

**Bridgend County Borough Council**  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr



# **Bridgend County Borough Council**

Standing Advisory Council on  
Religious Education

Standing Advisory Council for Religion,  
Values and Ethics

**Annual Report 2022 – 2023**

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**THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR BRIDGEND  
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)  
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS (SAC)**

**2022-2023**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF BRIDGEND SACRE/SAC**

The past year in the world of Religious Education (RE), Religious Studies (RS) and Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) has been exciting but challenging. The introduction of the new syllabus required by the Curriculum for Wales (CfW) has meant that schools have had to really take stock of where they are in regard to the support they give to their teachers of RE, RS and RVE as they grapple with the requirements of the new syllabus. In secondary schools this has also meant them having to continue with the former syllabus for Years 9 to 11 alongside the new syllabus for Years 7 and 8. Hopefully, in this Bridgend's SACRE/SAC has been able to play a significant role in supporting teachers and schools.

Never has the role of SACRE/SAC been more important than in this last year in providing our highly professional teachers with the resources that they need to continue with the success RE, RS and RVE have always enjoyed in this authority. SACRE/SAC would like to express its gratitude to all those involved in the teaching of RE/RS/RVE for the sterling work you are doing to provide the children and young people of the county of Bridgend with the care, support and education through the difficult times we have recently experienced. The well-being of our young people has never been more fragile than it is at present with all that they have lived through in recent times and the way in which they have been supported has been exemplary.

SACRE/SAC has been able to provide advice and support to schools in various ways and in partnership with Central South Consortium. The Associate Advisor has been able, on SACRE's/SAC's behalf, to provide advice and support to schools on the academic subjects of religious education, religious studies, religion, values and ethics and daily acts of collective worship throughout the year under review. She has worked closely with WASACRE and NAPfRE to be able to do this. Similarly, our SACRE/SAC clerk has regularly continued to receive and distribute relevant correspondence to our schools.

One of the roles of SACRE/SAC in the past has been to visit schools, particularly to observe acts of collective worship. We have unfortunately not been able to do this for some while. Hopefully we will be able to reinstate this in the near future and we look forward to that. In the body of the report, you will read that SACRE/SAC visited a local secondary school and spent an informative afternoon in the RE/RS/RVE department. This proved to be a valuable opportunity for SACRE/SAC members to see "RVE in action". Hopefully further such visits may be possible in the future. We look forward to it and would welcome any invitations for members to visit our schools to see for themselves the excellent work that happens there.

There have been many changes in the world of RE/RVE in recent times and more changes are on the horizon with Qualification Wales consulting on their proposals for the new GCSEs and the wider offer of qualifications that will replace existing qualifications for learners. SACRE/SAC members were encouraged to voice their opinions on the proposed changes due to the importance of these changes for our learners. We await the outcome of these consultations and the publication of the new specification. Teachers and others who will be responsible for implementing these changes can be assured of the continuing support of

SACRE/SAC. Members will be kept abreast of these changes and thus will ensure that resources are made readily available to support the teaching of the new specification.

We live in a changing world in education at the moment and change can often be difficult and disruptive. Whatever the future may look like and whatever it holds for the world of RE/RS/RVE practitioners can be assured that Bridgend SACRE/SAC will always offer support, help and guidance to ensure that the young people of Bridgend receive the very best religious education they can and which will stand them in good stead for their later life enabling them to become those informed, ethical citizens which the new CfW is designed to promote as well as being healthy, confident individuals ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

Bridgend SACRE/SAC welcomes correspondence via the contact below.

The Clerk to SACRE/SAC: **[edsu@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:edsu@bridgend.gov.uk)**

## **Section 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE/SAC**

### **1.1 Duty to Establish SACRE/SAC**

All local authorities are required to constitute a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) and a Standing Advisory Council in Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC) within their local area. A clear outline of SACRE's function is provided in the Welsh Circular 10/94, and the functions of SAC are explained in the Curriculum for Wales, 2021, legislation and associated guidance. SACREs will remain in being until the roll out of the Curriculum for Wales is completed in September 2026. Until then SACREs and SACs co-exist. In Bridgend SACRE and SAC meet together and the local authority has agreed to the same body fulfilling both functions.

SACRE/SAC advises the Education and Family Support Directorate within the local authority on matters relating to the provision of Religious Education (RE), Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) and the Daily Act of Collective Worship (DACW) and is responsible for the establishment of an ad hoc body, the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC), to produce or consider amendments to the Agreed Syllabus (AS) for RE and RVE.

### **1.2 Composition of SACRE/SAC**

The membership of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) is determined by the Education Acts of 1944, 1993, the Education Reform Act of 1988. The membership of the Standing Advisory Council on Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC) is determined by the 2021 Curriculum and Assessment Act in Wales. SACRE/ SAC has three constituent groups; each group being entitled to one vote:

- members appointed to the group to represent a religion, denomination or non-religious philosophical conviction shall, as far as is consistent with the efficient discharge of the group's functions, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that religion, denomination, or non-religious philosophical conviction in the area
- associations representing teachers/practitioners
- the local authority (LA)

It is the duty of the Bridgend LA to ensure that members of the groups are appointed and that they are representative.

### **1.3 Membership of SACRE/SAC**

The members representing each of these groups for 2022-2023 are listed in Appendix 1.

## **1.4 FUNCTIONS OF SACRE/SAC**

The main function of a SACRE/SAC is to:

- advise the LA about RE, RVE and DACW
- require the authority to review the agreed syllabus (AS)
- consider applications from schools for determinations (to be exempt from the requirement that worship be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character” (Welsh Office Circular 10/94, Para 60)
- publish an annual report on its work
- play a part in the local statutory complaints procedure where cases are referred to it relating to RE, RVE or DACW

Advice to the LA may relate to:

- pedagogy
- the choice of teaching resources
- the provision of professional learning
- any other matter relating to RE, RS, RVE and DACW which SACRE/SAC considers appropriate

## **1.5 RECORD OF MEETINGS**

During the academic year 2022-2023 the autumn term meeting was cancelled due to illness of the Associate Advisor. The spring term meeting of SACRE/SAC was held on the Microsoft Teams virtual platform, and the summer term meeting was held in-person at a local school. Meetings during the academic year 2022-2023 were:

- Tuesday 22 November 2022 (cancelled)
- Tuesday 14 March 2023
- Tuesday 11 July 2023

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

## **1.6 CIRCULATION OF REPORT**

Copies of this report have been circulated to the organisations/establishments listed in Appendix 3.

## **Section 2: ADVICE GIVEN BY SACRE/SAC**

### **2.1 The Locally Agreed Syllabus**

In February 2022, the LA endorsed the re-adoption of the current Bridgend agreed syllabus for RE with an understanding that this agreed syllabus would be replaced by the Curriculum for Wales agreed syllabus as 'RVE' rolls out in our secondary schools, therefore phasing out the LA agreed syllabus for RE, replacing it with the LA agreed syllabus for RVE.

In 2022 the Bridgend local authority agreed a syllabus for RVE under the new Curriculum for Wales.

Copies of both agreed syllabi are available on the council's website, CSCJES website and from the SACRE/SAC Clerk.

### **2.2 Standards in Religious Education and Religion, Values and Ethics**

SACRE/SAC provides advice to the LA on standards in RE/RS/RVE. Changes to Welsh Government guidance on school performance data and reporting of assessment data has changed the way that SACRE/SAC has been able to monitor school performance in RE/RS/RVE. SACRE/SAC review Estyn inspection reports to identify and share effective practice and to support schools with RE, RVE, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) and DACW. Practitioners are invited to share their good practice with SACRE/SAC members in the termly meetings. SACRE/SAC encourages collaboration between schools to identify and support good practice.

SACRE/SAC continues to recommend the following resources to practitioners, headteachers and governors of schools in the area to identify good practice and standards:

[Estyn](#) publications:

- [How we inspect for inspections from 2023](#)
- [What we inspect Maintained schools and PRUs – for inspections from 2023](#)

For RE provision for learners studying the soon to be legacy curriculum:

- [Religious Education in Secondary Schools \(Estyn, June 2013\)](#)
- [Religious Education in key stage 2 and key stage 3 \(Estyn, June 2018\)](#)
- [A review of the current 16-19 curriculum in Wales](#)

### **2.3 Curriculum**

#### **Curriculum for Wales:**

SACRE/SAC members have received termly updates and detailed advice from the CSCJES Associate Advisor for RE/RVE/RS and SACRE/SAC regarding curriculum developments. With the passing of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill, RE, from September 2022 RVE has

formed part of the Curriculum for Wales. RVE will be a mandatory curriculum requirement from three years of age until the age of sixteen and will form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience. The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act, 2021 has removed the parental right to withdraw children from all or part of the academic subject of RVE in Wales as it is implemented through each year group - September 2023 for Year 8, 2024 for Year 9, 2025 for Year 10 and finally 2026 for Year 11. This brings RVE in line with every other academic subject in the Curriculum for Wales. All schools are aware of the requirement to have regard to the Curriculum for Wales 2022 locally agreed syllabus and the statutory guidance on Hwb.

Parents' legal right to withdraw their child from DACW is still in place. Therefore, SACRE/SAC advised schools to ensure the academic subject of RVE and DACW are separate and distinctive entities in policy, planning and delivery, due to the differing legal requirements. SACRE/SAC discussed, as required, enquiries and concerns from stakeholders regarding this matter. SACRE/SAC also explored the changes to RVE as a mandatory requirement of the Curriculum for Wales and as mandatory for all learners from ages three to sixteen.

SACRE/SAC was advised of the importance of 'objective, critical and pluralistic' RVE, in line with the change in the right to withdraw in the Curriculum for Wales. CSCJES has provided advice on RVE, RE, RS and DACW to the region's Principal Improvement Partner, Improvement Partners and those practitioners and governors who have engaged with professional learning, network meetings and community areas on the CSCJES website area. The different legal requirements for DACW compared to the subject of RVE has been explained and exemplified in CSCJES professional learning and advice to schools.

Schools must have regard to the statutory RVE guidance on Hwb. The guidance has been discussed at SACRE/SAC and shared with practitioners.

SACRE/SAC discussed spiritual development in the Curriculum for Wales framework. One of the features of the [four purposes](#) of the curriculum is that learners will be supported to develop as healthy, confident individuals, ready to live fulfilling lives as valued members of society. RVE has many valuable and distinctive contributions to make to this.

SACRE/SAC was informed of the Qualification Wales consultations regarding GCSE RS and wider skills qualification for 2025 onwards, linked to the Curriculum for Wales, and encouraged to respond. Discussion of the proposals at WASACRE was shared with SACRE/SAC. A group response was submitted on behalf of the five SACRE/SAC in the Central South Consortium (CSCJES) region. Practitioners on SACRE/SAC voiced their concerns and the needs of their learners for the new qualifications, highlighting the current GCSE RS qualification is not suitable for all learners, particularly in the reduced curriculum time, that they are often allocated. This has resulted in a decrease of full cohort entries. The practitioners on SACRE/SAC expressed their preference for pre-2017 style qualifications, which offered two specifications, and a short course option. They also noted that the change in success measures for GCSE had significantly reduced the short course entries, leading to a subsequent impact on GCE entries. Practitioners were encouraged to engage with WJEC advisory groups in discussing the new qualification for 2025. As part of the wider qualifications offer, Qualification Wales consulted upon two options for wider skills qualifications related to RVE. SACRE/SAC members were encouraged to consider the WASACRE information on this, along with the practitioners' feedback to submit their own responses to this consultation.



### **Curriculum for Year 8 to Year 13:**

The soon to be 'legacy' Bridgend agreed syllabus for RE was re-adopted by the LA and continues to be followed by learners in Year 8 and above during the academic year 2022-23. The right to withdraw is still in place for learners under the legacy curriculum. WASACRE guidance on this right has been distributed by WASACRE/SACRE/SAC to every school/setting:

[Managing The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education, 2017](#)

SACRE/SAC was informed of, and discussed, the national trends in RE/RS and the ongoing decline in entries for GCSE and GCE, since 2017. The RE Council of England and Wales published a report and this was shared with SACRE/SAC, which discussed concerns that were subsequently shared with WASACRE and NAPfRE. Practitioners expressed their own experiences, reasons and concerns regarding a decline in entries via SACRE/SAC and the CSCJES network meetings.

### **Curriculum support**

Bridgend SACRE/SAC continues to provide supporting materials, in addition to the agreed syllabus, to support practitioners in their curriculum planning and pedagogy, offering breadth and depth of knowledge, skills and experiences for learners across the region. These are intended to be 'live' and working documents, materials and resources to reflect the evolution of the Curriculum for Wales.

SACRE/SAC continues to acknowledge and support the wide range of available professional learning resources and opportunities provided by WJEC and CSCJES for RE, RS and RVE practitioners.

### **SACRE's/SAC's recommendations to Bridgend's Education Authority**

- To continue to promote and support school collaboration and co-construction (for example, cluster work to ensure successful transition along the learning continuum).
- To continue to promote professional learning for practitioners for the curriculum (for example, by CSCJES, WJEC and external providers).
- Ensure that all practitioners are aware of the legislative changes for RVE, including the mandatory and statutory elements.
- Ensure all headteachers and governors are aware of the requirement for 'objective, critical and pluralistic' RVE, including ensuring this also applies to external guest speakers, visitors, and other organisations.
- Encourage all practitioners to utilise Hwb and the resources available.
- To remind secondary schools that statutory RE is still expected at Key Stage 4 and Post-16, in line with the 2008 Curriculum and Locally Agreed Syllabus. Schools will need to review their current provision to ensure it meets the requirements of the 2008 curriculum and the locally agreed syllabus.

## 2.4 Examination results

Through the CSCJES practitioner networks, schools were updated on the changes to the 2023 GCSE and GCE specifications for RS.

Specific data for examination results is no longer discussed and presented at SACRE/SAC in line with Welsh Government requests.

### **SACRE's/SAC's recommendations to Bridgend's Education Authority**

- For the local authority to continue to consider how it will fulfil its duty to monitor standards in RE, RS, RVE, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) and DACW.

## 2.5 School Inspection Reports

To fulfil its functions effectively, SACRE/SAC considers inspection reports and Estyn surveys. The inspection findings of two non-maintained nursery settings, twelve primary schools and two secondary schools were published. Positive comments were made by Estyn relevant to RE and RVE along with the provision of SMSC and DACW. SACRE/SAC was pleased to note these positive comments. There was one recommendation, for one of the primary schools in relation to DACW. When issues or recommendations are highlighted by Estyn concerning RE, RVE or SMSC, these are followed up by the local authority.

SACRE/SAC is aware of the ongoing changes in the content of the reporting narrative by Estyn within their school inspection reports. These changes make it more difficult for SACRE/SAC to fulfil one of its statutory roles, the monitoring the provision of RE, RVE and DACW in schools in the local authority. Concerns relating to these changes and the less informative style on RE, RVE, SMSC and DACW have been shared with WASACRE, Estyn, the local authority and Welsh Government. Discussions are ongoing in terms of monitoring the curriculum provision, pedagogy and standards in these areas.

## 2.6 Professional Learning

SACRE/SAC has continued to provide advice and guidance to direct schools on accessing professional learning for pedagogy and resources. CSCJES, as the regional provider of school improvement services and professional learning support to schools and practitioners, has provided a wide range of professional learning programmes, materials and approaches shared with schools in the region.

CSCJES appointed a Lead Practitioner for RS to lead the half-termly network meetings for secondary practitioners. The focus of the network meetings was improving standards in GCSE RS. However, the practitioners attending also received training on GCE RS, Agored Cymru 'Exploring Worldviews' and RVE within the humanities area of learning experience (AoLE). They were updated on the work of SACRE/SAC, WASACRE and other relevant bodies and

publications. There was also a focus on moderation, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources for RS.

CSCJES facilitated a primary humanities practitioners' network, a teacher-led network, attended by primary practitioners of humanities and RVE. Half-termly meetings have been offered online and are primarily focused on designing the RVE and humanities curriculum, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources. In addition, a secondary humanities practitioners' network was established, to encourage inter-disciplinary discussions, collaboration and co-construction within the humanities area of learning experience.

SACRE/SAC was advised that CSCJES has invested in a greater capacity, by increasing the subject Associate Advisor's role to a full-time position, for delivering bespoke support for RE, RS, RVE, SMSC and DACW. This enables schools to receive direct support from the Associate Advisor for RE/RS/RVE and SACRE/SAC, for example in developing their understanding of the Curriculum for Wales, planning and designing their RVE and humanities curriculum. Cluster schools have worked together, with the support of the advisor, to co-construct and collaborate their RVE and humanities curriculum design along the learning continuum, from three to sixteen years. Bespoke support is brokered through a schools' Improvement Partner, allowing schools to build capacity and to increase the collective ownership for the development of curriculum, pedagogy and leadership. This model is becoming the main driver to ensure the realisation of the Curriculum for Wales, the delivery of professional learning and supporting the national changes in accountability and self-evaluation. Practitioners and other stakeholders can access the full programme of CSCJES professional learning and resources on pedagogy, progression, assessment curriculum design and more.

## **2.7 Pedagogy and Resources for Practitioners**

CSCJES has offered a range of professional learning opportunities for all practitioners within the region, focusing on sharing practice and empowering teachers/practitioners. Examples of the professional learning, resources and materials shared to support schools by CSCJES and SACRE/SAC can be found in Appendix 6.

Practitioners were invited to share good practice at SACRE/SAC meetings.

### **SACREs/SACs recommendations to Bridgend's Education Authority**

- To ensure all RE/RS/RVE practitioners are aware of resources, materials and opportunities shared.

### **Section 3: ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Welsh Office Circular 10/94 notes that the Local Education Authority should work with SACRE/SAC to monitor provision for DACW and should consider with it any steps which may be taken to improve such provision. The collective worship must be “of a broadly Christian character”. The “determination” procedure permits the suspension of these requirements in relation to some or all the pupils/learners in a school where they are deemed inappropriate.

Advice was discussed at SACRE/SAC/WASACRE and NAPfRE regarding new enquiries about the right to withdraw for DACW. Advice was given directly to individual schools by the CSCJES Associate Advisor.

SACRE/SAC and individual schools were made aware of additional guidance for DACW through CSC networks, professional learning, and community areas:

- [Supplementary guidance: collective worship in non-denominational schools](#) 2017
- [WASACRE](#) Guidance on the withdrawal of pupils from collective worship, October 2021
- [Estyn, Supplementary guidance: collective worship in nondenominational schools, 2013](#)

#### **3.1 School inspection reports**

SACRE/SAC has continued to ensure that it supports schools to fulfil their statutory requirements for DACW and provide a worthwhile experience for learners. SACRE/SAC has monitored Estyn inspection reports for recommendations relating to DACW and SMSC and the LA follows up on any non-fulfilment of statutory requirements by requesting their action plan. There was one recommendation, for one primary school, in the Estyn inspection report, in relation to DACW. The recommendation was: ‘R3 Provide suitable opportunities for all pupils to participate in acts of collective worship’. SACRE/SAC has continued to inform schools of appropriate information and resources relating to DACW. When issues or recommendations are highlighted by Estyn concerning DACW, these are followed up by the local authority.

DACW is inspected separately to the academic subjects of RE, RS and RVE but also sits within Inspection Area (IA) 4 under SMSC and is referred to explicitly. ‘In all schools that do not provide denominational education, inspectors should consider whether there are appropriate acts of collective worship.’

### **SACRE's/SAC's recommendations to Bridgend's Education Authority**

- Ensure all schools have access to collective worship guidance documents:
  - [WASACRE](#) guidance on the withdrawal of pupils from collective worship, 2021
  - Estyn, Supplementary guidance: collective worship in non-denominational schools, 2017
  - Estyn, Supplementary guidance: collective worship in nondenominational schools, 2013
- To consider if the use of school's self-evaluation documents could provide information on the provision and standards of DACW.
- Ensure that schools comply with the requirements in relation to DACW.

### **3.2 Applications for determinations**

No applications were received from schools for determinations to be made on the lifting of the requirements for DACW to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

### **3.3 School visits**

SACRE/SAC visited Bryntirion Comprehensive School, during their summer meeting in 2023. The school eloquently shared their developments and progression in curriculum design for RVE, following their participation in the CSCJES funded project for RVE curriculum design. It was felt to be beneficial to hold the meeting in a school and to hear about the changes to RVE within the region at first hand. It is hoped that SACRE/SAC members will continue to visit schools, with a hybrid system to be introduced with input from practitioners, leaders and learners. There have not been any school visits by SACRE/SAC in 2022-2023 with the focus upon DACW. It is hoped that visits will be re-instated to observe DACW.

### **SACRE's/SAC's recommendation to Bridgend's Education Authority**

- For SACRE/SAC to visit more schools in 2023-2024.
- For the local authority to refer any DACW enquiries to SACRE/SAC for support.

## **4.1 WASACRE**

SACRE/SAC continues to support the work of WASACRE and recognises the value of the body in promoting RE, RS, RVE and DACW on a national basis. SACRE/SAC is invited to send up to four members to each termly WASACRE meeting and the CSCJES Associate Advisor for RE/RS/RVE and SACRE/SAC receive regular feedback from them and other representatives who attend WASACRE meetings. Full discussions take place at SACRE/SAC on the issues raised by WASACRE. One of the faith representatives from the SCARE/SAC committee is a serving members of the WASACRE Executive Committee. All WASACRE meetings for 2022-2023 and the AGM were held online using the ZOOM virtual platform.

## **4.2 National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (NAPfRE)**

SACRE/SAC was fully represented on NAPfRE by the CSCJES Associate Advisor for RE/RS/RVE and SACRE/SAC. This has facilitated SACRE/SAC in keeping abreast of developments across Wales and has enabled it to play a crucial role in informing decisions and policies that affect RE. NAPfRE has worked closely with Welsh Government and other stakeholders during the development of the new curriculum, and on the development of statutory guidance for RVE in the Curriculum for Wales. SACRE/SAC has also received reports and information this year from Estyn, and Welsh Government relating to RVE.

## **4.3 Training of SACRE/SAC Members**

As part of training for members, SACRE/SAC has:

- kept members updated on developments in RE/RS/RVE and DACW through regular presentations, discussions and advice from CSCJES Associate Advisor for RE/RS/RVE and SACRE/SAC to Bridgend SACRE/SAC members
- discussed intentions to hold future meetings at places of worship in Bridgend for members to familiarise themselves with the faith communities
- considered the reinstating of meetings held at local schools so that members could see first-hand educational contexts for RE/RS/RVE in Bridgend schools and have opportunities to be addressed by practitioners, leaders and learners of RE/RS/RVE
- invited its members to attend the three annual meetings of Wales Association for SACREs (WASACRE) as well as ensuring that the SACRE/SAC was represented at WASACRE by CSCJES Associate Advisor for RE/RS/RVE and SACRE/SAC, who gave detailed feedback from these meetings to SACRE/SAC members
- shared online free webinar training sessions, with the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE)  
<https://nasacre.org.uk/training-and-support/>
- provided the WASACRE handbook for new members of SACRE/SAC  
<https://wasacre.org.uk/publications/>
- CSCJES offered 'New to SACRE/SAC Members' professional learning on the 24 May 2023, through briefing paper notes and online interactive webinar.

#### **4.4 Youth Representation on SACRE/SAC**

SACRE/SAC has been exploring possibilities regarding youth representation or a youth forum for RE/RS/RVE to hear and support learner voice and contribution. SACRE/SAC has held an initial discussion on this possible opportunity and will consider working collaboratively with secondary schools within the LA to consider how best to ensure young people's voices are heard in relation to issues affecting their education in RE, RS, RVE, SMSC and on matters relating to DACW. Plans for a potential 'Youth Forum for RE/RS/RVE' will be further explored in the next academic year with the local authority, CSCJES and schools.

##### **SACRE's/SAC's recommendations to Bridgend's Education Authority**

- To consider how to support the set-up, running, governance and evaluation of a youth forum for RE, RS, RVE and DACW to enable and actively listen to learner voice. This can inform SACRE/SAC and the local authority and guide future work, support, interventions and developments.

## APPENDIX 1: BRIDGEND SACRE/SAC MEMBERSHIP 2022-23

### Committee A - Religious denominations and non-religious philosophical convictions

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Rev. Canon Edward Evans (Chair) | Church in Wales                           |
| Rev. Dr Phillip Manghan         | Catholic Church                           |
| Kenny Dykes                     | Associating Evangelical Churches in Wales |
| Craig Hopkins                   | Lead Pastor Brackla Tabernacle            |
| Andy Chyba                      | Humanism                                  |
| <b>Vacancy</b>                  | Judaism                                   |
| Suliman Hawas                   | Islam                                     |
| <b>Vacancy</b>                  | Buddhism                                  |
| <b>Vacancy</b>                  | Hinduism                                  |
| <b>Vacancy</b>                  | Sikhi                                     |

### LA Officers

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Lindsay Harvey  | Corporate Director Education and Family Support<br>and CSC Lead Director for SACRE/SAC |
| Susan Roberts   | Group Manager School Support – LA Officer  |
| Neil Arbery     | School Support – Lead Officer Strategic Development<br>for Primary                     |
| Sarah Humphreys | School Support – Lead Officer Strategic Development<br>for Secondary                   |
| Helen Shepherd  | Clerk to SACRE   |
| Donna Graves    | CSCJES Associate Advisor for RE/RS/RVE and SACRE/SAC                                   |

### Committee B - Teacher associations

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Ceris Matthews | NAS/UWT  |
| Alice Parry    | NEU  |
| Lowri Florence | NUT  |
| Cathryn Davies | NAHT   |
| Mike Street    | NAHT Headteacher Penyfai CinW Primary                                      |
| Frances Clegg  | ASCL Union – Acting Headteacher Archbishop McGrath<br>Catholic High School |
| <b>Vacancy</b> | Association of Teachers and Lecturers                                      |
| <b>Vacancy</b> | RE Teacher’s Association   |

### Committee C - Local authority

|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Councillor Martyn Hughes     | Local Authority |
| Councillor Elaine Winstanley | Local Authority |
| Councillor Jeff Tidelsley    | Local Authority |
| Councillor Jon-Paul Blundell | Local Authority |



## **APPENDIX 2: The Bridgend of Meetings and Main Agenda Items**

The autumn and spring term meetings were held online, via Microsoft Teams and the summer term meeting was held in-person at Bryntirion Comprehensive School.

### **Tuesday 22nd November 2022 (Cancelled)**

Proposed agenda for that meeting:

1. Welcome and apologies
2. SACRE/SAC
  - Election/re-election of Chair and Vice Chair
  - Membership
  - ToR/Constitution
3. Minutes
4. Matters arising
5. SACRE Annual Report 2021-2022
6. Curriculum
  - 6.1 CSCJES training for governors
  - 6.2 CSCJES training for SACRE/SAC members
  - 6.3 CSCJES offers
  - 6.4 Bridgend Agreed Syllabus for RVE
7. WASACRE
  - 7.1 Draft minutes 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022
  - 7.2 Autumn term meeting Wed 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 1:00pm
8. Qualifications
  - 8.1 Qualifications Wales consultation 4<sup>th</sup> October – 14 December 2022
  - 8.2 Agored Cymru 'Exploring Worldviews' for statutory RE
9. Estyn Reports 2021-2022
10. Role of SACRE/SAC
  - 10.1 Monitoring of RE/RS/RVE/ Collective Worship/Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC)
  - 10.2 Supporting Schools
    - [Interfaith Week](#) 13-20 November 2022
    - [Holocaust Memorial Day](#) – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023, theme 'Ordinary People'
    - Supporting Materials for RVE - working party
    - Queries for advice and resources for the right to withdraw, 'objective, critical and pluralistic' RVE, curriculum planning, progression and assessment, collective worship, local links to faith communities and more
    - Guidance for schools to ensure guest speakers/RVE guests are in line with the CfW approach to RVE
  - 10.3 School visits for SACRE/SAC meetings
11. Schedule for future meetings
12. Items for next agenda
13. AOB

### **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Election/re-election of Chair and Vice-chair
3. Minutes
4. Matters arising
5. Annual report 2021-2022

6. Curriculum
  - 6.1 Training for Governors
  - 6.2 Training for SACRE members
  - 6.3 CSCJES support and professional learning offer
  - 6.4 Bridgend Agreed Syllabus for RVE
7. WASACRE
  - 7.1 Draft minutes 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022
  - 7.2 Draft minutes 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022
  - 7.3 Nomination of WASACRE Executive
  - 7.4 Letter from WASACRE 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023
8. Qualifications
  - 8.1 Qualification Wales consultation for the new GCSE RS qualification
  - 8.2 Agored Cymru 'Exploring Worldviews' for statutory RE
9. Estyn Reports
10. Role of SACRE
  - 10.1 Monitoring of RE/RS/RVE, Collective Worship and 'Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC)
  - 10.2 Support for Schools
    - Supporting Materials for RVE - working party
    - Queries for advice and resources
    - Guidance for schools to ensure guest speakers/RVE guests are in line with the CfW approach to RVE
  - 10.3 School visits for SACRE meetings
11. Schedule of future meetings
12. Items for next agenda
13. AOB

#### Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023

1. Welcome and apologies (SACRE/SAC)
2. Curriculum (SACRE/SAC) - Bryntirion Comprehensive School
3. 3.1 Membership (SACRE/SAC)
- 3.2 ToR/Constitution (SACRE/SAC)
4. Minutes (SACRE/SAC)
5. Matters arising (SACRE/SAC)
- 6. Professional Learning (SACRE/SAC)**
  - 6.1 Training for NEW SACRE/SAC members – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023
  - 6.2 Training for Governors – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 (repeat of previous training)
  - 6.3 CSCJES PL – Teaching Sensitive/Challenging Issues in Humanities – Islamophobia and anti-Semitism – 30<sup>th</sup> March & 3<sup>rd</sup> May
  - 6.4 P4C and RVE – September 2023
7. WASACRE (SACRE/SAC)
  - 6.1 Draft minutes 31/03/2023
  - 6.2 Presentation from Pembrokeshire LA
8. Qualifications (SACRE/SAC)
  - 8.1 Qualification Wales decision for the new GCSE Religious Studies qualification
  - 8.2 Qualifications Wales consultation for Wider Qualifications
  - 8.3 Agored Cymru 'Exploring Worldviews' for statutory RE
9. Estyn Inspection Reports (SACRE/SAC)
  - 9.1 Summary of Estyn Reports
  - 9.2 Draft Letters following Estyn Inspections
10. Youth RVE Forum (SACRE/SAC)
11. Schedule of future meetings (SACRE/SAC)
12. Items for next Agenda (SACRE/SAC)

13. AOB (SACRE/SAC)

### **APPENDIX 3: 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.

#### **List of Organisations to which this report is being sent**

- Members of the Bridgend SACRE/SAC
- Bridgend County Borough Council Education and Family Support-Directorate
- All Bridgend County Borough schools
- Wales Association of SACREs/SACs (WASACRE)
- DfES
- Welsh Government
- The National Library
- The Welsh National Centre for Religious Education
- Central South Consortium
- Estyn
- Religious Education Movement (Wales)
- Religious Education Council for England and Wales
- Church in Wales Diocesan Officer
- The Roman Catholic Diocesan Officer
- Cytun

## **APPENDIX 4:**

### **Bridgend 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;
  - 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.

Any amendments required to these TOR, to keep in line with the Curriculum for Wales legislation, will be made in the next year.

## **APPENDIX 5:**

### **Bridgend County Borough Council**

#### **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Standing Advisory Council on Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC)**

**(Updated DRAFT Constitution from summer 2023 onwards - will be presented to Cabinet for ratification 2023-2024)**

The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) in Bridgend is established in accordance with sections 390-397 of the Education Act 1996 and guidance contained in the Welsh Circular 10/94 as updated. In addition, the Standing Advisory Council (SAC) on religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) in Bridgend is established in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 (see Annex 1).

#### **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, or religion, values and ethics 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 and religion, values and ethics 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;
  - d. record the membership of SAC/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 or religion, values and ethics 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 Local Authority will appropriately reflect the religious traditions in the area and also such persons who represent holders of non-religious beliefs in the same way as they permit the appointment of persons who represent holders of religious beliefs; (section 390(4)(a) of, and paragraph 4(2)(1) of Schedule 31 to, the 1996 Act and in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021).
  - 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, organisations, associations in question.
14. Members representing associations of teachers must include teachers of religious education and/or religion, values and ethics.
15. Individuals may be removed from the Council if they cease to be representative of the denomination, organisations, association, or of the Authority they were appointed to represent.
16. Any member of the Council may at any time resign their office.
17. Any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without apology will cease to be a member. An individual who is so disqualified shall not be precluded from being reappointed by the appropriate nominating body.

### **Proceedings**

17. The LA will appoint a clerk to SACRE/SAC.
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. If both the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson are absent from a meeting, a person to take the Chair for the meeting shall be appointed upon the collective consent of the members present at the meeting. Should the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson arrive during the rest of the meeting, the appointed substitute will hand over to them as soon as the time under discussion on their arrival is completed.
21. 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.
22. Co-opted members are not entitled to vote.
23. The agenda for each meeting shall be determined by the chairperson and vice chairperson in consultation with the advisor to SAC/SACRE, clerk to SAC/SACRE, and LA Professional Officer. Any voting member of SAC/SACRE shall be entitled to propose items for an agenda.
24. The SACRE/SAC may, if it so wishes, arrange the attendance at a meeting of a specialist speaker who is not a member of the SACRE/SAC.
25. Each or any of the representative groups may require the attendance of a specialist speaker who is not a member of the SACRE/SAC, but only for the period during which any relevant matter is under consideration and provided that at least ten working days' notice of such requirement is given to the Clerk for inclusion in the agenda for the meeting.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. 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, organisation or association in question.
29. 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.

30. 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.
31. The clerk to the SAC/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.

## **ANNEX 1**

### **The Standing Advisory Council (SAC) on Religion, Values and Ethics**

The constitution, functions and working arrangements of the Bridgend SAC shall follow those of the Bridgend SACRE, as stated above. The two committees will coexist until 2025 and for the efficiency and integrity of both committees, meetings will be held at the same time, with all business dealt with as appropriate to each committee. These arrangements will continue until the Curriculum for Wales has been implemented to all relevant year groups, at which time Bridgend SACRE will be dissolved and Bridgend SAC will continue.

## APPENDIX 6:

CSCJES have offered a range of professional learning opportunities for all practitioners within the region, focusing on sharing practice and empowering teachers. Here are some examples of the professional learning, resources and materials shared to support schools by CSCJES and SACRE/SAC:

- [Hwb](#):
  - [Curriculum for Wales](#)
  - [Religion, values and ethics legislation](#)
  - [Humanities Area of Learning and Experience \(AoLE\)](#)
  - [Religion, values and ethics guidance](#)
- [Interfaith Week](#) 13-20 November 2022
- [Holocaust Memorial Day](#) – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023, theme ‘Ordinary People’
- Bridgend SACRE/SAC Supporting Materials for RVE
- [WASACRE](#)’s resources and advice for RE, RS, RVE and DACW
- Welsh Government consultations and publications for humanities and RVE:
  - [Religion, values and ethics \(RVE\): what’s new?](#)
    - Module 1: early years
    - Module 2: primary
    - Module 3: secondary
    - Module 4: additional learning needs (ALN)
    - Module 5: headteachers
- Secondary RS network meetings and online community area for curriculum leads
- Primary humanities network meetings and online community area for all primary humanities/RVE practitioners
- Secondary humanities network meetings and online community area for all secondary humanities/RVE practitioners
- CSCJES Funded Project opportunities:
  - ‘Developing curriculum design approaches to RVE’
  - ‘Objective, critical and pluralistic’ RVE in collaboration with the Church in Wales
- CSCJES professional learning offered:
  - ‘Exploring Approaches to anti-racism and diversity within RVE’ for primary and secondary sessions
  - Teaching challenging and sensitive issues in humanities – anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, for primary and secondary practitioners

- 'New to SACRE/SAC' for new members
- RVE for Governors
- Alternative key stage four religious education qualification – Agored Cymru 'Exploring Worldviews' webinar and an online TEAMS space for collaboration
- Knowledge Bank resources and posters on [religion, values and ethics](#), [humanities](#) and the [Curriculum for Wales](#) e.g. [progression in humanities](#), [humanities progression maps](#) and [example curriculum policy](#)
- Asynchronous resources on CSCJES website:
  - Religion, values and ethics – [non-religious philosophical convictions and worldviews playlist](#)
- Estyn materials e.g. [Estyn Thematic Report - Effective approaches to assessment that improve teaching and learning](#)
- The '[Lessons from Auschwitz Project](#)' details were shared with schools
- [Holocaust and Welsh People](#)
- [Welsh Jewish Heritage Centre](#) – Merthyr Tydfil
- Humanism UK teaching resources from [www.understandinghumanism.org.uk](#) and that schools could request a local Humanist speaker
- Professor Alice Roberts explores the humanist approach to life in the animation for children, [One Life, Live It Well](#)
- A film by Emily Downe '[Science and Religion](#)': [Moving away from the shallow end](#)
- National Network Conversations by Welsh Government links
- [School attendance and religious festivals guidance 2023](#)
- Hwb – [Religion, Values and Ethics e-magazine](#)
- [Skanda Vale](#)
- Diversity and Anti-Racist professional Learning '[DARPL](#)' professional learning and resources
- [Challenging Religious Issues \(A-level online journal published\) published recently - issue 19](#)
- Resources for the [Good Friday Agreement](#)
- Hwb resources on [Easter](#)
- The [RE Podcast](#)

- Discovering Muslims in Britain – resources e.g. [‘Meet a Muslim’](#)
- [Welsh Government blog on religion, values and ethics](#)
- The [‘Church in Wales Pilgrimage – the Gower’](#) links and materials
- The [‘History of Religion in Wales’](#) resource
- The [cross regional Curriculum Design Project](#) with Lucy Crehan resources published on Hwb and [supporting materials](#)
- The Jewish History Association of South Wales resources and website link to support RVE <https://www.jhasw.com/>
- The Welsh Government publication, ‘Teaching controversial issues: A guide for teachers’ exploring the value of taking a global citizenship approach to teaching about controversial issues to all age groups, including guidance, classroom strategies and practical teaching activities:  
<https://hwb.gov.wales/repository/resource/dda70ba6-e800-4a61-a066-5ab2608c12cf>
- Bridgend SACRE Annual Report 2021-2022
- The Bridgend Agreed Syllabi