

## MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**DATE:** MARCH 7<sup>th</sup> 2017

**SUBJECT:** NATIONAL CURRICULUM REVIEW UPDATE

### **Update: Curriculum Review**

WASACRE representatives namely Phil Lord, Libby Jones and Gill Vaisey have represented WASACRE at regular Stakeholders' meetings with Welsh Government to discuss the new curriculum.

The National Advisory Panel for RE (NAPfRE) has drawn up a draft document outlining some guidelines on *What makes good RE* for WASACRE representatives to submit to the pioneer network for consideration when working on the shape of the RE curriculum. This has been submitted to Manon Jones\* of Welsh Government for information to be shared at some point with the pioneer schools working on the Humanities AOLE.

Strand 2: Subject specific design and developing the Areas of Learning and Experience. Representatives from the pioneer schools will consider the strands within each area of learning and experience. This is where the in depth subject specific knowledge will be required.

### **Time scale**

- Pioneer School launch 17/1/17
- Humanities AOLE meeting with Manon Jones 18/1/17
- Pioneer schools will meet to discuss the way forward with their AoLE in February/ March 2017.
- The first expected output is expected to be a set of principles which demonstrate how the Humanities AoLE links with the 4 purposes.
- The second output is likely to be the specifics and detail of the AoLE
- The third output is likely to be when separate disciplines work alone or together- perhaps forming sub groups or focus groups.

**WASACRE have a meeting with The Minister for Education (Kirsty Williams) on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017** and will pose a question around the status of the Agreed Syllabus in the light of the proposal that RE becomes part of the Humanities AoLE.

### **Recommendation**

SACRE to note and discuss the developments relating to the position of RE in the curriculum

\*Manon Jones (Curriculum Division of Welsh Government) is responsible for the pioneer schools and two areas of learning and experience (AOLE), Humanities and Language and Literacy

## Curriculum for Wales Newsletter

### January 2017 (Issue 04)

(This is the latest edition of WG stakeholder newsletter)

Momentum is growing in the development of a new curriculum for Wales. The 'big questions' in curriculum design have been considered by Pioneer Schools in the Strategic Design (Strand 1) groups, and 25 new Pioneer Schools joined the network this month to help with the next phase of development.

The findings from the Strategic Design groups will now inform the design and development of the Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs, Strand 2). AoLE groups were announced recently, and membership of each group features below.

Welsh Government, Regional Education Consortia, Estyn and practitioners continue to work closely in partnership as the work evolves. Working groups are co-facilitated and representation in all areas is comprehensive in a true 'Team Wales' approach.

In this newsletter you will find updates on:

- Strategic Design Group (Strand 1) activity – summaries
- Cross-Curriculum Responsibilities
- Enrichment and Experiences o
- Welsh Dimension, International Perspectives and Wider Skills
- Assessment and Progression
- Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE – Strand 2) groups starting work at Llandudno event
- New Pioneer Schools joining the fold
- Curriculum for Wales Blog

#### **Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE) groups start work at Llandudno event**

Two days of discussion and workshops in Llandudno on 17th/18th January kickstarted work on the Areas of Learning and Experience. Coming together for the first time, **the six groups included 25 new Pioneer schools** to help create the new curriculum for Wales.

After awareness sessions on strategic design work to date, the groups looked at the essence of an 'AoLE' and approaches to developing them. They set out work plans and building blocks for the coming term, with a view to developing AoLE frameworks by June 2017.

The six AoLEs are: Expressive Arts; Health and Well-Being; Humanities; Languages, Literacy and Communication; Mathematics and Numeracy, and Science and Technology.

### Schools working on the 'Humanities' Area of Learning and Experience

Ysgol // School	Consortia Rhanbarthol // Regional Consortia
Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Yr Esgob Hedley Bishop Hedley Catholic High School	CCD/CSC
Ysgol Gynradd Parc Darran Park Primary School	CCD/CSC
Ysgol Gyfun Maesteg Comprehensive School	CCD/CSC
Ysgol Gyfun Pontardulais Comprehensive School	ERW
Ysgol Gynradd Rhydypenau Primary School	CCD/CSC
Ysgol Gynradd Trellech Primary School	GCA/EAS
Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern	GWE
Ysgol y Preseli	ERW
Ysgol Gyfun Bryntawe ( <i>partnered with Ysgol Gyfun Gwyr</i> )	ERW
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Lôn Las ( <i>partnered with Ysgol Bryniago</i> )	ERW
Ysgol Bro Sannan Ysgol Gynradd Cwmbran Ysgol Gyfun Caldicot Comprehensive School	GCA/EAS
Ysgol Uwchradd Penfro / Pembroke High School	ERW
Ysgol Gynradd Gatholig Rufeinig San Joseff St Joseph's RC Primary, Penarth	CCD/CSC
Ysgol David Hughes	GWE
Ysgol Penboyr, Llandysul	ERW
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin	ERW