

**Merthyr Tydfil  
County Borough Council**

**Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

**Annual Report**

**2016 - 2017**



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
**MERTHYR TUDFUL**  
**MERTHYR TYDFIL**  
County Borough Council

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**Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**  
**Annual Report 2016 - 2017**

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**MERTHYR TYDFIL SACRE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2016 – 2017**

**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 2016 - 2017 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 2016 - 2017:

- 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 at Afon Taf High School
- 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Trelewis Community Primary school
- 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at the Civic Centre

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 2016 - 2017 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 and three secondary schools inspected during the academic year 2015 – 2016. 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 and Consortia 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.
4. SACRE wrote to all schools in the local authority reminding them that coverage of the programmes of study of the locally agreed syllabus remains a statutory requirement whilst the curriculum is under review. It also wrote to secondary schools drawing specific attention to delivery of RE at KS4 and informing them that coverage of the Global Citizenship unit alone would not be sufficient to cover all aspects of the agreed syllabus KS4 programme of study. It asked all schools to confirm that they understood the requirements of the agreed syllabus and that they are meeting these statutory requirements in their schools.

### 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 2016-2017 SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments with the national Curriculum review and the place of RE within a Humanities curriculum. 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 2017 Holocaust Memorial Day theme of 'How can Life Go On' and that free Holocaust resources can be found on their website [www.hmd.org.uk](http://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.

## **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 and three secondary schools were scrutinised. There was no non-fulfilment of statutory requirements identified in the reports and therefore no follow-up action was necessary.
2. Schools have been informed by SACRE of appropriate resources and websites that support collective worship in schools e.g. HMD 2017.

## **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 a presentation on The Review of the National Curriculum and its Implications for RE; SACRE received two presentations from teachers on RE *in the Primary school* and *RE in the secondary school*.
3. 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 to Afon Taf High School and Trelewis Primary School. Both schools made presentations to members on *What is RE like* at their schools.

## 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 onwards 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 2016-2017, SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments with the NC review and the place of RE within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience. 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 2016. The examination results are compared with the All Wales and Consortium 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.

**At GCSE Full Course in Religious Education** there was 156 entries from 4 schools and EQTAS. Entry numbers are higher than 2015 but below 2014. All schools have entries in double figures. The average cohort entry for Merthyr Tydfil in 2016 was 25.4% which is better than 2015(23.2%) but below 2014 (28.4%). Cohort entry is below Consortia and All Wales figures

The overall % of A\*- A grades was 33.3% which is the best performance of the last 3 years. It is also better than Consortium (29.1) and All Wales (27.8%) figures. The

overall % of A\*- C grades was 69.9% and is below 2015 but better than 2014. It is comparable with Consortium figure (69.2%) but below the All Wales figure of 72%.

The overall % of A\*-G grades was 98.1% and is comparable with previous performance and better than Consortium figure (96.9%) and All Wales figure of 97.8%.

**At GCSE Short Course in Religious Education** there was an increase in entries this year. Two 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 2016 was 58.3% and is higher than previous cohort entry figures. It was just below the Consortium entry figure of 60.7% but much higher than the All Wales figure of 36.1%

The overall % of A\*- A grades of 18.7% is below previous performance. It is comparable with the Consortium figure of 18.9% but better than All Wales figure of 11.4%. The overall % of A\*- C grades was 52.0% and is below previous performance. It is below the Consortium figure of 55.4% but better than the All Wales figure of 45.4%. The overall % of A\*-G grades was 94.1% and is below previous performance. It is better than the Consortium figure of 92.6% and the All Wales figure of 90.5%.

SACRE were pleased to note that the entry pattern was higher in 2016. 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 21 entries from the college and students studied Ethics and Human Experience at A2. The entry figures have slightly decreased this year.

A\*-A was achieved by 11% of students and is better than 2015 performance but below the Consortium figure of 21.3% and the All Wales figure of 19%. At A\*-C candidates achieved a pass rate of **79%** and is comparable with 2015 and better than 2014 performance and is comparable with Consortia and All Wales figures.

The pass rate for grades A-E of 100% is excellent and maintains the excellent performance of 2015. It is better than the Consortia figure and All-Wales figures.

**At AS level** there were 12 entries from Merthyr College and numbers are down this year but better than 2014. Students studied Buddhism and Ethics at AS.

There were 23.5% of students achieving an A grade and this is the best performance of the last 3 years. It is comparable with the Consortium figure and better than the All Wales figure of 16% At A-C candidates achieved a pass rate of 82% which is better than previous performance and the Consortia figure of 73.3%.and the All Wales figure of 63%.The pass rate for grades A-E of 100% is excellent and comparable with previous excellent performance and better than the Consortium and all Wales figures.

- **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 89.3% which shows a year on year improvement with 86.5% (2015) and 79.3% (2014)). The results for boys only in 2016 (89.7%) are better than 2015 (82.9%) and for girls only their results have improved by approx 2%. The gap in performance between boys and girls has narrowed again this year with it being 3% and 8% (2015) and 16% (2014). The results at L5+ in 2016 are better than Consortium figures for Boys, comparable with Consortium figures with girls and better than Consortium figures for All Pupils.

Results at L6+ for all pupils are 46.6% and this again shows a year on year improvement in performance with 44.8% (2015) 25.8% (2014). Boys' performance at 37.7% is comparable with 2015 (37.6%) and girls' performance has also improved by approx 4%. The gap in performance between boys and girls has increased this year to 19% at L6+ compared to 16% (2015) 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 2016/17 SACRE members received details of school inspections undertaken between autumn 2015 and summer 2016.

The inspection reports of three primary schools and two secondary schools were analysed. There were comments of schools having good community links with local churches and charities that provide positive experiences. Some schools were providing a range of interesting visits and activities that promote pupils' understanding of other cultures, such as a recent visit to the local mosque.

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.

## **Teaching Materials**

### **Holocaust Memorial Day 2017 Resources**

All schools were informed of the 2017 Holocaust Memorial Day theme of “How Can Life Go On”.

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](http://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 and a Memorial Service held at St David’s Church, Merthyr.

## **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 2015- Summer 2016. 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 and two secondary schools were analysed and members presented with a summary of findings from these inspections.

SACRE assumes that all schools inspected met statutory requirements in relation to collective worship as Estyn has not noted any instances of non-compliance and therefore no follow up action was necessary.

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

Some positive comments include that daily assemblies reinforce the school's values very successfully and provide valuable opportunities for pupils to reflect on the world around them. The use of visitors to schools, such as the local minister, provides pupils with valuable experiences. There were no shortcomings identified in the reports.

### **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.

## **SUMMARY OF OTHER ISSUES**

### **4.1 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.

### **4.2 HOLOCAUST EDUCATION**

Merthyr SACRE was informed of the 2017 Holocaust Memorial Day theme '*How Can Life Go On*' and that further information about the theme and free educational Holocaust Memorial Day resources can be found on their website [www.hmd.org.uk](http://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 workshops or events to commemorate HMD 2017 organised by Merthyr Tydfil Public Library service and a Memorial Service held at St David's Church, Merthyr.

The Committee was informed of the Holocaust Memorial Garden that had been created at the rear of the Central Library.

### **4.3 WELSH GOVERNMENT NATIONAL CURRICULUM REVIEW**

SACRE has received termly updates on the progress of the National Curriculum Review and its implications for RE in the curriculum. RE remains a statutory curriculum requirement from reception and should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience. WG agreed to send a termly newsletter to SACREs outlining the developmental work of the Pioneer Schools in relation to RE in the Humanities. The most recent newsletter refers to the Humanities working group recommendation to follow the 'Big Ideas'/What Matters approach as exemplified within Wynne Harlen et al's 'Working with Big Ideas in Science'. This identifies the key knowledge/concepts, skills and competencies for each discipline within the Humanities and then 'building' the AoLE by identifying overarching 'big ideas'/what matters key concepts that will be drawn across the disciplines. The next strand in the development work will begin during the Autumn term. The Executive Summary and the Humanities working group's recommendations will be discussed by SACRE at its Autumn 2017 meeting and a suitable response will be made to WG, if necessary

### **4.4 REVISED CRITERIA FOR GCSE AND GCE SPECIFICATIONS**

SACRE have been informed of the proposed changes to specifications and assessment practices for GCSE with an implementation date of Autumn 2017. In preparation for the new specification for first teaching from September 2017 two lead practitioners for GCSE Religious Studies have been appointed. SACRE have been updated on the progress of their work with schools to support the implementation of the GCSE specification.

#### **4.5. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR RE**

SACRE was informed that the curriculum review had caused some confusion in schools regarding the status of agreed syllabuses. SACRE resolved to write to all schools reminding them that coverage of the programmes of study of the locally agreed syllabus remains a statutory requirement. It was brought to SACREs attention that the 2016 WASACRE survey on the impact of the WBQ on Religious Education showed that some secondary schools believed that delivery of the Global Citizenship element of WBQ was sufficient to cover the RE requirements. SACRE resolved to remind secondary schools that coverage of the Global Citizenship unit alone would not be sufficient to cover all aspects of the agreed syllabus KS4 programme of study. It asked all schools to confirm that they understood the requirements of the agreed syllabus and that they are meeting these statutory requirements in their schools.

#### **4.6 MEETING WITH ESTYN**

SACRE were informed that members of WASACRE and NAPfRE had met with Estyn in June 2017. The meeting was a positive one and had mutual benefits as it presented an opportunity for the delegation to gather information about the RE Thematic Review & New Inspection Framework and also raise concerns SACREs have regarding the meeting of statutory requirements with particular attention drawn to the provision for RE at KS4.

Estyn outlined the personnel involved, process for identification of schools and the remit of the Thematic Review of KS2 &3. The delegation outlined the ways that SACREs monitor RE in schools, including the analysis of inspection reports. They stressed the importance of Estyn identifying whether or not statutory requirements are being met when they conduct inspections so that SACREs can act upon such information. The delegation also referred to the particular issue of delivery at KS4 – especially those delivering through WBQ. Estyn was very supportive of the concerns raised and said that they would raise these issues with their inspectors.

#### **4.7 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 one presentation this year on the review of the National Curriculum and its implications for RE. SACRE received two presentations from teachers on RE *in the Primary school* and *RE in the secondary school*.

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 to Afon Taf High School and Trelewis Primary School. Both schools made presentations to members on *What is RE like* at their schools.

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 2016-2017**

### **Local authority**

Councillor Gareth Lewis	Local education authority
Councillor Ernie Galsworthy,	Local education authority
Councillor Kate Moran	Local education authority
Vacancy (x2)	Local education authority

### **From May 2017**

Councillor D Hughes	Local education authority
Councillor I Thomas	Local education authority

### **Teacher associations**

Amanda Jones	RE Teachers' Association
Sian Bernard-Henderson/ Leanne McCarthy Vacancy	Afon Taf High school National Union of Teachers Cyfartha High School UCAC
Vacancy	Secondary Heads Association
Helen Price/Justine Jones	NAS/UWT Trelewis Primary Twynyrodyn Community School
Katy Thomas	Association of College Managers
Mark Carrington, Lucy Draper	NAHT Twynyrodyn Community School Association of Teachers and Lecturers Pen-y-Dre High School

### **Religious denominations**

Deacon David O'Keefe	Roman Catholic Church
Andy Pitt	Evangelical Church
Ann Starr	Presbyterian Church
Father Mark Prevett	Church in Wales
Janine Brill	Salvation Army

### **LA Officers**

Sarah Bowen	Inclusion Manager
Karen Vokes	Clerk to SACRE
Vicky Thomas	Independent RE Consultant

## **APPENDIX 2: RECORD OF MEETINGS AND MAIN AGENDA ITEMS**

### **November 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 at Afon Taf High school, Merthyr Tydfil**

- Apologies
- Election of Chair person and Vice Chair person
- Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising
- Presentation on RE at Afon Taf High School
- Membership update
- Schedule of meetings 2016-2017
- SACRE annual report 2015-16
- SACRE development plan 2015 – 2018
- Inspection report Analysis Autumn 2015 -Summer 2016
- RE and the National Curriculum: Update
- GCSE Religious Studies : Update
- Inclusive SACREs Award
- WASACRE including Feedback from AGM at Rhyl, Denbighshire on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016; Representation at next meeting in Carmarthen on Friday November 18<sup>th</sup> 2016; date of Spring WASACRE Meeting at USK.
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2017
- Correspondence

### **March 7<sup>th</sup> 2017 at Trelwis Community Primary School, Merthyr Tydfil**

- Presentation on RE at Trelewis school
- Apologies
- Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising
- Religious studies examination results 2016
- KS3 Levels Data Analysis 2015 and 2016
- Examinations Specifications/ GCSE Support programme
- National Curriculum review and assessment: Update
- Estyn Annual remit 2017/18
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2017: Feedback - SACRE members
- WASACRE issues: Feedback from meeting at Carmarthen; Verbal Feedback on Spring meeting at Usk, Monmouthshire; Representation at the summer WASACRE meeting at Wrexham on Friday July 7<sup>th</sup> 2017, Nominations to the WASACRE executive
- Correspondence

### **July 4<sup>th</sup> 2017 at Civic Centre, Merthyr Tydfil**

- Welcome to new members and training session outlining the roles and responsibilities of SACRE
- Apologies
- Declarations of Interest
- Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising
- Membership Update
- Schedule of Meetings 2017-2018
- Revised Criteria for GCSE and GCE specifications :Update
- National Curriculum Review and Assessment: Update
- Estyn Update (Oral Update)
- WASACRE issues: including feedback on Spring meeting at Usk, representation at the summer WASACRE meeting at Wrexham;Executive Voting for the Period 2017-20- see pen portraits
- Correspondence

### Appendix 3: SACRE development plan

<b>MERTHYR TYDFIL SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 – 2018 (ACADEMIC YEAR)</b>
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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.	<b>2015-2016</b> Considered 3.11.15. No non fulfilment of statutory requirements for RE identified. <b>2016-17</b> Considered 1.11.16. 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.	<b>2015-2016</b> Considered 11.2.15. Schools informed of outcomes. <b>2016-17</b> Considered 7.3.16. 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.	<b>2015-2016</b> No INSET on RE provided by LA or CSC <b>2016-17</b> No change

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

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

<b>Plan of action</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>People involved</b>	<b>Time and costs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Progress</b>
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.	<b>2015-2016</b> 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. <b>2016-17</b> A series of meetings have taken place between WASACRE and WG to discuss the place of RE in the curriculum. This is ongoing and SACRE have been informed of developments on a termly basis.

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.	<b>2015-2016</b> Schools sent materials from Carmarthenshire LA <b>2016-17</b> Not applicable
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**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.	<p><b>2015-2016</b> 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.</p> <p><b>2016-17</b> Considered 1.11.16. No non fulfilment of statutory requirements for CW identified</p>
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	<p><b>2015-2016</b> 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</p>

					<p>schools. <b>2016-17</b> Schools informed of resources to support HMD 2017 including resources for acts of collective worship.</p>
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**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.	<b>2015-2016</b> SACRE received updates on NC review and the development of exam specifications. SACRE received a presentation on What makes a good DACW? <b>2016-17</b> SACRE received updates on NC review, the development and support of exam specifications .
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.	<b>2015-2016</b> SACRE visited two schools this year, and received presentations on RE/CW at the schools.

					<b>2016-17</b> SACRE visited two schools this year and received presentations on the delivery of RE at each school.
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**APPENDIX 4: MERTHYR TYDFIL EXAMINATION RESULTS 2014 - 2016**

**GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES FULL COURSE 2016 (YEAR 11)**

	<b>Merthyr 2016</b>	<b>Merthyr 2015</b>	<b>Merthyr 2014</b>	<b>Consortium 2016</b>	<b>Wales 2016</b>
<b>A*-A</b>	33.3%	30.2%	18.8%	29.1%	27.8%
<b>A*-C</b>	69.9%	74.1%	65.3%	69.2%	72.0%
<b>A* - G</b>	98.1%	98.6%	98.8%	96.9%	97.8%
<b>Entry Number</b>	156 4 schools & EQTAS 25.4% cohort	139 4 schools 23.2%	170 4 schools 28.4%	4482 46.5% cohort	11,051 34.3% cohort

**GCSE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SHORT COURSE 2016 (YEAR 11)**

	<b>Merthyr 2016</b>	<b>Merthyr 2015</b>	<b>Merthyr 2014</b>	<b>Consortium 2016</b>	<b>Wales 2016</b>
<b>A*-A</b>	18.7%	22.8%	20.4%	18.9%	11.4%
<b>A*-C</b>	52.0%	62.5%	69.6%	55.4%	45.4%
<b>A* - G</b>	94.1%	96.6%	98.9%	92.6%	90.5%
<b>Entry Number</b>	358 4 schools & EQTAS 58.3% cohort	325 4 schools 54.3% cohort	270 3 schools 45.1% cohort	5848 60.7%	11,666 36.1%

**GCE RELIGIOUS STUDIES A LEVEL 2016**

	<b>Merthyr College 2016</b>	<b>Merthyr College 2015</b>	<b>Merthyr 2014</b>	<b>Consortium 2016</b>	<b>Wales 2016</b>
<b>A*-A</b>	11%	5%	20.69%	21.3%	19.0%
<b>A*-C</b>	79%	79%	75.86%	79.7%	79.0%
<b>A* - E</b>	100%	100%	96.55%	93.0%	99.0%
<b>Entry Number</b>	21	25	29 3 schools	586	1446

**GCE RELIGIOUS STUDIES (AS LEVEL) 2016**

	<b>Merthyr College 2016</b>	<b>Merthyr College 2015</b>	<b>Merthyr 2014</b>	<b>Consortium 2016</b>	<b>Wales 2016</b>
<b>A</b>	23.5%	0%	0%	22.9%	16%
<b>A - C</b>	82%	68%	66.67%	73.3%	63%
<b>A - E</b>	100%	100%	100%	95.5%	89%
<b>Entry Number</b>	12	25	9 1 school	625	1535 12.7%

**APPENDIX 5: Key Stage 3 Year 9 Religious Education Levels**

**Merthyr 2016**

<b>BOYS</b>	<b>NOR</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4</b>	<b>Level 5</b>	<b>Level 6</b>	<b>Level 7</b>	<b>Level 8</b>	<b>EP</b>	<b>No Level</b>	<b>Dis applied</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% L 5+</b>	<b>% L 6+</b>	<b>% L 7+</b>
<b>Merthyr Percentages</b>	252	0.0	0.0	0.8	8.7	52.0	29.0	8.3	0.4	0.0	0.8	0.0	100	89.7	37.7	8.7
<b>Consortium</b>	3833	0.0	0.1	1.8	11.0	42.4	32.0	10.6	0.8	0.1	0.8	0.4	100	85.9	43.5	11.5

<b>GIRLS</b>	<b>NOR</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4</b>	<b>Level 5</b>	<b>Level 6</b>	<b>Level 7</b>	<b>Level 8</b>	<b>EP</b>	<b>No Level</b>	<b>Dis applied</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% L 5+</b>	<b>% L 6+</b>	<b>% L 7+</b>
<b>Merthyr Percentages</b>	220	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.3	35.9	36.4	19.1	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	92.7	56.8	20.5
<b>Consortium</b>	3494	0.0	0.1	0.8	5.4	30.2	37.6	22.5	2.7	0.1	0.5		100	93.1	62.9	25.4

<b>ALL PUPILS</b>	<b>NOR</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4</b>	<b>Level 5</b>	<b>Level 6</b>	<b>Level 7</b>	<b>Level 8</b>	<b>EP</b>	<b>No Level</b>	<b>Dis applied</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% L 5+</b>	<b>% L 6+</b>	<b>% L 7+</b>
<b>Merthyr Percentages</b>	472	0.0	0.0	0.4	8.1	44.5	32.4	13.3	0.8	0.0	0.4	0.0	100	91.1	46.6	14.2
<b>Consortium</b>	7327	0.0	0.1	1.3	8.3	36.6	34.6	16.2	1.7	0.1	0.6	0.3	100	89.3	52.7	18.1

## **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.
9. To participate in the LA's statutory complaints procedures in those instances where the complaints relate to religious education and/or collective worship.
10. 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**

11. 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.
12. The Council may also co-opt members.
13. Membership of the Council shall be for a period of four years. Any outgoing members may be re-appointed.
14. 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.
15. Members representing associations of teachers must include teachers of religious education.
16. 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.
17. Any member of the Council may at any time resign his or her office.

## **Proceedings**

18. The Council shall meet not less than once in each school term.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. Co-opted members are not entitled to vote.

22. 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.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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.