



Vale of Glamorgan Council

**Standing Advisory Council for Religious
Education
(SACRE)**

Annual Report 2021 - 2022

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2021- 2022

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**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

2021-2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN SACRE MEMBERS

The 2021-2022 academic year continued to be an unprecedented time for people due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The thoughts of SACRE members are with all those who have been affected by the virus, including those who have become ill and who may have lost loved ones.

Members would also like to express gratitude to everyone in the education sector for the sterling work you are doing to provide children and young people in Wales with care, support, and education throughout this difficult time.

The Local Authority and SACRE has been able to provide support to schools via email and through partnership with Central South Consortium Joint Education Services (CSCJES). The CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE, Donna Graves, has been available to provide advice and support to schools on RE, RVE and Collective Worship throughout this period and has worked with 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. SACRE meetings were moved online, to continue their function during Covid-19.

Members would like to remind practitioners engaged with RE/RS/RVE that SACRE is here to support you with advice on teaching, learning and resources. Additionally, support from SACRE is also available for the Daily Act of Collective Worship.

The Vale of Glamorgan SACRE welcomes correspondence via the contacts below:

The Clerk to The Vale of Glamorgan SACRE: jmorgan@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

SECTION 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE

1.1 Duty to Establish SACRE

All local authorities are required to constitute Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) within their local area.

1.2 Composition of SACRE

The membership of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education is determined by the Education Acts of 1944, 1993, the Education Reform Act of 1988 and the 2021 Curriculum and Assessment Act in Wales. SACRE has three constituent groups; each group being entitled to one vote:

- a. Such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the Local Authority will appropriately reflect the religious traditions in the area and also such persons who represent holders of non-religious beliefs in the same way as they permit the appointment of persons who represent holders of religious beliefs;

The non-religious beliefs adhered to by the person to be appointed must be analogous to a religious belief. To be “analogous” we consider the non-religious beliefs must in accordance with case law under the European Convention of Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998 attain the necessary level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance to attract protection under the Convention Rights.

An appointment is dependent on SACRE’s opinion as to whether a holder of non-religious beliefs would help ensure that the relevant traditions in the local authority’s area are appropriately reflected in Group A. The final decision of an appointment rests with the SACRE, as they are best placed to assess whether the SACRE has the necessary expertise and experience to properly discharge its function.

- b. Such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the Local Authority, ought to be represented having regard to the circumstances of the area.
- c. The Local Authority.

1.3 Membership of SACRE

The members representing each of these groups for 2021- 2022 are listed in Appendix 1.

1.4 FUNCTIONS OF SACRE

The main function of a SACRE is to:

- advise the LA about religious education and collective worship
- require the authority to review the agreed syllabus
- consider applications from schools for determinations (to be exempt from the requirement that worship be “Christian”)

- publish an annual report on its work
- play a part in the local statutory complaints procedure where cases are referred to it relating to religious education or collective worship

Advice may relate to:

- pedagogy
- the choice of teaching resources
- the provision of professional learning
- any other matter relating to religious education (RE), religion, values and ethics (RVE) and collective worship which SACRE considers appropriate

1.5 RECORD OF MEETINGS

Three meetings of SACRE were held on the Microsoft Teams virtual platform during the academic year 2021-2022:

- Wednesday 3rd November 2021
- Wednesday 9th March 2022
- Wednesday 15th June 2022

A record of the main agenda items discussed during the meetings is to be found in Appendix 2.

1.6 CIRCULATION OF REPORT

Copies of this report have been circulated to the organisations/establishments listed in Appendix 3.

SECTION 2: ADVICE GIVEN BY SACRE

2.1 The Locally Agreed Syllabus

The Vale of Glamorgan Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) has fulfilled its legal requirement to review and agree the agreed syllabus for Religious Education during this academic year. The Vale of Glamorgan SACRE support the syllabus put in place by the ASC. This includes a new Locally Agreed syllabus in line with the requirements for Religion, Values and Ethics within the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021.

In January 2022 the ASC endorsed the re-adoption of the current Vale of Glamorgan agreed syllabus for religious education with an understanding that the syllabus would be replaced by the Curriculum for Wales agreed syllabus as it rolls out across schools and settings from September 2022. Secondary schools have been advised to continue to follow this syllabus until the completion of the roll out of RVE. This Syllabus had previously been re-adopted in 2013

Welsh Government published the statutory guidance for RVE on Hwb, on 10th January 2022. SACRE advised the LA on the statutory guidance for RVE to convene the Agreed Syllabus Conference in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021. Between January and July 2022, the ASC convened to produce a new agreed syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021, to be presented to the Vale of Glamorgan Council. In July 2022, the Vale of Glamorgan Council and SACRE adopted a new agreed syllabus for the authority's schools to be implemented from September 2022 for all primary schools' learners, up to and including Year 6. For Year 7 learners, schools in the region will have flexibility on whether to roll out the Curriculum for Wales in September 2022, or to roll out the Curriculum for Wales for Years 7 and 8 together in September 2023. During the period of curriculum roll out, as a secondary school or setting 'adopts' the Curriculum for Wales Framework for a particular year group, this Vale of Glamorgan Council agreed syllabus will supersede the current/legacy Vale of Glamorgan Council agreed syllabus.

This new agreed syllabus sets out the details regarding teaching and learning in the mandatory element of Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) in line with the Curriculum for Wales, for all schools and settings maintained by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The document has been adopted as the agreed syllabus for RVE in the Vale of Glamorgan, in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has adopted the document as the agreed syllabus for RVE in May 2022, following a formal recommendation to the Local Authority by the Agreed Syllabus Conference on July 2022. Copies of the 2022 the Vale of Glamorgan Council agreed syllabus available on the council's website, CSCJES website and from the SACRE Clerk.

2.2 Standards in Religious Education

SACRE provided advice to the LA on standards in religious education. However, the Covid -19 pandemic has made it impossible for SACRE to undertake school visits. Changes to Welsh government guidance on school performance data and reporting of Key Stage three assessment data has changed the way that SACRE has been able to monitor school performance in RE in the secondary sector. SACRE has

continued to consult Estyn reports for evidence of standards of RE provision, and no issues have been raised with regard to RE or collective worship.

2.3 Curriculum

SACRE has received termly updates and detailed advice from the CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE regarding curriculum developments as they relate to RE/RVE and collective worship. With the passing of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill, RE will, from September 2022 be re-named as 'Religion, Values and Ethics' (RVE). RVE will be a statutory curriculum requirement from 3 years until the age of 16 and will form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience. The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act, 2021 removes the current parental right to withdraw children from all or part of RVE in Wales. There are also significant changes in relation to the status of locally agreed syllabi which have been discussed by SACRE. The publication of the final statutory guidance for RVE, was delayed until the 10th January 2022. SACRE members have received detailed information and advice on the statutory Guidance for RVE with opportunities to comment and put forward questions. The Vale of Glamorgan ASC, convened by the Local Authority, according to the RVE legislation in the Curriculum for Wales. In February 2022 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the current Vale of Glamorgan agreed syllabus for religious education with an understanding that the syllabus would be replaced by the Curriculum for Wales agreed syllabus as it rolls out across schools and settings from September 2022. Secondary schools have been advised to continue to follow this syllabus until the completion of the roll out of RVE.

SACRE has been advised on the curriculum changes to RVE. Welsh Government plans for a fully inclusive education system where all learners have the equality of access to a broad, balanced curriculum and make progress towards the "Four Purposes" recommended in the Donaldson Review. As part of this equality of access, the Welsh Government has changed the legislation regarding the parental right of withdrawal, from RVE under the new curriculum. Parents legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship is still permitted as RVE and collective worship are separate entities. SACRE held discussions about possible future enquiries and concerns from stakeholders in regard to this matter. SACRE also explored the changes to Religion, Values and Ethics as a statutory requirement of the Curriculum for Wales and is mandatory for all learners from ages 3 to 16. The guidance states that mandatory *"Religion, values and ethics (RVE) is a statutory requirement of the Curriculum for Wales and is mandatory for all learners from ages 3 to 16. RVE forms part of the Humanities Area. This Area encompasses geography; history; religion, values and ethics; business studies. These disciplines share many common themes, concepts and transferable skills, whilst having their own discrete body of knowledge and skills."* <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/humanities/designing-your-curriculum/#religion,-values-and-ethics-guidance> SACRE discussed that the new Vale of Glamorgan agreed syllabus reflects that:

- the religious traditions in Wales are in the main Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Wales
- the fact that a range of non-religious philosophical convictions are held in Wales

SACRE discussed that the Vale of Glamorgan schools and settings also need to take note of the following legislative changes which will have a significant impact on schools:

- There is no parental right to withdraw their children from the academic subject of RVE within the Curriculum for Wales
- Maintained schools with nursery age children and funded non-maintained nursery settings must provide RVE for all their learners from age three, from September 2022

The RVE Guidance offers specific RVE concepts, in addition to the concepts provided in the mandatory Humanities Statements of What Matters. The [statements of what matters in this Area](#) allow learners to explore and critically engage with a broad range of religious and non-religious concepts, which should be carefully considered and underpin curriculum design. In addition, this guidance offers the RVE disciplinary lens and can help schools and settings consider relevant content for their curriculum design. In the guidance it states: *“the RVE lens is divided into a number of sub lenses through which the RVE concepts can be viewed and explored. The sub lenses are interconnected and are not intended to be units or topics. They draw on a recognised body of knowledge for RVE in Wales and help to ensure sufficient breadth and depth for RVE in the Humanities. The sub lenses lend themselves to all of the statements of what matters and are also relevant to other Areas and to the realisation of the four purposes. They help schools and settings understand significant aspects of RVE and identify opportunities for RVE within the statements of what matters to support curriculum development”*. <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/humanities/designing-your-curriculum/#religion,-values-and-ethics-guidance>

SACRE and the ASC discussed spiritual development in the curriculum for Wales framework. One of the features of the [four purposes](#) of the curriculum is that learners will be supported to develop as healthy, confident individuals, ready to live fulfilling lives as valued members of society. RVE has many valuable and distinctive contributions to make to this.

Vale of Glamorgan SACRE will continue to provide supporting materials, in addition to the agreed syllabus, to support practitioners in their curriculum planning and pedagogy, offering breadth and depth of knowledge, skills and experiences for learners across the region. These will be regularly updated and are designed to provide ongoing support for practitioners. These are intended to be ‘live’ and working documents, materials and resources to reflect the evolution of the Curriculum for Wales.

2.4 Examination results

Through the CSC Practitioner networks, schools were updated on the changes to the 2022 GCSE and GCE examinations for Religious Studies. The practitioners and CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE raised issues concerning the examinations for Religious Studies and views were shared with SACRE, WASACRE, NAPfRE and the WJEC.

During 2022-2023 SACRE will discuss ways in which the Local Authority will be able to provide meaningful information to SACRE about the quality of Religious Education and Religious Studies (RS) at KS4 within its schools.

SACRE was informed and discussed the national challenges facing RE/RS and the decline in GCSE and A Level entry. The RE Council of England and Wales published a report. SACRE were provided with a national update and discussed concerns. Concerns shared with WASACRE and NAPfRE.

2.5 School Inspection Reports

In order to fulfil its functions effectively, SACRE considers inspection reports and Estyn surveys. During the Spring term an inspection took place in six Vale of Glamorgan Primary Schools and three secondary schools. Positive comments about pupils' knowledge of morals and ethical issues. Comments were made by Estyn relevant to the provision of collective worship and spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. SACRE were very pleased to note the positive comments on RE, collective worship and SMSC.

If any issues emerge regarding religious education, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up requesting their action plan. Estyn made no such recommendations with regards to Spiritual Development, Collective Worship or Religious Education within these schools.

SACRE are aware of changes in reporting narrative by ESTYN in their school inspection reports. Concerns relating to these changes and the less informative style on Spiritual Development, statutory RE and Collective Worship have been shared with WASACRE, ESTYN, the Local Authority and the Welsh Government. Discussions are ongoing in terms of monitoring the curriculum provision, pedagogy and standards in these areas in order for SACRE to fulfil its duty to report on these.

2.6 Professional Learning

SACRE has continued to provide advice and guidance to schools on pedagogy and resources. CSCJES, as regional provider of school improvement services and professional learning support to schools and practitioners, has provided a wide range of professional learning programmes, materials and approaches shared with schools in the region.

CSCJES appointed a Lead Practitioner for RS to lead the half termly Secondary Religious Studies Network Meetings. The focus of the network meetings was improving standards in GCSE Religious Studies. However, the practitioners attending also receive training on the Curriculum for Wales and updates on the work of SACRE, WASACRE and other relevant bodies. There was also a focus on moderation, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources for Religious Studies.

The Consortium facilitated a new Primary Humanities Lead Practitioners' Network, which is a teacher-led network attended by primary practitioners of Humanities and RVE. Half termly meetings have been offered online and are primarily focused on designing the RVE and Humanities curriculum, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources.

SACRE were advised that CSCJES has invested in capacity for delivering bespoke support for RE/RS and RVE. This enables schools to receive direct support from the Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE, for example in developing their

understanding of the Curriculum for Wales, planning and designing their RVE and Humanities curriculum. Cluster schools also work together, with the support of the adviser to co-construct and collaborate their RVE and Humanities curriculum design along the learning continuum, from 3 to 16 years. Bespoke support is brokered through a schools Improvement Partner, allowing schools to build capacity and to increase the collective ownership for the development of curriculum, pedagogy and leadership. This model is becoming the main driver to ensure the realisation of the new curriculum for September 2022 and the delivery of professional learning and will support the national changes in accountability and self-evaluation. RVE practitioners can access CSCJES professional learning and resources on pedagogy.

2.7 Pedagogy and Resources for Practitioners

The principle of subsidiarity in Curriculum for Wales, and CSCJES have offered a range of professional learning opportunities, for all practitioners within the region, focusing on sharing practice and empowering teachers. Examples of the resources and materials shared to support schools by CSC and SACRE include:

- The 2021 Interfaith Week, Sunday 14 November to Sunday 21 November, resources included lesson plans, case studies, collective worship material suitable for primary to post-16 <https://www.interfaithweek.org>
- The 2022 Holocaust Memorial Day theme 'One Day' with resources including lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students www.hmd.org.uk
- WASACRE's resources and advice for RE and collective worship
- Welsh Government consultations and publications for Humanities and RVE
- Secondary RS Network Meetings for curriculum leads
- Primary Humanities Network Meetings for all primary RVE practitioners
- 'Exploring approaches to developing rich RVE within the Curriculum for Wales' materials, produced by Lat Blaylock from REToday, for primary and secondary practitioners
- An educational calendar for religious celebrations shared with schools
- The 'Lessons from Auschwitz Project' details were shared with schools
- New Humanism UK teaching resources from www.understandinghumanism.org.uk and that schools could request a local Humanist speaker
- The 'Church in Wales Pilgrimage – the Gower' links and materials
- The 'History of Religion in Wales' resource
- The LGBTQ+ History Month resources
- Resources on BBC Bitesize for KS3 RVE 'Identity, Belonging and Cynefin'

- The 'Stand with Refugees: Creative teaching ideas for Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 learners' resources
- The cross regional Curriculum Design Project with Lucy Crehan resources published on Hwb
- The Jewish History Association of South Wales resources and website link to support RVE <https://www.jhasw.com/>.
- The Prof. Brian Cox's interview on the Sunday Morning show sharing profound, philosophical, spiritual perspective talking about the 'biggest questions' of all, addressing the statements of WM in the Humanities AoLE plus other AoLEs <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0017pff/sunday-morning-22052022>
- The Welsh Government publication, 'Teaching controversial issues: A guide for teachers' exploring the value of taking a global citizenship approach to teaching about controversial issues to all age groups, including guidance, classroom strategies and practical teaching activities: <https://hwb.gov.wales/repository/resource/dda70ba6-e800-4a61-a066-5ab2608c12cf>

During the pandemic, CSCJES's Associate Adviser for RVE/RE and SACRE compiled a comprehensive range of free to access classroom resources for RE. These were available to all Vale of Glamorgan schools. Including information posters to be used with practitioners and other stakeholders e.g. 'What's Changed in RVE?', 'What's not changed in RVE?', 'What is RVE?' and 'Learning Journeys in RVE'.

Teachers were invited to share good practice with SACRE at the meetings.

WASACRE commissioned specific professional learning relating to RVE, with Welsh Government funding and SACRE have welcomed the pilot and introduction prior to rollout of publication in the autumn term in 2022. **These materials will be shared with schools when available.**

Section 3: ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

3.1 School inspection reports

SACRE has continued to ensure that it supports schools to fulfil their statutory requirements for collective worship and provide a worthwhile experience for pupils. SACRE has monitored Estyn reports for recommendations relating to collective worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC) and the LA follows up on any non-fulfilment of statutory requirements by requesting their action plan. SACRE has continued to inform schools of appropriate information and resources relating to collective worship. Due to the covid pandemic, there have been challenges in SACRE monitoring and observing collective worship during this academic year.

Collective worship is inspected separately to RVE but also sits within IA4 under SMSC and is referred to explicitly. 'In all schools that do not provide denominational education, inspectors should consider whether there are appropriate acts of collective worship.' There was no indication of non-compliance with statutory requirements in relation to collective worship in the inspection reports for the region for 2021-2022.

WASACRE guidance on collective worship has been made available to schools through CSCJES website, community networks and professional learning sessions.

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

No school visits were possible this year due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. It is hoped that, as the situation improves, members will be able to visit schools and that at least one meeting per academic year can take place in one of the Vale of Glamorgan's schools, with input from practitioners, leaders and learners.

SECTION 4: SUMMARY OF OTHER ISSUES

4.1 WASACRE

SACRE continues to support the work of the WASACRE and recognises the value of the body in promoting religious education and collective worship on a national basis. SACRE is invited to send up to four members to each termly WASACRE meeting and the CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE receives regular feedback from them and other representatives who attend WASACRE meetings. Full discussions take place at SACRE on the issues raised by WASACRE. All WASACRE meetings for 2021-2022 and the AGM were held online using the Microsoft Teams virtual platform.

4.2 National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (NAPfRE)

SACRE was fully represented on NAPfRE by the CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE. This has facilitated SACRE in keeping abreast of developments across Wales and has enabled it to play a crucial role in informing decisions and policies that affect religious education. NAPfRE have worked closely with Welsh Government and other stakeholders during the development of the new curriculum, and this year on the development of statutory guidance for Religion, Values and Ethics in the Curriculum for Wales. SACRE Has also received reports and information this year from Estyn, and Welsh Government relating to RVE.

4.3 Training of SACRE Members

As part of training for members, SACRE has:

- kept members updated on developments in RE/RVE and collective worship through regular presentations, discussions and advice from CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE to SACRE members.
- discussed intentions to hold future meetings at places of worship in the Vale of Glamorgan for members to familiarise themselves with the faith communities, when the situation with the pandemic allows
- considered reinstating meetings held at local schools so that members can see first-hand educational contexts for RE/RVE in the Vale of Glamorgan's schools and have opportunities to be addressed by teachers, leaders and learners of RE/RVE
- invited its members to attend the three annual meetings of Wales Association for SACREs (WASACRE) as well as ensuring that the SACRE was represented at WASACRE by CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE, who gave detailed feedback from these meetings to SACRE members
- online free webinar training sessions, with the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE) <https://nasacre.org.uk/training-and-support/>
- provided the WASACRE handbook for new members of SACRE has been shared with members at meetings <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Fblfp8Wk5NZFUZD1BFcBpxy0r5pBkavK/view>

APPENDIX 1

SACRE MEMBERSHIP AS OF April 2022

Local authority – Committee C (6 places)

Councillor Eddie Williams (Chair)	Local Authority
Councillor Leighton Rowlands	Local Authority
Councillor Geoff Cox	Local Authority
Councillor Nic Hodges	Local Authority
Councillor Julie Aviet	Local Authority
Councillor Robert Crowley	Local Authority

Teacher associations – Committee B (8 places)

Carys Toozer
Jean-Marc Alter
Tyler Saunders
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy

Religious denominations and Non-religious philosophical convictions – Committee A (12 places)

Moawia Bin-Sufyan	Islam
Dr Ramez Delpak	Bahá'í
Rev. Phillip Hibbert	Baptist
Kalpana Natarajan	Hinduism
Elaine Holley	Baptist
Kathy Riddick (Vice Chair)	Humanism
Claire Lewis	Church in Wales
Bernadette Vella-Jones	Catholicism
Vacancy	
Vacancy	
Vacancy	
Vacancy	

Co-opted members: 4 places

Dafydd Treharne
Marged Williams
Vacancy
Vacancy

LA Officers

Jeremy Morgan	SACRE Clerk
Donna Graves	CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE

SACRE MEMBERSHIP AS OF JULY 2022

Local authority – Committee C (6 places)

Councillor Eddie Williams (Chair)	Local Authority
Councillor Nic Hodges	Local Authority
Councillor Julie Aviet	Local Authority

Vacancy

Vacancy

Vacancy

Teacher associations – Committee B (8 places)

Carys Toozer
Jean-Marc Alter
Tyler Saunders

Vacancy

Vacancy

Vacancy

Vacancy

Vacancy

Religious denominations and Non-religious philosophical convictions – Committee A (12 places)

Moawia Bin-Sufyan	Islam
Dr Ramez Delpak	Bahá'í
Rev. Phillip Hibbert	Baptist
Kalpana Natarajan	Hinduism
Elaine Holley	Baptist
Kathy Riddick (Vice Chair)	Humanism
Claire Lewis	Church in Wales
Bernadette Vella-Jones	Roman Catholic Church
Vacancy	Judaism
Vacancy	Sikhism
Vacancy	Free Churches
Vacancy	Buddhism

Co-opted members: 4 places

Dafydd Treharne
Marged Williams

Vacancy

Vacancy

LA Officers

Jeremy Morgan

SACRE Clerk

Donna Graves
and SACRE

CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE

During the course of the year there were changes to the membership of committee C, due to the elections in May 2022.

APPENDIX 2: Record of Meetings and Main Agenda Items

All meetings were held online, via Microsoft Teams

3rd November 2021

- Welcome & Apologies
- Election/re-election of Chair and Vice Chair
- Membership updates
- Minutes of previous meeting
- Matters arising
- Annual Report 2020-2021
- Curriculum Updates
- WASACRE
- Agreed Syllabus Conference
- Schedule of future meetings
- AOB

9th March 2022

- Welcome & Apologies
- Membership
- Minutes
- Matters arising
- Curriculum
- Agreed Syllabus Conference
- WASACRE
- Qualifications
- Support for Schools
- Schedule of future meetings
- AOB

15th June 2022

- Welcome and apologies
- SACRE membership and
- Minutes
- Matters arising
- Curriculum
- WASACRE
- Qualifications
- Estyn Reports
- Support for Schools
- Training for SACRE Members
- Schedule of future meetings
- AOB

APPENDIX 3: CIRCULATION OF THE ANNUAL 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.

- Members of the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE
- The Vale of Glamorgan Council Education and Leisure Department
- All Vale of Glamorgan schools
- Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE)
- DfES
- Welsh Government
- The National Library
- The Welsh National Centre for Religious Education
- Central South Consortium
- Estyn
- Religious Education Movement (Wales)
- Religious Education Council for England and Wales
- Church in Wales Diocesan Officer
- The Roman Catholic Diocesan Officer
- Cytun

APPENDIX 4:

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

CONSTITUTION AND STANDING ORDERS

Terms of Reference

1. To advise the LA on matters connected with collective worship in county schools.
2. To advise the LA on matters connected with religious education which is given in accordance with the agreed syllabus.
3. To decide when, within the five year statutory time scale, the LA should review its agreed syllabus.
4. To consider with the LA and the Agreed Syllabus Conference any changes required to the agreed syllabus.
5. To consider with the LA the support offered to religious education in its schools, with particular regard to methods of teaching, the choice of teaching materials and the provision of training for teachers.
6. To offer advice on any other matters related to its function as it sees fit.
7. To publish an annual report on its work, which should:
 - a. specify any matters on which it has advised the LA;
 - b. broadly describe the nature of the advice;
 - c. set out its reasons for offering advice on any matters which were not referred to it in the first place by the LA; and

The report should also follow the current guidance from Welsh Government on its structure and information that should be included in the report.

8. To participate in the LA's statutory complaints procedures in those instances where the complaints relate to religious education and/or collective worship.
9. To receive and make determinations in respect of applications from headteachers of county schools for the lifting or modifying of the requirements that collective worship in such schools must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

Composition of SACRE in the Vale of Glamorgan

10. SACRE shall comprise three groups representing:
- a. Such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the Local Authority will appropriately reflect the religious traditions in the area and also such persons who represent holders of non-religious beliefs in the same way as they permit the appointment of persons who represent holders of religious beliefs; (section 390(4)(a) of, and paragraph 4(2)(1) of Schedule 31 to, the 1996 Act).

The non-religious beliefs adhered to by the person to be appointed must be analogous to a religious belief. To be “analogous” we consider the non-religious beliefs must in accordance with case law under the European Convention of Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998 attain the necessary level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance to attract protection under the Convention Rights.

An appointment is dependent on SACRE’s opinion as to whether a holder of non-religious beliefs would help ensure that the relevant traditions in the local authority’s area are appropriately reflected in Group A. The final decision of an appointment rests with the SACRE, as they are best placed to assess whether the SACRE has the necessary expertise and experience to properly discharge its function.

- b. Such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the Local Authority, ought to be represented having regard to the circumstances of the area.
- c. The Local Authority.

The council may also include co-opted members.

The Vale of Glamorgan SACRE has agreed the following membership:

Representatives from religious traditions, denominations and holders of non-religious beliefs

To optimise the efficiency of the SACRE, membership is sought from a wide range of religious traditions and from persons who represent holders of non-religious beliefs that which may at any time, be directly present within the Vale of Glamorgan.

12 places from a range of religions, denominations and from non-religious belief groups which could include but is not restricted to:

- The Church in Wales
- The Roman Catholic Church
- Free Churches
- Bahá'í Faith
- Buddhism
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Judaism
- Sikhism
- Humanism

Teacher representatives

8 places from a range of teacher associations. The teacher representative must currently be employed and working within a school in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The LA

6 members representing the local authority.

Co-opted members (with no voting rights)

Up to 4 members who have an interest in religious education and collective worship and can assist the committee in its functions.

11. Membership of the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE shall be for a period of four years. Any outgoing members may be re-appointed.
12. Membership of the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE is subject to the condition that the LA has taken all reasonable steps to assure itself that the persons appointed are representative, as the case may be, of the denominations, associations or non-religious belief group in question.
13. Members representing associations of teachers must include teachers of religious education.
14. Individuals may be removed from the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE if they cease to be representative of the denomination, association, non-religious belief group or of the Authority they were appointed to represent.
15. Any member of the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE may at any time resign his or her office.
16. Any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without apology will cease to be a member. An individual who is so disqualified shall not be precluded from being reappointed by the appropriate nominating body.

Proceedings for SACRE meetings in the Vale of Glamorgan

17. Vale of Glamorgan SACRE shall meet **not** less than once in each school term.
18. SACRE shall elect from its membership a chairperson and vice chairperson at the first meeting in each academic year. The chairperson and vice chairperson in any one year shall not be drawn from the same representative group. An outgoing chairperson may be re-appointed.
19. On any question to be decided by the SACRE only the representative groups on SACRE shall be entitled to vote and each group shall have a single vote. Before a formal vote is taken opportunity shall be given to each representative group to determine how its vote is to be cast.
20. Co-opted members are not entitled to vote.
21. The agenda for each meeting shall be determined by the chairperson or vice chairperson in consultation with the clerk to SACRE, Director of Education and Professional Officer. Any voting member of SACRE shall be entitled to propose items for an agenda at least twenty working days prior to any meeting. Only items on the agenda may be considered at any meeting except at the discretion of the chair.
22. In the case of any member not being able to attend a SACRE meeting, a substitute may be nominated by the body which that person represents, provided that the substitute meets the eligibility criteria and the Education Directorate of the Local Authority and the clerk to SACRE is notified in advance of the meeting.
23. A meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE will be deemed to be quorate if at least one member of each of the three representative groups is present. The validity of proceedings of SACRE shall not be affected by a vacancy in the office of any member of the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE.
24. The representative groups on the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE, other than that representing the Authority, may call, at any time, for a review of the agreed syllabus current in the Authority. At such time an Agreed Syllabus Conference shall be constituted and convened.

25. The Vale of Glamorgan SACRE shall consider its annual report at the first meeting to be held in each academic year. Upon the Council's ratification of the report it shall proceed to publication.
26. The Clerk to SACRE shall arrange for copies of the annual report to be published on the Vale of Glamorgan's website, sent to all schools within the Authority, to DfES, the National Library and to such other individuals and institutions as the Local Authority, sees fit.