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Croesawn alwadau yn y Gymraeg
We welcome calls in Welsh

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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

Headteachers of
all state maintained Infants,
Junior and Primary Schools

Croesawn ohebu yn Gymraeg a fydd gohebu yn y Gymraeg ddim yn arwain at oedi.

*Rhowch wybod inni beth yw'ch dewis iaith e.e Cymraeg neu'n ddwyieithog
We welcome correspondence in Welsh and corresponding with us in Welsh
will not lead to a delay. Let us know your language choice if Welsh or
bilingual.*

Dyddiad/Date:

Ein Cyf./Our Ref.: SB
Eich Cyf./Your Ref.:

Gofynnwch am/Please ask for: Mrs Sarah Bowen
Ulinell Unlongyrchol/Direct Line: 01685 725082
e-bost/email: Sarah.Bowen@merthyr.gov.uk

Dear Headteacher

Statutory Requirements for Religious Education

Merthyr Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) has asked me to bring to your attention the statutory requirements for Religious Education in state maintained schools. As the curriculum review is getting under way it seems that some schools are confused as to the status of agreed syllabuses in schools.

As I am sure you are aware Religious Education is part of the basic curriculum and therefore sits outside the National Curriculum. The RE curriculum for state maintained schools is locally determined by the local authority and its SACRE. This means that there is a statutory requirement for LA's to provide Religious Education according to an agreed syllabus. With regard to the position of the Bridgend agreed syllabus it was re adopted in 2013 and therefore the current syllabus stays in place with an understanding that the syllabus will be reviewed once the shape of the new Donaldson curriculum is defined. There would need to be a change in legislation for the delivery of RE according to an agreed syllabus to be rescinded.

Professor Donaldson report *Successful Futures - Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales* recommended that *Religious education should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience, and should remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception.*

SACRE is aware that the Pioneer schools are now meeting in order to shape the new curriculum. The projected time line for Strand 3, where the *defining and elaborating* of each Area of Learning and Experience (AOLE) and the in-depth subject specific details will be shaped, is from January 2017. Until such time as the detail of the AOLE are shaped and a review of the agreed syllabus takes place then SACRE wish to ensure that schools understand that coverage of the programmes of study of the locally agreed syllabus is the main statutory requirement.

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I attach a copy of the current Merthyr agreed syllabus for RE and the programmes of study for KS2 can be found on pages 20-21 and the detail of that worked out in Annex 3 pp37-39.

As regards the **Foundation Phase** three broad areas of People, Beliefs and Questions are studied. The detail of that is worked out in Annex 2 pp 34ff under the topic titles of Themselves, Other People and Living Things. This provides a good base for RE in the Foundation Phase

I hope that this information is useful to you.

Yours sincerely



RP Sarah Bowen, Inclusion Manager
(LA representative on Merthyr SACRE)

Enc.