

Briefing Paper for the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE/SAC Members, Summer 2026

Presented by Central South Consortia Adviser to SACRE/SAC

1. Resources

A) Free online A level Welsh Medium Revision Sessions - Philosophy of Religion and Ethics – Bangor University

Online (Zoom), free of charge, and Welsh-medium. [Register here](#)

B) New CSC Case Studies – Schools Sharing Practice Resources on CSC Website

- [Year 9 RVE Curriculum, Pencoed Comprehensive](#)
- [New to Leading a Secondary RVE Dept, Pencoed Comprehensive](#)
- [Effective use of AI to plan and deliver the new RS GCSE, Brynteg Comprehensive](#)
- [Setting up and running a prayer/reflection room, Pencoedtre High](#)
- [An RVE Curriculum Approach, Brynteg Comprehensive](#)
- [‘Objective, Critical and Pluralistic RVE’ Project, Williamstown Primary](#)
- [New to Leading RVE in a Primary School, Whitchurch Primary](#)
- [Spirituality, RVE and Early Years, Whitchurch Primary](#)
- [ALPS Webinar for Religious Studies](#)
- [An approach to the NEA, Unit 2 GCSE RS, Pencoed Comprehensive](#)
- [Developing Enquiry and Interpretation Skills in Humanities \(3-16\)](#) The playlist will allow practitioners to:
 - Enhance their understanding of the skills of enquiry and interpretations in humanities, based on the Curriculum for Wales framework, including digital approaches
 - Develop their understanding of key concepts and prerequisite skills in enquiry and interpretations
 - Develop suitable strategies, resources, and activities across the school to progress learners' skills of enquiry and interpretationsThere are several case studies from schools in the resource.
- [Making a Difference in Our Community Through Social Action \(Bryn Celyn Primary School\)](#) This resource outlines the approach taken by a primary school to develop social action as part of the humanities (and wider school) curriculum.

C) On 2nd April at 10.40pm on BBC2, [‘Harry Clark Goes To Rome’](#) – Easter, pilgrimage, spirituality

D) The Centre for the Study of Islam, Cardiff University - [resources page](#) on their website

Free online resources for practitioners of Islam, particularly exploring the lived experiences of Muslims in Wales. Now collated onto one page on their website for easier access. If you use their resources, please send feedback and examples of learners work to the resources developer - BryantMW@cardiff.ac.uk

E) Adnodd Cymraeg ar Hwb / [Welsh resource on Hwb](#)

[Trosolwg - Defnyddio'r gofod ymgolli 360° i archwilio credoau a safbwyntiau byd eang - Adnoddau - H...](#)

Adnodd Saesneg ar Hwb / [English resource on Hwb](#)

[Overview - Exploring beliefs and worldviews through immersive 360° spaces - Resources - Hwb](#)

2. Professional Learning for SACRE/SAC members

A) NASACRE virtual training 2025-26

Download the 2025-2026 [programme](#) along with details of pricing.

To book a place on any of these sessions please email admin@nasacre.org.uk

Upcoming sessions:

25 June 2026: 6:30-8pm: So, you've joined your local SACRE...

Free session for any SACREs to attend specifically for new members of SACRE

B) WASACRE - Seminar 1 (23.04.24)

An introduction to SAC / SACRE: What do you need to know?

Donna Graves and Hayley Jones

Password: WASACRE01

C) [WASACRE Members Handbook – 'So you are joining your local SACRE...'](#)

3. CSC Professional Learning for Practitioners

- **Reflecting/Refining the Humanities Curriculum (Primary)**, Wednesday, 20 May 2026 09:00 - 12:00, at the Valleys Innovation Centre, Abercynon, [book here](#).
- **Reflecting/Refining the Secondary Humanities Curriculum (Yrs 7, 8 and 9)**, Wednesday, 1 July 2026 09:00 - 12:00, at the Valleys Innovation Centre, Abercynon, [book here](#).

4. CSC Network Events for Practitioners

- **New GCSE Religious Studies (RS) Network** - Summer, Monday, 6 July 2026 09:00 - 15:30, at the Valleys Innovation Centre, [book here](#).
- **Primary Humanities Network (including RVE)** – Thursday, 18 June 2026 15:00 - 16:30, on TEAMS, [book here](#).

5. Bespoke CSC Support for Schools, Clusters and Practitioners

Available for RVE, RE, RS, daily act of collective worship (DACW) and spirituality – including cluster work, twilight sessions, curriculum planning, disciplinary pedagogy, coaching and mentoring of RVE leads/RE/RS Heads of Departments and more.

Additional collaborative working parties, schools sharing practice, networks can be facilitated in addition to these meetings. Please contact Donna.Graves@csc.cymru to find out about these.

6. CSC Funded Professional Learning (PL) Project

The RVE funded project for 2025-2026 (financial year) is a collaboration project with the digital advisory team. The project was looking at developing RVE skills with learners and practitioners' digital skills. This was a collaboration project between the Digital Advisory team and the Advisor for RVE, alongside Cardiff Metropolitan University and The Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK, Cardiff University. 6 schools were funded for the project, 3 were from the Vale of Glamorgan. The project finished at the end of the spring term. The resources produced by schools will be shared with all other schools via the CSC website and networks/PL events by the end of the summer term.

7. Qualifications

A) Qualifications Wales

- Teachers can contact Qualifications Wales directly with their feedback on the new GCSE RS and NEA Unit 2 using this email address reform@qualifications.wales

- Furthermore, in terms of specific feedback about the examined units for the new GCSE RS this summer Qualifications Wales are running their annual survey asking teachers (as well as parents and learners) for their views on the summer exams series. The link to the survey doesn't go live until 7th May when the summer exams start, but it will be accessible from this page [Have your say - Qualifications Wales](#)

B) WJEC

- **WJEC Religious Studies resources** – [Link](#)
- **WJEC GCSE Religious Studies Newsletter April 2026**. [Link](#)

C) Soon to be legacy GCSE RS (some current Year 11 sitting) Summer 2026 will be the final full assessment opportunity for this qualification. A resit opportunity for examinations will be available in January 2027, subject to demand.

From September 2025, learners **must not** be entered onto this qualification in Year 10, they should be entered for [GCSE Religious Studies - Teaching from 2025](#)

[New Qualification GCSE RS \(First teaching from September 2025\)](#)

The first teaching of the new qualification GCSE Religious Studies began last September. There is a range of support materials currently available, both on the public WJEC web site and the WJEC centre accessed portal to support both the examined units 1 and 3 and the non-examined units 2 and 4.

There are also a range of blended learning materials to support the new qualification, and these will be updated with further materials; for example, new support materials are being developed for NEA unit 2, which will be available later in the summer term.

WJEC public website:

WJEC GCSE Religious Studies specification
 Religious Studies option evening flyer
 Unit 1 sample assessment material
 Unit 2 non-examination assessment material
 Unit 3 sample assessment material
 Unit 4 non-examination assessment pack
 GCSE Religious Studies delivery guide
 Guidance for teaching Unit 1
 Guidance for teaching Unit 2
 Guidance for teaching Unit 3
 Guidance for teaching Unit 4
 GCSE Religious Studies Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
 NEA Unit 2 Handbook
 Candidate declaration form
 Candidate marks record sheet
 Blended learning materials GCSE Religious Studies
 (*NEA Unit 4 Handbook will be added in the summer term)

WJEC Portal:

PL materials 'Preparing to Teach'
 PL materials 'Preparing to Assess'
 NEA unit 2 brief (September 2025)
 Unit 1 examination walk through
 Unit 2 NEA walk through
 Unit 3 examination walk through
 Unit 4 NEA walk through

[New Qualification NEA](#)

Updated information regarding the NEA sample selected for moderation from centres.

In line with other JCQ awarding organisations, from summer 2026 we will increase the initial sample size collected from centres as per the following table.

Number of candidates entered for the NEA component	Number of candidates included in the NEA sample
Up to 5	All
6-10	All
11-15	All
16-100	15
101-200	20
Over 200	25

The sample will be generated electronically by [Portal by WJEC - Select a Centre](#).

There is no change to the moderation process; collecting a slightly larger sample on the NEA submission deadline date means that we are less likely to contact you later during the moderation period to request additional samples. However, we do still reserve the right to request the whole cohort should we deem it necessary. Therefore, centres must ensure that all candidate work and relevant NEA forms are stored securely in the centre.

If you have any queries...

GCSE RS - gcsereligiousstudies@wjec.co.uk

Subject Officer: Christopher Owens - Christopher.Owens@wjec.co.uk

Subject Support Officer: Chris Barfoot - Christopher.Barfoot@wjec.co.uk

D) Current Wider qualifications for level 2 learners

Agored Cymru 'Exploring Worldviews' qualification and PSE units were deemed too similar to other qualifications (new Skills for Life units), so were **not** awarded a designation. Therefore, they will **NOT be made available for Year 10 learners in Wales from September 2027**.

NCFE Equality and Diversity

NCFE – Equality and Diversity qualifications – **last registration 30th Sept 2026; certificates last award 2028**.

E) Wave 3 Qualifications – First Teaching from September 2027

i) WJEC Wave 3 update

Qualifications Wales have approved twelve new WJEC specifications so far:

- Personal Project
- Skills Suite
- GFQ Core Cymraeg
- GFQ Cymraeg
- GFQ Design and Technology
- GFQ English
- VCSE Built Environment
- VCSE Creative and Media Production, and Technology
- VCSE Hospitality and Catering
- VCSE Performing Arts
- VCSE Sport Leisure and Recreation
- VCSE Travel and Tourism

Download Quick Guides to these, and the rest of our upcoming Wave 3 qualifications:

- Personal Project and Skills Suite
- General Foundation Qualifications
- VCSE
- Work Related Foundation Qualifications

Foundation Humanities – [Quick Guide](#)

Introducing Personal Project & Skills Suite [Download from here.](#)

ii) Agored Cymru Wave 3 Qualifications

Phase 2 of the Wave 3 summits, where Agored will be sharing more information relating to the content and assessment methods of the wave 3 qualifications. Practitioners can email their contact details to their Phase 2 list and they will be in touch with dates of planned events (Phase 2 events to be rolled out from September).

Other qualification Boards/Providers are also pitching for wave 3 qualifications e.g. Pearson. Watch this space.

F) Have your say on the new qualifications

Here are the Qualifications for Wales responses to recent WASACRE questions on qualifications in recent email exchange between WASACRE and Qualifications Wales

Is the level of administration required for the submission of marks and the sample for the NEA acceptable, given that teachers have limited time off timetable to complete this work and no prior experience of having to do it?

In terms of the administrative requirements for NEA such as evidence requirements and submission windows these are set by WJEC. As WJEC outlined in its recent letter to centres, they are reviewing some of the administrative requirements. QW want systems and procedures to be as efficient as possible so will monitor their proposals as part of our oversight of change management.

Is there an opportunity for teachers to feedback about the RS GCSE outside the official group that QW has directed?

In terms of feeding back on the GCSE Religious Studies outside of the official group, there are a few options available:

WASCARE could collate any feedback they receive from teachers and schools either directly from schools or through the LA SACREs and then send that through to us to respond to

Alternatively, teachers can contact us directly with their feedback using this email address reform@qualifications.wales

Furthermore, in terms of specific feedback about the examined units for the new GCSE RS this summer we will be running our annual survey asking teachers (as well as parents and learners) for their views on the summer exams series. The link to the survey doesn't go live until 7th May when the summer exams start, but it will be accessible from this page [Have your say - Qualifications Wales](#)

AS / A2 RS:

It would be helpful if the WJEC could consider the Synoptic model when reviewing the current AS and A Level RS spec, as members feel that this would offer relevant opportunities to develop essential skills in line with the Curriculum for Wales framework, which many teachers are already familiar with.

This is something for WJEC to consider, given the email was also sent to the WJEC subject officers they should be in a position to respond to/consider this one.

Who is in the group reviewing and approving the RVE Units in the skills suite and is an RVE specialist included?

I have checked this with our approvals team:

our approach has been to utilise internal expertise to consider alignment with Curriculum for Wales and fitness for purpose more generally. With the exception of British Sign Language we have not engaged groups of external experts to review individual units, due to the volume of units to be reviewed (47 units covering Entry 1 to Level 2). We have focused on each awarding body's approach to qualification development and assessment to ensure that they have engaged with stakeholders in Wales, that the qualifications are compliant and that they are manageable for centres to deliver.

How can teachers / schools who are not in the official RS GCSE group give feedback on the new GCSE?

They can email us their feedback via our reform mailbox reform@qualifications.wales

7. Youth Voice for RVE

The group met in the spring term. Kathy Riddick from Humanism Wales/UK gave a presentation to the learners about Humanism in Wales, commonalities and considering moral dilemmas, using the 'Trolley Problem'. Schools were set a task to consider their own moral dilemma to explore in their class/school and to feedback in the summer term meeting, taking place on Monday 29th June 9.30am-11.30am. If you would like your school to join, or if you would like to know more, contact: Donna.Graves@csc.cymru

8. [New School improvement guidance](#)

The new guidance sets out Welsh Governments approach to school improvement.