an annual basis.</p> <p>To email RE co-ordinators termly with opportunities for speakers and local visits.</p> <p>To work with SACRE faith representatives to explore resources and school visits.</p> <p>To work with school clusters in providing exam support – revision sessions/ exam study days.</p>	Annually.	<p>Update of information for schools shared with all schools.</p> <p>RE co-ordinators are able to utilise outside agencies with their delivery of RE.</p> <p>Organisation and delivery of RE study days for learners.</p>	<p>Time: RE Adviser/ SACRE Clerk.</p> <p>Time: SACRE members.</p>
Intention: To develop HMD within Swansea as a civic and public event			
<p>To contact Nick Williams (LA Education Officer) regarding SACRE request.</p> <p>To meet to discuss options.</p> <p>To set up a working party from SACRE members to support the transition of HMD from school event to civic event.</p>	Ongoing.	The organisation of a civic HMD event within the authority.	<p>Time: RE Adviser.</p> <p>Cost: To be agreed by LA.</p>

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