



**Vale of
Glamorgan Council**

Standing Advisory Council on
Religious Education

Standing Advisory Council for Religion,
Values and Ethics

Annual Report 2022 – 2023

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**THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS (SAC)
2022-2023**

A MESSAGE FROM THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN SACRE/SAC

The 2022-2023 academic year brought opportunities to develop subsidiary curriculums for religion, values and ethics. Practitioners of primary and some Year 7 learners were encouraged to collaborate, co-construct and develop their curriculum design to provide opportunities for learners to develop their range of knowledge, skills and experiences in line with the mandatory and statutory elements of the Curriculum for Wales. Secondary practitioners balanced the developments of the Curriculum for Wales alongside the legacy curriculum requirements, and associated qualification specifications.

Qualifications Wales presented two consultations regarding their proposals for new GCSE and the wider offer of qualifications that will replace existing qualifications for learners under the Curriculum for Wales. SACRE/SAC and local practitioners were encouraged to voice their opinions on the proposals, due to the importance of the changes for future learners.

We would like to express gratitude to everyone within the regional education sector for the sterling work you are doing to provide children and young people in the Vale of Glamorgan with care, support and education, considering the wellbeing of learners, through this continued time of adjustment post pandemic coupled with the Curriculum for Wales developments and demands.

The Local Authority (LA) SACRE/SAC has been able to provide support to schools via emails, letters, briefing information and through partnership with Central South Consortium Joint Education Services (CSCJES). The CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE and SACRE, has provided advice and support to schools on the academic subjects of religious education (RE), religious studies (RS), religion, values, and ethics (RVE) and daily acts of collective worship (DACW) throughout this period. The Associate Adviser 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/SAC Clerk has continued to distribute and receive relevant correspondence to schools. SACRE/SAC meetings took place online for all three termly meetings.

Members would like to remind practitioners involved with RE/RS/RVE that SACRE/SAC is here to support you with advice on teaching, learning and resources. Additionally, support from SACRE/SAC is also available for the daily act of collective worship (DACW).

The Vale of Glamorgan SACRE/SAC welcomes correspondence via the contact below.

The Clerk to SACRE/SAC: fwright@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Section 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE/SAC

1.1 Duty to Establish SACRE/SAC

All local authorities are required to constitute a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) and a Standing Advisory Council in Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC) within their local area. A clear outline of SACRE's function is provided in the Welsh Circular 10/94, and the function of SAC's are explained in the Curriculum for Wales, 2021, legislation and associated guidance. SACREs will remain in being until the roll out of the Curriculum for Wales is completed in September 2026. Until then SACREs and SACs co-exist. In the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE and SAC meet together and the Local Authority has agreed to the same body fulfilling both functions.

SACRE/SAC advises the Local Authority on matters relating to the provision of RE, RVE and DACW and is responsible for the establishment of an ad hoc body, the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC), to produce or consider amendments to the Agreed Syllabus (AS) for RE and RVE.

1.2 Composition of SACRE/SAC

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

- members appointed to the group to represent a religion, denomination or non-religious philosophical conviction shall, as far as is consistent with the efficient discharge of the group's functions, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that religion, denomination, or non-religious philosophical conviction in the area
- associations representing teachers/practitioners
- the Local Authority (LA)

It is the duty of the Vale of Glamorgan LA to ensure that members of the groups are appointed and that they are representative.

1.3 Membership of SACRE/SAC

The members representing each of these groups for 2022-2023 are listed in Appendix 1.

1.4 FUNCTIONS OF SACRE/SAC

The main function of a SACRE/SAC is to:

- advise the LA about RE, RVE and DACW
- require the authority to review the agreed syllabus (AS)
- 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 RE, RVE or DACW

Advice to the LA may relate to:

- pedagogy
- the choice of teaching resources
- the provision of professional learning
- any other matter relating to RE, RS, RVE and DACW which SACRE/SAC considers appropriate

1.5 RECORD OF MEETINGS

Two meetings of SACRE/SAC were held on the Microsoft Teams virtual platform, and one was in-person at a local school during the academic year 2022-2023. Meetings took place on:

- Wednesday 14th December 2022
- Wednesday 8th March 2023
- Wednesday 14th June 2023

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/SAC

2.1 The Locally Agreed Syllabus

In February 2022, the LA endorsed the re-adoption of the current Vale of Glamorgan agreed syllabus for RE 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.

In 2022 the Vale of Glamorgan Local Authority agreed a syllabus for RVE under the new Curriculum for Wales.

Copies of both agreed syllabi are available on the council's website, [Standing Advisory Council for Religion, Values and Ethics / Religious Education \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/standing-advisory-council-for-religion-values-and-ethics/) and the CSC Website [Repository - CSC \(cscjies-cronfa.co.uk\)](https://www.cscjies-cronfa.co.uk/) or can be requested directly from the SACRE/SAC Clerk.

2.2 Standards in Religious Education and Religion, Values and Ethics

SACRE/SAC provides advice to the LA on standards in RE/RS/RVE. Changes to Welsh Government guidance on school performance data and reporting of assessment data has changed the way that SACRE/SAC has been able to monitor school performance in RE/RS/RVE. SACRE/SAC review Estyn inspection reports to identify and share effective practice and to support schools with RE, RVE, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) and DACW. Practitioners are invited to share their good practice with SACRE/SAC members in the termly meetings. SACRE/SAC encourages collaboration between schools to identify and support good practice.

SACRE/SAC continue to recommend the following resources to practitioners, headteachers and governors of schools in the area to identify good practice and standards:

[Estyn](#) publications:

- [How we inspect for inspections from 2023](#)
- [What we inspect Maintained schools and PRUs – for inspections from 2023](#)

For RE provision for learners studying the soon to be legacy curriculum:

- [Religious Education in Secondary Schools \(ESTYN, June 2013\)](#)
- [Religious Education in key stage 2 and key stage 3 \(ESTYN, June 2018\)](#)
- [A review of the current 16-19 curriculum in Wales](#)

2.3 Curriculum

Curriculum for Wales:

SACRE/SAC members have received termly updates and detailed advice from the CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE/RS and SACRE/SAC regarding curriculum developments. With the passing of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act, religious education, from

September 2022 RVE has formed part of the Curriculum for Wales. RVE will be a mandatory curriculum requirement from three years of age until the age of sixteen and will form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience. The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act, 2021 has removed the parental right to withdraw children from all or part of the academic subject of RVE in Wales as it is implemented through each year group - September 2023 for Yr 8, 2024 for Yr 9, 2025 for Yr 10 and finally 2026 for Yr 11. This brings RVE in line with every other academic subject in the Curriculum for Wales. All schools are aware of the requirement to have regard to the Curriculum for Wales 2021 locally agreed syllabus and the statutory guidance on Hwb.

Parents legal right to withdraw their child from DACW is still in place. Therefore, SACRE/SAC advised schools to ensure the academic subject of RVE and DACW are separate and distinctive entities in policy, planning and delivery, due to the differing legal requirements. SACRE/SAC discussed, as required, enquiries and concerns from stakeholders regarding this matter. SACRE/SAC also explored the changes to RVE as a mandatory requirement of the Curriculum for Wales and as mandatory for all learners from ages three to sixteen.

SACRE/SAC was advised of the importance of 'objective, critical and pluralistic' RVE, in line with the change in the right to withdraw in the Curriculum for Wales. CSCJES has provided advice on RVE, RE, RS and DACW to the regions Principal Improvement Partner, Improvement Partners and those practitioners and governors who have engaged with professional learning, network meetings and community areas on the CSCJES website area. The different legal requirements for DACW compared to the subject of RVE has been explained and exemplified in CSCJES professional learning and advice to schools.

Schools must have regard to the statutory religion values and ethics guidance on Hwb. The guidance has been discussed at SACRE/SAC and shared with practitioners.

SACRE/SAC 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.

SACRE/SAC was informed of the Qualification Wales consultations regarding GCSE RS and wider skills qualification for 2025 onwards, linked to the Curriculum for Wales, and encouraged to respond. Discussion of the proposals at WASACRE was shared with SACRE/SAC. A group response was submitted on behalf of the five SCARE/SAC in the Central South Consortium (CSCJES) region. Practitioners on SACRE/SAC voiced their concerns and the needs of their learners for the new qualifications, highlighting the current GCSE RS qualification isn't suitable for all learners, particularly in the reduced curriculum time, that they are often allocated. This has resulted in a decrease of full cohort entries. The practitioners on SACRE/SAC expressed their preference for pre 2017 style qualifications, which offered two specifications, and a short course option. They also noted that the change in success measures for GCSE had significantly reduced the short course entries, leading to a subsequent impact on GCE entries. Practitioners were encouraged to engage with WJEC advisory groups in discussing the new qualification for 2025. As part of the wider qualifications offer, Qualification Wales consulted upon two options for wider skills qualifications related to RVE. SACRE/SAC members were encouraged to consider the WASACRE information on this, along with the practitioner's feedback to submit their own responses to this consultation.

Curriculum for years 8-13:

The legacy [Vale of Glamorgan agreed syllabus](#) for RE was readopted by the LA and continues to be followed by learners in year eight and above during the academic year 2022-23. The right to withdraw is still in place for learners under the legacy curriculum, and WASACRE guidance on this right, has been distributed by WASACRE/SACRE/SAC to every school/setting:

[Managing The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education, 2017](#)

SACRE/SAC was informed of, and discussed the national trends in RE/RS and the ongoing decline in entries for GCSE and GCE, since 2017. The RE Council of England and Wales published a report and this was shared with SACRE/SAC, which discussed concerns that were subsequently shared with WASACRE and NAPfRE. Practitioners expressed their own experiences, reasons and concerns regarding a decline in entries via SACRE/SAC and the CSCJES network meetings.

Curriculum support

The Vale of Glamorgan SACRE/SACRE 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 are intended to be 'live' and working documents, materials and resources to reflect the evolution of the Curriculum for Wales.

SACRE/SAC continues to acknowledge and support the wide range of available professional learning resources and opportunities provided by WJEC and CSCJES for RE, RS and RVE practitioners.

SACRE's/SAC's suggestions to the Vale of Glamorgan's Authority

- To continue to promote and support school collaboration and co-construction e.g. cluster work to ensure successful transition along the learning continuum.
- To continue to promote professional learning for practitioners for the curriculum e.g. by CSCJES, WJEC and external providers.
- Ensure that all practitioners are aware of the legislative changes for RVE, including the mandatory and statutory elements.
- Ensure all headteachers and governors are aware of the requirement for 'objective, critical and pluralistic' RVE, including ensuring this also applies to external guest speakers, visitors, and other organisations.
- Encourage all practitioners to utilise Hwb and the resources available.
- To remind secondary schools that statutory RE is still expected at key stage four and five, in line with the Curriculum for Wales and Locally Agreed Syllabus. School's will need to review their current provision to ensure it meets the requirements of the 2008 curriculum and the locally agreed syllabus.

2.4 Examination results

Through the CSCJES practitioner networks, schools were updated on the changes to the 2023 GCSE and GCE specifications for RS.

Specific data for examination results is no longer discussed and presented at SACRE/SAC in line with Welsh Government requests.

2.5 School Inspection Reports

To fulfil its functions effectively, SACRE/SAC considers inspection reports and Estyn surveys. The inspection findings of eight primary schools and one secondary were published. Positive comments were made by Estyn relevant to RE and RVE along with the provision of SMSC and DACW. SACRE/SAC was pleased to note these positive comments.

Issues are highlighted by Estyn about RE, RVE, SMSC or DACW are followed up by the Local Authority. Estyn made no such recommendations with regards to RE, RVE, SMSC or DACW specifically within the published inspection reports in the Vale of Glamorgan during this academic period.

SACRE/SAC is aware of the ongoing changes in the content of the reporting narrative by ESTYN within their school inspection reports. These changes make it more difficult for SACRE/SAC to fulfil one of its statutory roles, the monitoring the provision of RE, RVE and DACW in schools in the Authority. Concerns relating to these changes and the less informative style on RE, RVE, SMSC and DACW have been shared with WASACRE, ESTYN, the Local Authority and Welsh Government. Discussions are ongoing in terms of monitoring the curriculum provision, pedagogy and standards in these areas.

2.6 Professional Learning

SACRE/SAC has continued to provide advice and guidance to direct schools on accessing professional learning for pedagogy and resources. CSCJES, as the 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 network meetings for secondary practitioners. The focus of the network meetings was improving standards in GCSE RS. However, the practitioners attending also received training on GCE RS, Agored Cymru 'Exploring Worldviews' and RVE within the humanities area of learning experience (AoLE). They were updated on the work of SACRE/SAC, WASACRE and other relevant bodies and publications. There was also a focus on moderation, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources for RS.

CSCJES facilitated a primary humanities practitioners' network, 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. In addition, a secondary humanities practitioners' network was established, to encourage inter-disciplinary discussions, collaboration and co-construction within the humanities area of learning experience.

SACRE/SAC was advised that CSCJES has invested in a greater capacity, by increasing the subject associate advisers' role to a full-time position, for delivering bespoke support for RE, RS, RVE, SMSC and DACW. This enables schools to receive direct support from the Associate Adviser for RE/RS/RVE and SACRE/SAC, for example in developing their understanding of the Curriculum for Wales, planning and designing their RVE and humanities curriculum. Cluster schools have worked together, with the support of the adviser, to co-construct and collaborate their RVE and humanities curriculum design along the learning continuum, from three to sixteen 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 Curriculum for Wales, the delivery of professional learning and supporting the national changes in accountability and self-evaluation. Practitioners and other stakeholders can access the full programme of CSCJES professional learning and resources on pedagogy, progression, assessment curriculum design and more.

2.7 Pedagogy and Resources for Practitioners

CSCJES has offered a range of professional learning opportunities for all practitioners within the region, focusing on sharing practice and empowering teachers. Examples of the professional learning, resources and materials shared to support schools by CSCJES and SACRE/SAC can be found in appendix 6.

Practitioners were invited to share good practice at SACRE/SAC meetings.

SACREs/SACs recommendations to the Vale of Glamorgan Education Authority

- To ensure all RE/RS/RVE practitioners are aware of resources, materials and opportunities shared.

Section 3: ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Welsh Office Circular 10/94 notes that the Local Authority should work with SACRE/SAC to monitor provision for DACW and should consider with it any steps which may be taken to improve such provision. The collective worship must be “of a broadly Christian character”. The “determination” procedure permits the suspension of these requirements in relation to some or all the pupils/learners in a school where they are deemed inappropriate.

Advice was discussed at SACRE/SAC/WASACRE and NAPfRE regarding new enquiries about the right to withdraw for DACW. Advice was given directly to individual schools by the CSC Associate Advisor.

SACRE/SAC and individual schools were made aware of additional guidance for DACW through CSC networks, professional learning, and community areas:

- [Supplementary guidance: collective worship in non-denominational schools](#) 2017
- [WASACRE GUIDANCE ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF PUPILS FROM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP, October 2021](#)[Supplementary guidance: collective worship in non-denominational schools](#)

3.1 School inspection reports

SACRE/SAC has continued to ensure that it supports schools to fulfil their statutory requirements for DACW and provide a worthwhile experience for learners. SACRE/SAC has monitored Estyn inspection reports for recommendations relating to DACW and SMSC and the LA follows up on any non-fulfilment of statutory requirements by requesting their action plan. SACRE/SAC has continued to inform schools of appropriate information and resources relating to DACW.

DACW is inspected separately to the academic subjects of RE, RS and 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 DACW in the inspection reports for the region for 2022-2023.

SACRE's/SAC's suggestions to the Vale of Glamorgan Local Authority

- Ensure all schools have access to collective worship guidance documents:
 - WASACRE guidance on the withdrawal of pupils from collective worship, 2021
 - Estyn, Supplementary guidance: collective worship in non-denominational schools, 2017
 - Estyn, Supplementary guidance: collective worship in nondenominational schools, 2013
- To consider the use of school's self-evaluation documents to provide information on the provision and standards of DACW.
- Ensure that schools comply with the statutory requirements in relation to DACW.

3.2 Applications for determinations

No applications were received from schools for determinations to be made on the lifting of the requirements for DACW to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

3.3 School visits

There have not been any school visits by SACRE/SAC in 2022-2023.

It is hoped that SACRE/SAC members will be able to visit schools and that we introduce a hybrid system with at least one meeting per academic year taking place in one of the Vale of Glamorgan's schools', with input from practitioners, leaders and learners. It is hoped that visits can be re-instated to observe DACW.

SACRE's/SAC's suggestions to the Vale of Glamorgan Local Authority

- For SACRE/SAC to visit more schools in 2023-2024.
- For the Local Authority to refer any DACW enquiries to SACRE/SAC for support.

Section 4: SUMMARY OF OTHER AREAS

4.1 WASACRE

SACRE/SAC continues to support the work of the WASACRE and recognises the value of the body in promoting RE, RS, RVE and DACW on a national basis. SACRE/SAC is invited to send up to four members to each termly WASACRE meeting and the CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RS/RVE and SACRE/SAC receives regular feedback from them and other representatives who attend WASACRE meetings. Full discussions take place at SACRE/SAC on the issues raised by WASACRE. Two of the practitioners from the SCARE/SAC committee are serving members of the WASACRE Executive Committee, having been voted in in the summer of 2023. All WASACRE meetings for 2022-2023 and the AGM were held online using the ZOOM virtual platform.

4.2 National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (NAPfRE)

SACRE/SAC was fully represented on NAPfRE by the CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RS/RVE and SACRE/SAC. This has facilitated SACRE/SAC in keeping abreast of developments across Wales and has enabled it to play a crucial role in informing decisions and policies that affect RE. NAPfRE has worked closely with Welsh Government and other stakeholders during the development of the new curriculum, and on the development of statutory guidance for RVE in the Curriculum for Wales. SACRE/SAC 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/SAC has:

- kept members updated on developments in RE/RS/RVE and DACW through regular presentations, discussions and advice from CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RS/RVE and SACRE/SAC to the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE/SAC 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
- considered the reinstating of meetings held at local schools so that members could see first-hand educational contexts for RE/RS/RVE in the Vale of Glamorgan's schools and have opportunities to be addressed by practitioners, leaders and learners of RE/RS/RVE
- invited its members to attend the three annual meetings of Wales Association for SACREs (WASACRE) as well as ensuring that the SACRE/SAC was represented at WASACRE by CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RS/RVE and SACRE/SAC, who gave detailed feedback from these meetings to SACRE/SAC members
- shared 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/SAC
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FbIfp8Wk5NZFUZD1BFcBpxy0r5pBkavK/view>
- CSCJES offered 'New to SACRE/SAC Members' professional learning on the 24th May 2023, through briefing paper notes and online interactive webinar.

4.4 Youth Representation on SACRE/SAC

SACRE/SAC has been exploring possibilities regarding youth representation or a youth forum for RE/RS/RVE to hear and support learner voice and contribution. SACRE/SAC has held an initial discussion on this possible opportunity and will consider working collaboratively with secondary schools within the LA to consider how best to ensure young people's voices are heard in relation to issues affecting their education in RE, RS, RVE, SMSC and on matters relating to DACW. Plans for a potential 'Youth Forum for RE/RS/RVE' will be further explored in the next academic year with the Local Education Authority, CSCJES and schools.

APPENDIX 1 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN SACRE/SAC MEMBERSHIP 2022-23

Committee C - Local authority (6 places)

Councillor Eddie Williams (Chair)	Local Authority
Councillor Nic Hodges	Local Authority
Councillor Susan Lloyd-Selby	Local Authority
Councillor Ewan Goodjohn	Local Authority
Councillor Rhys Thomas	Local Authority
Vacancy	Local Authority

Committee B - Teacher associations (8 places)

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

Committee A - Religious denominations and Non-religious philosophical convictions (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

Trevor Baker	Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resource
Jeremy Morgan	SACRE/SAC Clerk
Donna Graves	CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RS/RVE and SACRE/SAC

APPENDIX 2: The Vale of Glamorgan Record of Meetings and Main Agenda Items

The meetings were held online, via Microsoft Teams

Wednesday 14th December 2022

1. Welcome and apologies
2. SACRE/SAC
 - 2.1 Election/re-election of Chair and Vice Chair
 - 2.2 SACRE and SAC
 - 2.3 Membership
 - 2.4 ToR/Constitution
3. Minutes
4. Matters arising
5. Vale of Glamorgan SACRE Annual Report 2021-2022
6. Curriculum
 - 6.1 CSCJES training for governors
 - 6.2 CSCJES training for SACRE/SAC members
 - 6.3 CSCJES offers
 - 6.4 Vale of Glamorgan Agreed Syllabus for RVE
7. WASACRE
 - 7.1 Draft minutes 29th June 2022
 - 7.2 Autumn term meeting Wed 16th Nove 2022, 1:00pm
8. Qualifications
 - 8.1 Qualifications Wales consultation 4th October – 14 December 2022
 - 8.2 Agored Cymru 'Exploring Worldviews' for statutory RE
9. Estyn Reports 2021-2022
10. Role of SACRE/SAC
 - 10.1 Monitoring of RE/RS/RVE/ Collective Worship/Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC)
 - 10.2 School visits for SACRE/SAC meetings
 - 10.3 Supporting Schools
 - [Interfaith Week](#) 13-20 November 2022
 - [Holocaust Memorial Day](#) – 27th January 2023, theme 'Ordinary People'
 - Supporting Materials for RVE - working party
 - Queries for advice and resources for the right to withdraw, 'objective, critical and pluralistic' RVE, curriculum planning, progression and assessment, collective worship, local links to faith communities and more
 - Guidance for schools to ensure guest speakers/RVE guests are in line with the CfW approach to RVE
11. Schedule for future meetings
12. Items for next agenda
13. AOB

Wednesday 8th March 2023

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minutes – review of draft minutes from Wednesday 14th December 2022
3. 3. Matters arising
4. Updates
 - 4.1 Membership
 - 4.2 SACRE/SAC Constitution
 - 4.3 Annual report Distribution

- 4.4 Vale SACRE/SAC Webpage
5. Review of the Agreed Syllabi
6. Curriculum for Wales and support for schools and governors
7. WASACRE
 - 7.1 Minutes of 16th November 2022 meeting
 - 7.2 Spring meeting date – Tuesday 21st March
 - 7.3 WASACRE executive nominations
8. Qualifications
9. Supporting/enabling materials and resources
10. Schedule of future meetings
11. Suggestions for agenda items for summer 2023 meeting
12. AOB

Wednesday 14th June 2023

1. Welcome and apologies (SACRE/SAC)
2. Minutes (SACRE/SAC)
3. Matters arising
4. Updates
 - 4.1 Membership
 - 4.2 SACRE/SAC ToR/Constitution
5. Curriculum for Wales and Professional Learning (SACRE/SAC)
 - 5.1 Information from CSCJES
 - 5.2 SACRE/SAC Professional Learning
 - 5.3 Governor and RVE Professional Learning
6. WASACRE (SACRE/SAC)
 - 6.1 Minutes of spring meeting
 - 6.2 WASACRE Executive – voting
7. Qualifications – Wider GCSE RVE/RS consultation (SAC)
8. Estyn Inspection Reports (SACRE/SAC)
 - 8.1 Update on reports
 - 8.2 Estyn letters to schools
9. Schedule of future meetings
10. Suggestions for agenda items for autumn 2023 meeting (SACRE/SAC)
11. AOB (SACRE/SAC)

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.

List of Organisations to which this report is being sent

- Members of the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE
- The Vale of Glamorgan Council Directorate of Learning and Skills
- 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.

APPENDIX 5

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) **Standing Advisory Council on Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC)**

Constitution (Ratified by Cabinet on 16/11/23)

The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) in the Vale of Glamorgan is established in accordance with sections 390-397 of the Education Act 1996 and guidance contained in the Welsh Circular 10/94 as updated. In addition, the Standing Advisory Council (SAC) on religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) in the Vale of Glamorgan is established in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 (see Annex 1).

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 Religion, Values and Ethics and 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 Religion, Values and Ethics, or 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
 - d. record the membership of SAC/SACRE and the dates of meetings held.

8. To participate in the LA's statutory complaints procedures in those instances where the complaints relate to religion, values and ethics or 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 SAC/SACRE in the Vale of Glamorgan

10. SAC/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 philosophical convictions 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) and in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021).

The final decision of an appointment rests with the SAC/SACRE, as they are best placed to assess whether the SAC/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.

11. The council may also include co-opted members.

12. The Vale of Glamorgan SAC/SACRE has agreed the following membership:

REPRESENTATIVES FROM RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS, DENOMINATIONS AND HOLDERS OF NON-RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHICAL CONVICTIONS.

TO OPTIMISE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE SAC/SACRE, MEMBERSHIP IS SOUGHT FROM A WIDE RANGE OF RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS AND FROM PERSONS WHO REPRESENT HOLDERS OF NON-RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHICAL CONVICTIONS THAT WHICH MAY AT ANY TIME, BE DIRECTLY PRESENT WITHIN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN.

Twelve places from a range of religions, denominations and from non-religious philosophical convictions 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

Eight 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

Six members representing the local authority.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS (WITH NO VOTING RIGHTS)

Up to four members who have an interest in religious education/religions, values and ethics and collective worship and can assist the committee in its functions.

11. Membership of the Vale of Glamorgan SAC/SACRE shall be for a period of four years. Any outgoing members may be re-appointed.
12. Membership of the Vale of Glamorgan SAC/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 philosophical convictions group in question.
13. Members representing associations of teachers must include teachers of religion, values and ethics and/or religious education.
14. Individuals may be removed from the Vale of Glamorgan SAC/SACRE if they cease to be representative of the denomination, association, non-religious philosophical convictions group or of the Authority they were appointed to represent.
15. Any member of the Vale of Glamorgan SAC/SACRE may at any time resign.
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 SAC/SACRE meetings in the Vale of Glamorgan

17. The LA will appoint a clerk to SACRE/SAC.
18. Vale of Glamorgan SAC/SACRE shall meet **not** less than once in each school term.
19. SAC/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.
20. If both the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson are absent from a meeting, a person to take the Chair for the meeting shall be appointed upon the collective consent of the members present at the meeting. Should the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson arrive during the rest of the meeting, the appointed substitute will hand over to them as soon as the time under discussion on their arrival is completed.
21. On any question to be decided by the SAC/SACRE only the representative groups on SAC/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.
22. Co-opted members are not entitled to vote.
23. The agenda for each meeting shall be determined by the chairperson or vice chairperson in consultation with the clerk to SAC/SACRE and Local Authority Professional Officer. Any voting member of SAC/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.
24. The SACRE/SAC may, if it so wishes, arrange the attendance at a meeting of a specialist speaker who is not a member of the SACRE/SAC.
25. Each or any of the representative groups may require the attendance of a specialist speaker who is not a member of the SACRE/SAC, but only for the period during which any relevant matter is under consideration and provided that at least ten working days' notice of such requirement is given to the Clerk for inclusion in the agenda for the meeting.
26. In the case of any member not being able to attend a SAC/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 SAC/SACRE is notified in advance of the meeting.

27. A meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan SAC/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 SAC/SACRE shall not be affected by a vacancy in the office of any member of the Vale of Glamorgan SAC/SACRE.
28. The representative groups on the Vale of Glamorgan SAC/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.
29. The Vale of Glamorgan SAC/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.
30. The Clerk to SAC/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.

ANNEX 1

The Standing Advisory Council (SAC) on Religion, Values and Ethics

The constitution, functions and working arrangements of the Vale of Glamorgan SAC shall follow those of the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE, as stated above. The two committees will coexist until 2025 and for the efficiency and integrity of both committees, meetings will be held at the same time, with all business dealt with as appropriate to each committee. These arrangements will continue until the Curriculum for Wales has been implemented to all relevant year groups, at which time the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE will be dissolved and the Vale of Glamorgan SAC will continue.

APPENDIX 6:

CSCJES have offered a range of professional learning opportunities for all practitioners within the region, focusing on sharing practice and empowering teachers. Here are some examples of the professional learning, resources and materials shared to support schools by CSCJES and SACRE/SAC:

- [Hwb](#):
 - [Curriculum for Wales](#)
 - [Religion, values and ethics legislation](#)
 - [Humanities Area of Learning and Experience \(AoLE\)](#)
 - [Religion, values and ethics guidance](#)
- [Interfaith Week](#) 13-20 November 2022
- [Holocaust Memorial Day](#) – 27th January 2023, theme ‘Ordinary People’
- [Vale of Glamorgan SACRE/SAC Supporting Materials for RVE](#)
- [WASACRE](#)’s resources and advice for RE, RS, RVE and DACW
- Welsh Government consultations and publications for humanities and RVE:
 - [Religion, values and ethics \(RVE\): what’s new?](#)
 - Module 1: early years
 - Module 2: primary
 - Module 3: secondary
 - Module 4: additional learning needs (ALN)
 - Module 5: headteachers
- Secondary RS network meetings and online community area for curriculum leads
- Primary humanities network meetings and online community area for all primary humanities/RVE practitioners
- Secondary humanities network meetings and online community area for all secondary humanities/RVE practitioners
- CSCJES Funded Project opportunities:
 - ‘Developing curriculum design approaches to RVE’
 - ‘Objective, critical and pluralistic’ RVE in collaboration with the Church in Wales
- CSCJES professional learning offered:
 - ‘Exploring Approaches to anti-racism and diversity within RVE’ for primary and secondary sessions
 - Teaching challenging and sensitive issues in humanities – anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, for primary and secondary practitioners

- 'New to SACRE/SAC' for new members
- RVE for Governors
- Alternative key stage four religious education qualification – Agored Cymru 'Exploring Worldviews' webinar and an online TEAMS space for collaboration
- Knowledge Bank resources and posters on [religion, values and ethics](#), [humanities](#) and the [Curriculum for Wales](#) e.g. [progression in humanities](#), [humanities progression maps](#) and [example curriculum policy](#)
- Asynchronous resources on CSCJES website:
 - Religion, values and ethics – [non-religious philosophical convictions and worldviews playlist](#)
- Estyn materials e.g. [Estyn Thematic Report - Effective approaches to assessment that improve teaching and learning](#)
- The '[Lessons from Auschwitz Project](#)' details were shared with schools
- [Holocaust and Welsh People](#)
- [Welsh Jewish Heritage Centre](#) – Merthyr Tydfil
- Humanism UK teaching resources from www.understandinghumanism.org.uk and that schools could request a local Humanist speaker
- Professor Alice Roberts explores the humanist approach to life in the animation for children, [One Life, Live It Well](#)
- A film by Emily Downe '[Science and Religion](#)': [Moving away from the shallow end](#)
- National Network Conversations by Welsh Government links
- [School attendance and religious festivals guidance 2023](#)
- Hwb – [Religion, Values and Ethics e-magazine](#)
- [Skanda Vale](#)
- Diversity and Anti-Racist professional Learning '[DARPL](#)' professional learning and resources
- [Challenging Religious Issues \(A-level online journal published\) published recently - issue 19](#)
- Resources for the [Good Friday Agreement](#)
- Hwb resources on [Easter](#)
- The [RE Podcast](#)

- Discovering Muslims in Britain – resources e.g. [‘Meet a Muslim’](#)
- [Welsh Government blog on religion, values and ethics](#)
- The [‘Church in Wales Pilgrimage – the Gower’](#) links and materials
- The [‘History of Religion in Wales’](#) resource
- The [cross regional Curriculum Design Project](#) with Lucy Crehan resources published on Hwb and [supporting materials](#)
- The Jewish History Association of South Wales resources and website link to support RVE <https://www.jhasw.com/>
- 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>
- [The Vale of Glamorgan SACRE Annual Report 2021-2022](#)
- [The Vale of Glamorgan Agreed Syllabi](#)