

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Annual Report

2015 - 2016



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Annual Report 2015 - 2016

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MERTHYR TYDFIL SACRE
ANNUAL REPORT 2015 – 2016

COMPOSITION, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SACRE

COMPOSITION OF SACRE

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

- Christian denominations and other religions and religious denominations;
- associations representing teachers; and
- the local authority (LA).

The members representing each of these groups for 2015 - 2016 are listed in Appendix 1.

THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES 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; and
- 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:

- methods of teaching;
- the choice of teaching materials;
- the provision of teacher training; and
- any other matter relating to religious education and collective worship which SACRE considers appropriate.

RECORD OF MEETINGS

Three meetings of SACRE were held in the academic year 2015 - 2016:

- 3rd November 2015
- 11th February 2016
- 7th June 2016.

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

THE PLANNING AND ORGANISATION OF THE WORK OF SACRE

Prior to the commencement of the 2015 - 2016 academic year, SACRE had agreed to organise and prioritise its work in the framework of a development plan.

A copy of the development plan 2015 - 2018, including details of progress achieved during the year, is included as Appendix 3.

CIRCULATION OF REPORT

Copies of this report have been circulated to the organisations/establishments listed in Appendix 6.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Summary of the advice given to the LA by SACRE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Aim: To monitor standards and provision in religious education

Action

1. SACRE considers and analyses school inspection reports. If there are any issues regarding religious education, such as the non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, the LA follows this up. There were three primary schools inspected during the academic year 2014 – 2015. Comments were generally positive stating that curriculum and statutory requirements were met. There were no issues relating to religious education identified in the reports and therefore no follow up action was necessary.
2. SACRE analyses examination results over a three year period and identifies trends in performance benchmarked against All Wales data. SACRE writes to schools after analysing examination results. The letter includes congratulations for the good results, where appropriate, and raises issues that schools should be addressing as a result of this analysis.
3. The LA and its SACRE gathers and analyses data regarding key stage 3 teacher assessment in religious education. This information is presented to SACRE and benchmarked against Consortia data. This information is then sent to all secondary schools in the LA.

AGREED SYLLABUS

Aim: To fulfil the legal requirement to review the agreed syllabus for religious education

Action

1. In 2008 Merthyr Tydfil SACRE adopted a new agreed syllabus for the authority's schools to be implemented from September 2008. All schools received a programme of Inset in summer 2008 and received a package of support materials, including schemes of work and electronic *Progress in Learning* files for primary and secondary schools, were issued to schools to exemplify the new syllabus.
2. In June 2013 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the Merthyr Tydfil agreed syllabus for religious education with an understanding that the syllabus would be reviewed once further information is received in relation to the assessment and National Curriculum review.
3. Since 2013 and throughout the academic year 2015-2016 SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments with the national Curriculum review. SACRE are awaiting further details from Welsh Government on the shape of RE in the curriculum, and advice from WASACRE, before beginning any RE agreed syllabus review.

TEACHING MATERIALS

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

Action

1. All schools were informed of the 2016 Holocaust Memorial Day theme of 'Don't Stand By' and that free Holocaust resources can be found on their website www.hmd.org.uk – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.
2. SACRE were informed of resources created by Mary Parry, Carmarthenshire LA, addressing the issue of raising the attainment of boys. The resource on "*Muslim Footballers in the Premier League.*" covers aspects of the Five Pillars of Islam and raises issues regarding how the beliefs of Muslim footballers affect their lives. With permission from M Parry SACRE agreed to circulate to each secondary department a copy of the resource materials and its accompanying CD ROM in the autumn term 2015

TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

Aim: To ensure that teachers are able to access appropriate continuing professional development

Action

1. The local authority, via Central South Consortium, offers CPD for schools. With the current Welsh Assembly Government's emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy no subject specific training on RE is on offer.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

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

Action

1. SACRE monitors the sections of inspection reports that are concerned with collective worship and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. If there are any issues such as the non-fulfilment of statutory requirements the LA follows this up. The inspection reports of three Merthyr primary schools were scrutinised. One school inspected in Jan 2015 did not comply fully with statutory requirements for collective worship. A copy of the school's action plan was requested and advice was offered. SACRE also visited the school and received a presentation from the school on its DACW and its action to address issues raised in the inspection report. The professional consultant to SACRE gave a presentation on '*What makes good collective worship*' at its Summer meeting. SACRE resolved to circulate this PowerPoint presentation to all schools in the LA as a means of supporting them in their provision of the DACW.
2. Schools have been informed by SACRE of appropriate resources and websites that support collective worship in schools e.g. HMD 2016.

OTHER ISSUES:

Aim: To ensure a more informed SACRE through providing regular updates on local and national issues.

1. SACRE has maintained its membership of the Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE) and receives termly feedback from meetings of the association.
2. Members have received various presentations and reports this year:
 - Mrs V Thomas gave presentations on The Review of the National Curriculum and its Implications for RE; The Development of the Revised Exam Specifications and What makes Good Collective Worship in Schools.
 - The Head of RE at Pen y Dre High School gave a presentation on *How effective is Hwb+ in improving boys' attainment and negative attitudes towards writing in RE?* Twynrodyn Primary school gave presentations on *The DACW- the Way Forward-* and a presentation on *The Use of Thinking Skills in RE.*

SUMMARY OF ADVICE TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The local agreed syllabus

During the spring term 2008 Standing Conference endorsed and adopted a new agreed syllabus for the authority's schools to be implemented from September 2008. A yearly programme of INSET on the agreed syllabus and support materials, including schemes of work and electronic *Progress in Learning* files for secondary schools, were issued to primary and secondary schools.

During the 2012 – 2013 academic year SACRE were made aware of the announcement by the Minister of Education and Skills of a pending review of assessment and the National Curriculum in Wales. This review would involve the introduction of the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework and the identification of revisions to the current assessment and curriculum arrangements. In June 2013 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the Merthyr Tydfil agreed syllabus, with an understanding that the syllabus would be reviewed once further information is received in relation to the assessment and National Curriculum review. From 2013-2015 members received regular updates on the consultations undertaken in relation to the national curriculum and assessment review, the report and recommendations by Professor Donaldson and Merthyr SACRE responded to the WG questionnaire on the recommendations of Donaldson.

During 2015-2016, SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments with the NC review. SACRE are awaiting further details from Welsh Government on the shape of RE in the curriculum, and advice from WASACRE, before beginning any RE agreed syllabus review

Standards in religious education

SACRE has adopted a number of strategies for monitoring standards achieved in religious education in the authority's schools that include analysing school inspection reports, monitoring school self-evaluation, reviewing examination results and analysing end of key stage 3 data.

- **Examination results**

SACRE considered examination performance in the secondary schools for 2015. The examination results are compared with the All – Wales figures and with the results of the previous years. SACRE members are also informed of the percentage of the year 11 cohort being entered for the religious studies GCSE examinations (specification A and B). The examination results are published as an appendix along with results for the previous two years.

The results need to be treated with caution for three reasons:

(1) the relatively low numbers opting for religious studies at GCSE and A levels; this is especially the case when looking at averages for the LA, which has only four secondary schools; (2) the percentages are based upon those pupils entered for the examination, not those who opted for the subject and therefore selective entry could influence overall pass rates; (3) there is no indication how those pupils who sat religious studies performed in their other subjects so it is not possible to measure pupils' performance against their overall ability.

At GCSE Full Course in Religious Education there was 139 entries from 4 schools. Entry numbers are slightly below previous years and have been decreasing year on year since 2012. All schools have entries in double figures. The average cohort entry for Merthyr Tydfil in 2015 was 23.2% which is below the previous two years (2014 was 28.4% & 2013 was 25.2%)

The overall % of A*- A grades was 30.2% which is better than previous performance and comparable with the Consortium figure of 31.7% and the All Wales of 30%. The overall % of A*- C grades was 74.1% and is the best result of the last three years and better than the Consortium figure of 72.7% and comparable with the All Wales figure of 75%. The overall % of A*-G grades was 98.6% and is comparable with 2014 but better than the Consortium figure of 97.1% and All Wales figure of 98%.

SACRE were pleased to note that results are better than or comparable with 2014 and better than 2013 at all grade boundaries. Figures are comparable with Consortium and All Wales figures at all grade boundaries.

At GCSE Short Course in Religious Education there was an increase in entries this year. All schools had entries in triple figures and thus enter a significant percentage of the cohort and pupils of all ability levels. Some schools enter pupils for two short courses and their performance has been reflected in the full course results. However, it is important to bear in mind that those pupils entered for two short courses will be mainly the more able and this will reflect on the A*-A and A*-C results for Short Course.

The average cohort entry for Merthyr Tydfil in 2015 was **54.3%** which is higher than 2014 (45.1) & 2013 (37.5%)

The overall % of A*- A grades of 22.8% and is the best performance of the last two years and better than the Consortium figure of 20.4% and the All Wales figure of 14%. The overall % of A*- C grades was 62.5% and is below 2014 but better than 2013 and better than the Consortium figure of 60.1% and the All Wales figure of 52%. The overall % of A*-G grades was 96.6% and is below 2014 but better than 2013 and better than the Consortium figure 94.9% and the All Wales figure of 93%.

SACRE were pleased to note that results were better than Consortium figures and All Wales figures at all grade boundaries and that a significant number continues to be entered for short course. This is very encouraging because it provides pupils with the opportunity for accreditation for their KS4 study especially when pupils do not usually opt to follow the Short Course but it is delivered as part of the statutory requirements for RE.

At GCE A Level and AS level pupils are now entered at Merthyr College due to tertiary reorganisation. SACRE received the results from the College.

At **A level** there were 25 entries and students studied Ethics and Human Experience at A2. The entry figures have slightly decreased this year.

A*-A was achieved by 5% of students and is below previous performance and the consortium figure of 23.7% and the All Wales figure of 23%. At A*-C candidates achieved a pass rate of 79% and is better than 2014 performance but below Consortia figure of 81.8% and the All Wales figure of 81%. The pass rate for grades A-E of 100% is excellent and comparable with or better than Consortium and All-Wales figures.

At **AS level** there were 25 entries and students studied Buddhism and Ethics at AS.

There were no A grades and this is the same as 2014. At A-C candidates achieved a pass rate of 68% which is better than previous performance and the Consortia figure of 63.7%. The pass rate for grades A-E of 100% is excellent and comparable with 2014 performance and better than the Consortium figure of 92.7%

- **Key stage 3 data**

Members of Merthyr Tydfil SACRE also consider the levels awarded by teachers to pupils at the end of key stage 3. Comparisons are made with previous performance in religious education.

Pupils' (boys and girls) achieving level 5 and above are 86.5% which shows a year on year improvement with 79.3% (2014) and 66.3 % (2013). There has also been a significant improvement in results for boys only by approx 11% and for girls only their results have improved by approx 2.5%. The gap in performance between boys and girls has narrowed again this year with it being 8% (2015) and 16% (2014). The results overall in 2015 are comparable with Consortium figures for Boys / Girls and All Pupils. In 2014 it was below Consortium figures for Boys / Girls and All Pupils.

Results at L6+ for all pupils are 44.8% and this again shows a year on year improvement in performance with 25.8% (2014) and 21.4% (2013). Boys' performance has significantly improved by 20% whilst girls' performance has also improved by approx 18%. The gap in performance between boys and girls has decreased to 16% at L6+ and 18% (2014). The results overall are below the Consortium figures for Boys / Girls and All Pupils.

End of key stage 3 levels are published in Appendix 4.

- **School inspection reports**

SACRE, with the LA's agreement and co-operation, receives reports from professional officers on standards and provision and reviews summary reports of inspection findings and Estyn surveys. During the academic year of 2015/16 SACRE members received details of school inspections undertaken between autumn 2014 and summer 2015.

The inspection reports of three primary schools were analysed. There were comments of schools having good community links with local churches and charities that provide positive experiences. There were no issues relating to religious education identified in the reports and therefore no follow up action was necessary.

Methods of teaching, choice of teaching materials, teacher training

Professional Development

The local authority, via Central South Consortium, offers CPD to schools. The local authority informed SACRE that with the current Welsh Assembly Government's emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy no subject specific training is on offer.

RE News

SACRE agreed to inform all schools of the RE News website and encourage schools to submit articles <http://www.religious-education-wales.org>

Each year, SACRE has a programme of school visits and receives a presentation on RE and/or Collective Worship at their schools. Where relevant, SACRE encourages schools to submit articles exemplifying good practice to RE News. This academic year three Merthyr schools submitted material to RE News.

Teaching Materials

Holocaust Memorial Day 2016 Resources

All schools were informed of the 2016 Holocaust Memorial Day theme of 'Don't Stand By'. The Holocaust and subsequent genocides took place because the local populations allowed insidious persecution to take root. Whilst some actively supported or facilitated state policies of persecution, the vast majority stood by silently – at best, afraid to speak out; at worst, indifferent. Bystanders enabled the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides.

Schools were informed by SACRE that further information about the theme and free educational Holocaust resources can be found on their website www.hmd.org.uk – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.

Schools were also informed of a series of workshops or events organised by Merthyr Library Service. These include a Merthyr Libraries Writing Competition offered to all schools in the borough; a Service held at St David's Church, Merthyr and a workshop entitled '*Testimony of a Holocaust Survivor*' with Harry Bibring, a Kindertransport Holocaust Survivor telling his story.

Resources to Support Boys Attainment

SACRE had been informed of resources created by Mary Parry, Carmarthenshire LA, addressing the issue of raising the attainment of boys. The resource on "*Muslim Footballers in the Premier League.*" covers aspects of the Five Pillars of Islam and raises issues regarding how the beliefs of Muslim footballers affect their lives. With permission from M Parry, SACRE in Autumn 2015 circulated each secondary department a copy of the resource materials and its accompanying CD ROM.

SUMMARY OF ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

School inspection reports

The local authority and its SACRE scrutinised relevant sections of Estyn school inspection reports for the period academic year Autumn 2014- Summer 2015. If any issues emerge regarding collective worship, such as non fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up requesting their action plan. The inspection reports of three primary schools were analysed and members presented with a summary of findings from these inspections.

One school inspected in Jan 2015 did not comply fully with statutory requirements for collective worship. A copy of the school's action plan was requested and advice was offered. SACRE assumes that all other schools inspected – as Estyn has not noted any other instances of non-compliance - meet statutory requirements in relation to collective worship.

Comments in relation to spiritual development are evident in all three inspection reports.

One report made comment on the quality of collective worship stating that pupils' enjoy taking part in school assemblies and that collective worship gives them appropriate opportunities for reflection.

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.

Advice to schools on the DACW

At its Summer 2016 meeting SACRE received a presentation from its professional consultant on *What Makes Good Collective Worship* and resolved to circulate this PowerPoint presentation to all schools in the LA as a means of supporting them in their provision of a DACW.

SUMMARY OF OTHER ISSUES

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 represented on the WASACRE executive committee by the Chair of SACRE Ernie Galsworthy and their professional consultant Vicky Thomas and receive regular feedback from them and other representatives who attend WASACRE meetings.

Holocaust Education

Merthyr SACRE was informed of the 2016 Holocaust Memorial Day theme 'Don't Stand by' and that further information about the theme and free educational Holocaust Memorial Day resources can be found on their website www.hmd.org.uk. SACRE resolved to inform schools about the availability of these resources and encourage them to commemorate HMD in some way.

Schools were also informed of a series of events to commemorate HMD 2016 organised by Merthyr Tydfil Public Library service. These include a writing competition offered to all schools and a workshop entitled '*Testimony of a Holocaust Survivor*' with Harry Bibring, a Kindertransport Holocaust Survivor telling his story. There was also held a service of commemoration in St David's Church.

Welsh Government National Curriculum Review

SACRE has received termly updates on the progress of the National Curriculum Review following Professor Donaldson's recommendation that RE should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience and should remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception. News is still being awaited of which Pioneer Schools will be responsible for developing the Humanities curriculum and the implications of this for agreed syllabus development has been discussed. SACRE has agreed to wait until Welsh Government provide further details on the shape of RE in the curriculum, and also to receive advice from WASACRE, before beginning any RE agreed syllabus review.

Revised Criteria for GCSE and GCE Specifications

SACRE were informed of the proposed changes to specifications and assessment practices for GCSE and GCE with an implementation date of Autumn 2016. During the spring term Qualifications Wales and WJEC agreed to defer the implementation of GCSE Religious Studies until September 2017 because of the lateness in the specifications being approved. Schools have been informed. SACRE eagerly await the final specifications so that schools can be informed of their availability.

INCERTS Assessment Programme

SACRE received a report outlining concerns raised by NAPfRE and WASACRE regarding the use of the online Incerts assessment programme which tracks pupils' progress in National Curriculum subjects and Religious Education. SACRE were advised that some schools were not using the correct option button when using the programme to track progress in RE. SACRE agreed that a letter outlining the correct method to be used in respect of the Incerts programme, be circulated to all Merthyr primary schools.

Welsh Bacallaureate Survey

SACRE were informed of the survey conducted by WASACRE to examine the effects on RE/RS of the launch of the new Welsh Bacallaureate in September 2015. WASACRE was interested to know how schools have managed the implementation of the new qualification in their individual setting, and whether the Welsh Bacallaureate has had a positive or negative impact on religious education in schools across Wales. WASACRE produced a short survey which was circulated to secondary schools within their local authority by the SACREs for schools to complete and return.

The results of the survey found that since the implementation of the new Welsh Bacallaureate, the majority of respondents provide statutory Religious Education according to the Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE at KS4, and offer a RS GCSE qualification as a supporting qualification for Welsh Bacallaureate at KS4. The majority deliver this course as part of core RE time.

The survey queried if the new Welsh Bacallaureate has had a positive, negative or no impact on RE. The majority of respondents stated that the new Welsh Bacallaureate had no impact on RE. A summary of responses commenting on the positive/negative impact were detailed within the report. The positive comments included that it enabled new RE content, encouraged a thinking style approach to teaching and learning and in some cases increased time allocated for the teaching of RE. Negative comments highlighted reductions in core RE time and the requirement for some schools to deliver Welsh Bacallaureate instead of GCSE RS thereby removing Short Course courses in particular.

SACRE agreed to keep a watching brief on the WBQ and its impact on RE/RS at KS4.

Training of SACRE members

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

Firstly, to keep members updated on developments in RE and collective worship through regular presentations to SACRE members. Mrs Vicky Thomas made a number of presentations this year including:- The review of the National Curriculum and its implications for RE; The development of the revised exam specifications and What makes a good act of collective worship in schools .

Secondly, SACRE agreed that where possible they would hold meetings at schools in Merthyr for members to familiarise themselves with RE in schools. Two visits took place this year. Firstly to Pen y Dre High School where a presentation was received on *How effective is Hwb+ in improving boys' attainment and negative attitudes towards writing in RE?* The second visit was to Twynyrodyn Primary where presentations were received on *The DACW- the Way Forward-* and a presentation on *The use of Thinking Skills in RE.*

SACRE is very appreciative of the opportunities offered through visits and presentations to become more informed on RE and Collective worship issues in schools and would like to extend their appreciation to all concerned. A special note of thanks is extended to the clerk to SACRE, Karen Vokes, for all her hard work in making such arrangements.

APPENDIX 1: MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE

Local authority

Councillor Gareth Lewis
Councillor Ernie Galsworthy,
Councillor Kate Moran

Local education authority
Local education authority
Local education authority

Teacher associations

Amanda Jones

RE Teachers' Association
Afon Taf High school
National Union of Teachers
Cyfartha High School
UCAC

Sian Bernard-Henderson/
Leanne McCarthy
Vacancy

Vacancy

Secondary Heads Association

Helen Price/Justine Jones

NAS/UWT

Katy Thomas

Association of College Managers

Mark Carrington,

NAHT
Twynrodyn Community School
Association of Teachers and Lecturers
Pen-y-Dre High School

Lucy Draper

Religious denominations

Gareth Tasker
Andy Pitt
Ann Starr
Father Mark Prevett
Janine Brill

Roman Catholic Church
Free Church / Evangelical Church
Presbyterian Church
Church in Wales
Salvation Army

LA Officers

Dorothy Haines
Karen Vokes
Vicky Thomas

Head of School Improvement
Clerk to SACRE
Independent RE Consultant

APPENDIX 2: RECORD OF MEETINGS AND MAIN AGENDA ITEMS

3rd November 2015 at Pen y Dre High school, Merthyr Tydfil

- Apologies
- Election of Chair person
- Election of Vice Chair person
- Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising
- Presentation '*Using Hwb+ to improve boys' writing*' Lucy Draper, Pen y Dre High School
- Membership update
- Schedule of meetings 2015-2016
- SACRE annual report 2014-15
- SACRE development plan 2015 – 2018
- Inspection report Analysis Autumn 2014 -Summer 2015
- RE and the National Curriculum: Update
- WASACRE Issues including feedback from AGM at Mold June 25th 2014, appointments to the Executive Committee and WASACRE representation in Blaenau Gwent on 25/11/15
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2016
- Request to issue the WASACRE presentation on Muslim Footballers in the Premier League to all secondary schools in Merthyr
- Correspondence

11th February 2016 at Twynrodyn Primary School, Merthyr Tydfil

- Presentation on RE at Twynrodyn school
- Apologies
- Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising
- Membership Update
- Religious studies examination results 2015
- KS3 Levels Data Analysis 2014 and 2015
- Revised Criteria for GCSE and GCE Specifications: Update
- National Curriculum review and assessment: Update
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2016: Feedback
- WASACRE issues: feedback from meeting at Blaenau Gwent; representation at next meeting at Haverfordwest and nominations to the WASACRE executive
- Correspondence

7th June 2016 at Civic Centre, Merthyr Tydfil

- Apologies
- Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising
- Presentation on Collective Worship in Schools - Vicky Thomas
- Membership Update
- Schedule of Meetings 2016-2017
- Revised Criteria for GCSE and GCE specifications :Update
- National Curriculum Review and Assessment: Update
- INCERTS Assessment Programme
- Welsh Baccalaureate survey by WASACRE: Feedback
- WASACRE issues including report of WASACRE meeting at Haverfordwest,; representation at next meeting at Rhyl and Executive Voting for the Period 2016-2019.
- Correspondence

Appendix 3: SACRE development plan

MERTHYR TYDFIL SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 – 2018 (ACADEMIC YEAR)
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Aim 1: To monitor standards in Religious Education and Religious Studies.

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
1.1 Monitor standards through regular review of inspection reports/ Estyn thematic reviews/ school self evaluation reports and recommend, where necessary, action by Local Authority.	Annual agenda item Autumn Term	Full SACRE Adviser	Agenda time Adviser time for analysis	Advice to LA on trends across the county borough; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools; follow up through school visits and review of action plan where necessary.	2015-2016 Considered 3.11.15. No non fulfilment of statutory requirements for RE identified.
1.2 Receive information on results of: Teacher Assessment at end of Key Stage 3; GCSE Religious Studies Full and Short Course; A/AS level Religious Studies.	Spring Term	Full SACRE Adviser	Agenda time Adviser time for analysis	Advice to LA on trends; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools.	2015-2016 Considered 11.2.15. Schools informed of outcomes.
1.3 Identify INSET needs, monitor and offer advice on training.	Autumn Term	Full SACRE	Agenda time	Training programme received along with figures on uptake; advice to LA.	2015-2016 No INSET on RE provided by LA or CSC

MERTHYR TYDFIL SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 – 2018 (ACADEMIC YEAR)

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

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
2.1 To review the agreed syllabus for Religious Education	Summer 2016 onwards (or as appropriate)	Full SACRE Adviser Working group NAPfRE	Advisory time to review the agreed syllabus. Establish a working group (if applicable). Convene a Standing Conference to adopt the syllabus Publication/ translation costs (as appropriate)	Agreed syllabus reviewed and adopted by Standing Conference. Agreed Syllabus training programme for schools (if required) Agreed syllabus to be implemented the Autumn term after adoption.	2015-2016 SACRE has termly updates on curriculum development. SACRE are awaiting further details from Welsh Government on the shape of RE in the curriculum, and advice from WASACRE, before beginning any RE agreed syllabus review.
2.2 Materials to support implementation of the agreed syllabus for RE	Ongoing	Full SACRE Adviser	Advisory time	Support materials available to schools and accessed through Consortium website.	2015-2016 Schools sent materials from Carmarthenshire LA

MERTHYR TYDFIL SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 – 2018 (ACADEMIC YEAR)

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

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
3.1 Monitor provision for collective worship through regular review of inspection reports/ school self evaluation reports; recommend, where necessary, action by LA.	Annual agenda item Autumn term	Full SACRE and Adviser	Agenda time Adviser time for analysis	Advice to LA on trends across the county borough; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools; follow up through school visits and review of action plan where necessary.	2015-2016 Considered 3.11.15. One school not fulfilling statutory requirements for DACW. Action plan requested. Visit to school for presentation on action plan. Advice offered.
3.2 To support the implementation of statutory collective worship	Ongoing	Advisory service	Advisory time	Provision of INSET (if applicable) Schools informed of resources and websites for collective worship. Schools informed of guidance materials available for collective worship	2015-2016 Schools informed of resources to support HMD 2016 including resources for acts of collective worship. Schools received a PowerPoint presentation on <i>What makes a good DACW</i> to support CW in schools.

MERTHYR TYDFIL SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 – 2018 (ACADEMIC YEAR)

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

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
4.1 To update members on the role of SACRE and its implications; recent developments in RE and collective worship; guidance materials from relevant bodies; input from practising teachers and outside providers	Termly/ Annually as required	SACRE members , Adviser, practising teachers, outside providers	Member time; Adviser / Officer time	SACRE members fully aware of their responsibilities. SACRE and schools updated and informed of recent developments and initiatives, both local and national.	2015-2016 SACRE received updates on NC review and the development of exam specifications. SACRE received a presentation on What makes a good DACW?
4.2 Programme of school visits.	Termly/Annually as required	SACRE members, Adviser/ Officers	Member time; Officer time to arrange visits	More informed SACRE on provision and practice regarding RE and collective worship in schools.	2015-2016 SACRE visited two schools this year, and received presentations on RE/CW at the schools.

APPENDIX 4: MERTHYR TYDFIL EXAMINATION RESULTS 2013 - 2015

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES (FULL COURSE) 2015

	Merthyr 2015	Merthyr 2014	Merthyr 2013	Consortium 2015	Wales 2015
A*-A	30.2%	18.8%	17.34%	31.7%	30.0%
A*-C	74.1%	65.3%	57.23%	72.7%	75.0%
A* - G	98.6%	98.8%	95.38%	97.1%	98.0%
Entry Number	139 4 schools	170 4 schools	173 4 schools	4462	11,167

GCSE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SHORT COURSE) 2015

	Merthyr 2015	Merthyr 2014	Merthyr 2013	Consortium 2015	Wales 2015
A*-A	22.8%	20.4%	22.01%	20.4%	14.0%
A*-C	62.5%	69.6%	55.98%	60.1%	52.0%
A* - G	96.6%	98.9%	96.14%	94.9%	93.0%
Entry Number	325 4 schools	270 3 schools	259 4 schools	6035	10,098

GCE RELIGIOUS STUDIES (A LEVEL) 2015

	Merthyr College 2015	Merthyr 2014	Merthyr 2013	Consortium 2015	Wales 2015
A*-A	5%	20.69%	23.08%	23.7%	23.0%
A*-C	79%	75.86%	84.62%	81.8%	81.0%
A* - E	100%	96.55%	100%	99.3%	100%
Entry Number	25	29 3 schools	39 3 schools	539	1441

GCE RELIGIOUS STUDIES (AS LEVEL) 2015

	Merthyr College 2015	Merthyr 2014	Consortium 2014	Wales 2014
A	0%	0%	8.06%	N/A
A - C	68%	66.67%	63.71%	N/A
A - E	100%	100%	92.74%	N/A
Entry Number	25	9 1 school	124	N/A

APPENDIX 5: Key Stage 3 Year 9 Religious Education Levels

Merthyr 2015

BOYS	NOR	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	EP	No Level	Disapplied	Total	% L 5+	% L 6+
Total numbers	245	0	0	3	33	111	76	14	2	0	6		245	203	92
Percentages		0	0	1.2	13.5	45.3	31.0	5.7	0.8	0	2.4		100	82.9	37.6
Consortium	4041	0	30 0.7	130 3.2	537 13.3	1756 43.5	1244 30.8	289 7.2	25 0.6	0	25 0.6	5 0.1	4041 100	3314 82.0	1558 38.6

GIRLS	NOR	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	EP	No Level	Disapplied	Total	% L 5+	% L 6+
Total numbers	215	0	0	3	15	81	91	23	0	0	2		215	195	114
Percentages		0	0	1.4	7.0	37.7	42.3	10.7	0	0	0.9		100	90.7	53.0
Consortium	3775	0	3 0.1	40 1.1	269 7.1	1199 31.8	1468 38.9	692 18.3	87 2.3	1 0	16 0.4		3775 100	3447 91.3	2248 59.5

ALL PUPILS	NOR	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	EP	No Level	Disapplied	Total	% L 5+	% L 6+
Total numbers	460	0	0	6	48	192	167	37	2	0	8		460	398	206
Percentages		0	0	1.3	10.4	41.7	36.3	8.0	0.4		1.7		100	86.5	44.8
Consortium	7816	0	33 0.4	170 2.2	806 10.3	2955 37.8	2712 34.7	981 12.6	112 1.4	1 0.0	41 0.5	5 0.1	7816 100	6761 86.5	3806 48.7

APPENDIX 6: 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 Merthyr Tydfil SACRE
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Democratic Services
- All Merthyr Tydfil County Borough schools
- Central South Consortium
- Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE)
- National Library, Aberystwyth
- Welsh Government
- Estyn
- Cytun

APPENDIX 7:

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Constitution

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
 - d. record the membership of 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 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

10. The council shall comprise three groups representing:
 - a. Such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the LA, will appropriately reflect the religious traditions in the area.
 - b. Such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the LA, ought to be represented having regard to the circumstances of the area.
 - c. The LA.
11. The Council may also co-opt members.
12. Membership of the Council shall be for a period of four years. Any outgoing members may be re-appointed.
13. Membership of the Council 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 or associations in question.
14. Members representing associations of teachers must include teachers of religious education.
15. Individuals may be removed from the Council if they cease to be representative of the denomination, association or of the Authority they were appointed to represent.
16. Any member of the Council may at any time resign his or her office.

Proceedings

17. The Council shall meet not less than once in each school term.
18. The Council 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 Council only the representative groups on the Council 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 and 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.
22. In the case of any member not being able to attend a Council 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 LA is notified in advance of the meeting.
23. A meeting of the Council will be deemed to be quorate if at least one member of each of the three representative groups is present.
24. The validity of proceedings of the Council shall not be affected:
 - a. by a vacancy in the office of any member of the Council or
 - b. on the grounds that a member of the Council appointed to represent any denomination or association does not, at the time of the proceedings, represent the denomination or association in question.
25. The representative groups on the Council, 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.
26. The Council 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.
27. The clerk to the SACRE shall arrange for copies of the annual report to be sent to all county schools within the Authority, to DfES, the National Library and to such other individuals and institutions as the LA sees fit.