

Meeting of:	<b>Cabinet</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Thursday, 20 February 2025</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	All Scrutiny Committees
Report Title:	Annual Report for SACRE/SAC 2023-2024 (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) / SAC (Standing Advisory Council)
Purpose of Report:	To ratify the Annual Report 23-24 for SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) / SAC (Standing Advisory Council)
Report Owner:	Elizabeth Jones, Director of Learning and Skills
Responsible Officer:	Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Francesca Wright, Senior Governor Support Officer Cllr Edward Williams, Chair of SACRE/SAC (Stepped down September 2024) John Sparks, Head of Governor Support Lisa Lewis, Operational Manager Strategy and Resources Strategy, Community Learning and Resources
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision by the Cabinet
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The report summarises the activities of SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) / SAC (Standing Advisory Council) as detailed in the draft SACRE/SAC Annual Report for 23-24. (Appendix 1) .</li> <li>• The Local Authority is required to agree and ratify the SACRE/SAC Annual Report for 23-24. Once ratified, the report is required to be published.</li> <li>• Subject to approval by Cabinet, the Clerk to SAC/SACRE will arrange for copies of the annual report to be published on the Vale of Glamorgan’s website, sent to all schools within the Authority, to DfES, the National Library and to such other individuals and institutions considered to be appropriate.</li> </ul>	

## **Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet considers and approves the attached Annual Report for SACRE/SAC (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) / SAC (Standing Advisory Council) at Appendix 1 for ratification and publication.
2. That Cabinet refers this report and the appendices to the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee for consideration with any recommendations referred back to Cabinet for consideration. Should Committee make no recommendations, the matter would be considered as agreed.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

1. To ensure that a ratified Annual Report for SACRE/SAC is published in accordance with the Terms of Reference (Revised Constitution of SACRE/SAC for RVE) and requirement to publish an Annual Report on its work.
2. To ensure that Members of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee have an opportunity to consider the activities and progress made by SACRE/SAC in supporting education in the Vale of Glamorgan.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) in the Vale of Glamorgan 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 the Vale of Glamorgan is established in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021.
- 1.2 The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 Act sets out 'Religion, Values and Ethics' (RVE) as one of the mandatory subjects which spans the 3 to 16 learning continuum. The subject of RVE forms part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience within the new Curriculum for Wales. Subject specific guidance on RVE contained within the Humanities Area of the Curriculum for Wales, is statutory and is published under section 71 of the Act. The guidance is designed to assist those responsible under the Act for designing the RVE syllabus as part of the school curriculum.
- 1.3 Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACRE) has been renamed Standing Advisory Councils (SAC) for RVE for the Curriculum for Wales 2021. They advise on matters relating to religion, values and ethics. 'SACRE' will be required to continue to advise on matters relating to Religious Education, until the Curriculum for Wales 2021 rolls out in its entirety to all learners. Both SACRE and SAC will run concurrently until the full roll out of the new curriculum occurs.

## 2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 In line with the Terms of Reference, the Annual Report:
- specifies any matters on which it has advised the LA;
  - broadly describes the nature of the advice;
  - sets out its reasons for offering advice on any matters which were not referred to the LA; and
  - record the membership of SACRE/SAC and the dates of meetings held.
- 2.2 Section 1 of the report outlines the following:
- Duty to establish SACRE/SAC
  - Composition of SACRE/SAC
  - Membership of SACRE/SAC
  - Functions of SACRE/SAC
  - Records of Meetings
  - Circulation of Report
- 2.3 Section 2 of the report summarises the advice provided on Religious Education and Religion, Value and Ethics.

### The Locally Agreed Syllabus

- 2.4 In February 2022, the LA endorsed the re-adoption of the current Vale of Glamorgan agreed syllabus for RE with an understanding that the syllabus would be replaced by the Curriculum for Wales agreed syllabus as it rolls out across schools and settings from September 2022. Secondary schools have been advised to continue to follow this syllabus until the completion of the roll out of RVE.
- 2.5 In 2022 the Vale of Glamorgan Local Authority agreed a syllabus for RVE under the new Curriculum for Wales.
- 2.6 Copies of both agreed syllabi are available on the council's website, [Standing Advisory Council for Religion, Values and Ethics / Religious Education \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](#) and the CSC Website [Repository - CSC \(cscjes-cronfa.co.uk\)](#)

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

- 2.7 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.

## **Curriculum for Wales**

- 2.8** SACRE/SAC members have received termly updates and detailed advice from the CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE/RS and SACRE/SAC regarding curriculum developments. With the passing of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act, religious education, from September 2022 RVE has formed part of the Curriculum for Wales.
- 2.9** 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 Yr 8, 2024 for Yr 9, 2025 for Yr 10 and finally 2026 for Yr 11.
- 2.10** This brings RVE in line with every other academic subject in the Curriculum for Wales.
- 2.11** All schools are aware of the requirement to have regard to the Curriculum for Wales 2021 locally agreed syllabus and the statutory guidance on Hwb.

## **School Inspection Reports**

- 2.12** To fulfil its functions effectively, SACRE/SAC considers inspection reports and Estyn surveys. The inspection findings of seven primary schools and the Vale of Glamorgan LA Inspection 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 and sent letters of congratulations to each individual school.

## **Professional Learning**

- 2.13** 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.

## **Pedagogy and Resources for Practitioners**

- 2.14** CSCJES has offered a range of professional learning opportunities for all practitioners within the region, focusing on sharing practice and empowering teachers. Examples of the professional learning, resources and materials shared to support schools by CSCJES and SACRE/SAC can be found in appendix 6 of the report. Practitioners were invited to share good practice at SACRE/SAC meetings.
- 2.15** Section 3 of the report provides advice on Collective Worship.
- 2.16** Section 4 of the report provides a summary of other areas covered. These are:
- The Wales Association of the Standing Advisory Council for Religion, Values and Ethics (WASACRE).

- National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (NAPfRE)
  - Training of SACRE/SAC Members
  - Youth Voice for RVE and DACW
- 2.17** The 2023-2024 academic year saw continued progression in rolling out the National Curriculum for Wales which in turn has enabled SACRE/SAC to continue to provide our practitioners with advice, guidance, resources, and access to professional learning to empower them to continue to provide impactful religion, values and ethics (RVE) for our learners.
- 2.18** There continues to be many changes in the world of RE/RS/RVE, with even more changes on the horizon with Qualification Wales and the WJEC working on a new GCSE in religious studies (RS) and the wider offer of the suite of qualifications, including the Skills for Life and the Skills for Work and Foundation Humanities, that will eventually replace existing qualifications for learners. The publication of the new 'draft' specification for the new GCSE RS was published in September 2024. Teachers and others who will be responsible for implementing these changes can be assured of the continuing support of SACRE/SAC and CSCJES. SACRE and SAC will continue to support schools and settings to have 'regard to' the two locally Agreed Syllabi, one for RE and one for RVE, when designing and implementing their curriculum.
- 2.19** The legislation is clear that RVE includes non-religious philosophical views, including beliefs such as humanism, atheism and secularism, although this is not an exhaustive list. These changes make explicit what the law already requires in respect of pluralistic RVE.
- 2.20** Local Members were involved with the creation of the Annual Report for SACRE/SAC. The activities of SACRE/SAC during 2023-24 have included reviewing Estyn reports to identify and share effective practice as well as raising concerns around changes to Estyn reporting. They have received termly updates and detailed advice from the CSCJES Associate Advisor for RE/RVE/RS as well as having had detailed discussions in regard to Qualifications Wales consultations and decisions, from which feedback and a collective group response from the five SACRE/SACs in the Central South Consortium was made. Trends in entries and accessibility for GCSE and A Level were also explored and concerns over reduced entries shared with WASACRE and NAPfRE.
- 2.21** SACRE/SAC has also supported the development of Youth Representation through a cross-regional Youth Voice Forum and an initial meeting took place in July 2024. Vale of Glamorgan schools are represented on the forum.
- 2.22** Membership of SACRE/SAC has remained under constant review and two further religious representatives were appointed during Summer Term 2024, and a further teacher representative has recently been appointed. Work is currently in progress specifically to increase teacher membership. SACRE/SAC would also be keen to appoint further Vale of Glamorgan LA representatives, and should any Councillors be interested, they should contact the clerk to SACRE/SAC in the first instance [fwright@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:fwright@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk).

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1** The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 (“the 2015 Act”) requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.
- 3.2** The Council has committed as part of the Corporate Plan 2020-2025 to achieving a vision of ‘Working Together for a Brighter Future’. This plan is reflective of the Welsh Government’s Well-being of Future Generations Act and is comprised of four Well-being objectives to deliver this vision:
- Objective 1 - To work with and for our communities
  - Objective 2 - To support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth
  - Objective 3 - To support people at home and in their community
  - Objective 4 - To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment
- 3.3** To make sure we are all working towards the same purpose, the 2015 Act puts in place seven well-being goals on the Council. The 2015 Act makes it clear the listed public bodies must work to achieve all of the goals, not just one or two, these being:
- A prosperous Wales
  - A resilient Wales
  - A healthier Wales
  - A more equal Wales
  - A Wales of cohesive communities
  - A Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh Language
  - A globally responsible Wales
- 3.4** Support for schools in relation to the curriculum contributes to the Council's Wellbeing Objectives drawn from the Corporate Plan 2020-25. There is specific alignment with our wellbeing objectives to work with and for our communities and to support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth.
- 3.5** This report recognises the importance of involving pupils, staff, parents, governors, and members of the local community to participate and engage with schools in developing their vision and curriculum design.
- 3.6** This report outlines how partnership work through SACRE/SAC is supporting schools in engaging with professional learning opportunities and elements of curriculum design. It recognises the need for education provision and the accompanying legislation to be flexible and responsive to future needs, including expanding participation from persons of religious and non-religious beliefs

together to support schools in the development and delivery of the RVE curriculum in the Vale of Glamorgan.

#### **4. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

4.1 There are no climate change and nature implications resulting from this report.

#### **5. Resources and Legal Considerations**

##### **Financial**

5.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

##### **Employment**

5.2 There are no HR implications as a result of this report.

##### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

5.3 The report is presented with reference to the following legislation:

- **Wales Act 2021:** <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2021/4/schedule/2> with **1996 Act:** <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/schedule/31/enacted>
- Summary of legislation for Religion, Values and Ethics: <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/summary-of-legislation#religion,-values-and-ethics>
- Summary of legislation for the Agreed Syllabus Guidance 2022: <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/summary-of-legislation#agreed-syllabus-conferences-and-the-agreed-syllabus-for-religion,-values-and-ethics>
- Guidance for Religion, Values and Ethics: <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/humanities/designing-your-curriculum#religion,-values-and-ethics-guidance>

#### **6. Background Papers**

None.



# **Vale of Glamorgan Council**

**Standing Advisory Council on**

**Religious Education (SACRE)**

**Standing Advisory Council for Religion,  
Values and Ethics (SAC)**

**Annual Report 2023-24**

(This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg)



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## **A MESSAGE FROM SACRE/SAC 2023-2024**

As we continue to progress with the roll out of the Curriculum for Wales, the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE/SAC has continued to provide our practitioners with the advice, guidance, resources, and access to professional learning to empower them to continue to provide impactful religion, values and ethics (RVE) for our learners.

SACRE/SAC has continued to work in partnership with the regional school Improvement Service, Central South Consortium Joint Education Services (CSCJES), and to support and engage with WASACRE. SACRE/SAC has been fortunate to have experienced first-hand information from schools in the LA. One school within the LA hosted a SACRE/SAC meeting and provided a presentation to share their evolving RVE curriculum. This visit has proven to be a valuable opportunity for SACRE/SAC members to see "RVE in action". We welcome any invitations for members to visit our schools/settings to see for themselves the RE/RS/RVE work that happens there and to share good practice with SACRE/SAC.

There continues to be many changes in the world of RE/RS/RVE, with even more changes on the horizon with Qualification Wales and the WJEC working on a new GCSE in religious studies (RS) and the wider offer of the suite of qualifications, including the Skills for Life and the Skills for Work and Foundation Humanities, that will eventually replace existing qualifications for learners. The publication of the new 'draft' specification for the new GCSE RS was published in September 2024. Teachers and others who will be responsible for implementing these changes can be assured of the continuing support of SACRE/SAC and CSCJES.

Vale of Glamorgan SACRE/SAC would like to express its gratitude to all those involved in the planning and teaching of RE/RS/RVE, for their sterling work, providing the learners of the county of the Vale of Glamorgan with the care, support and dedication. The Local Authority would like to extend gratitude to SACRE/SAC members for their continued commitment, attendance, participation and contributions to benefit the learning of RVE/RE/RS and DACW within the LA.

The Vale of Glamorgan SACRE/SAC welcomes correspondence via the Clerk:  
**[fwright@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:fwright@valeofglamorgan.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. The Vale of Glamorgan SACRE and SAC will share membership and meet as one body with one constitution/Terms of Reference.

### **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 and 1993, and 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)

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

The members representing each of these groups for 2023-2024 are listed in Appendix 1.

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

The main function of a SACRE/SAC is to:

- advise the Local Authority (LA) about religious education (RE), religion, values and ethics (RVE), religious studies (RS) and the daily act of collective worship (DACW)
- recommend that the LA review the agreed syllabus (AS) by convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)
- consider applications from schools for determinations (to be exempt from the requirement that worship be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" )
- 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, RS or DACW

Advice to the Local Authority 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 2023-2024 all the three meetings were held in-person:

- Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 3:45pm
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 3:45pm
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 3:45pm

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 ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS**

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

In February 2022, the LA re-adopted its legacy agreed syllabus for RE. In 2022 the Vale of Gllmaorgan local authority agreed a new 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 (RE), Religious Studies (RS) and Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE)**

SACRE/SAC provides advice to the Local Authority on standards in RE/RS/RVE. SACRE/SAC has explored a range of ways to consider standards in RVE and RVE:

- 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. A newly established CSCJES/EAS Youth Voice for RVE and DACW forum encourages further collaboration, sharing of good practice and listening to learner voice to inform practitioners, schools/settings and SACRE/SAC.
- SACRE/SAC reviews Estyn inspection reports to identify and share effective practice and to support schools with RE, RVE, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) and the daily act of collective worship (DACW). In 2023-24, the inspection findings of seven primary schools and the Full LA inspection, were considered by SACRE/SAC. 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 recorded by Estyn. SACRE/SAC has sent letters of congratulations or offers of support to individual schools, following the publication of their Estyn Inspection report. SACRE/SAC has raised concerns that changes to Estyn reporting have made it more difficult for SACRE/SAC to monitor standards in RE/RVE as it is required by legislation to do – one of the functions required of SACRE/SAC. These concerns have been raised 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.
- SACRE/SAC is looking into sharing and discussing global GCSE and GCE RS examination results for schools in the LA, in line with WASACRE advice.

SACRE/SAC recommends the following resources related to standards to practitioners, headteachers and governors of schools:

[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. SACRE/SAC has advised that all schools are made aware of the requirement to have regard to the Curriculum for Wales 2022 locally agreed syllabus and the statutory RVE guidance on Hwb. SACRE/SAC has advised that all schools are reminded that there is no parental right to withdraw from RVE in the Curriculum for Wales. CSCJES has produced resources for schools to ensure that they are aware of the legal requirements for RVE within the Curriculum for Wales.

SACRE/SAC has discussed the changes to RVE as a mandatory requirement of the Curriculum for Wales and as mandatory for all learners from ages three to sixteen, as this curriculum rolls out.

SACRE/SAC advised of the importance of 'objective, critical and pluralistic' RVE, in the Curriculum for Wales. CSCJES has provided advice on this to the LA'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.

SACRE/SAC is preparing guidance on guest speakers and external providers, to support headteachers and practitioners of RVE, within the LA.

SACRE/SAC discussed spiritual development in the Curriculum for Wales framework.

SACRE/SAC has discussed the Qualification Wales consultations and decisions made regarding a new GCSE RS (for teaching from September 2025) and wider skills qualifications (for teaching from September 2027). Discussion of the proposals at WASACRE was shared with SACRE/SAC. A group response was submitted on behalf of the five SACREs/SACs in the Central South Consortium (CSCJES) region. Concerns were raised regarding how the new qualifications would meet the needs of all learners and in line with the CfW RVE curriculum. SACRE/SAC members considered the QW wider qualification offer modules related to RVE. They discussed WASACRE views on this, along with practitioners' feedback.

Qualifications Wales presented their responses to the consultations in the spring of 2024, via live webinars and information published on their website. These results were presented and discussed at SACRE/SAC. WASACRE encouraged a response to the Qualifications Wales results. SACRE/SAC presented their concerns and questions to WASACRE.

## **Curriculum for Years 9 to Years 13:**

SACRE/SAC discussed the curriculum and right to withdraw requirements for learners in Years 9 and above who are being provided with RE in line with the legacy agreed syllabus.

The right to withdraw is still in place for these learners. 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 discussed national trends in entries for GCSE and A Level since 2017 and considered an RE Council of England and Wales report on the matter. Concerns over reduced entries have been shared with WASACRE and NAPfRE. Concerns were also raised about the accessibility and appropriateness of the current RS qualification. SACRE/SAC discussed recent reductions in entry for RS GCSE, the time allocated to GCSEs within schools and the enthusiasm for a short course RS option. SACRE/SAC advised practitioners to engage with WJEC advisory groups in discussing the new qualification for first teaching from September 2025.

Through the CSCJES practitioner networks, schools were updated on the changes to the 2024 GCSE and GCE specifications for Religious Studies.

## **2.4 Professional Learning and Resources for Practitioners**

Vale of Glamorgan SACRE/SAC provides supporting materials related to the LA agreed syllabus. These are intended to be 'live' working documents, materials and resources to reflect the evolution of the Curriculum for Wales.

SACRE/SAC acknowledges and supports the wide range of professional learning resources and sharing opportunities provided by WJEC, WASACRE and CSCJES for RE, RS and RVE practitioners, and has encouraged schools to engage with and access this offer.

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 LA. CSCJES has shared updates for all subject related professional learning, network meetings and links to resources to SACRE/SAC through briefing papers and discussion at each meeting.

- CSCJES provides termly networking and sharing opportunities for secondary and primary practitioners, led by school-based practitioners and CSCJES staff. Secondary networking opportunities focused on sharing practice related to standards at GCSE and A level, the Agored Cymru 'Exploring Worldviews' course, RVE within the humanities area of learning experience (AoLE), and developing links and connections with other subjects. At the autumn meeting the school shared their 'First Give' project as a part of the RVE curriculum
- CSCJES has established new networking opportunities for special schools and PRU's. Termly meetings have focused on designing the humanities and RVE curriculum, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources.
- CSCJES provides free bespoke support to any LA schools on request. Specific RVE bespoke support was provided to eight schools in the Vale of Glamorgan in 2023-24 focused upon:

- curriculum design in RVE
- planning units of work
- leadership of RVE/RS including self-evaluation
- collective worship
- pedagogy

Humanities bespoke support, which included RVE, was provided to eleven schools in the Vale of Glamorgan. There was a cluster support event to one cluster group of schools within the LA for this period and one school received bespoke support for DACW as well.

- CSCJES has offered a range of professional learning events, projects and programmes related to RVE/RS/RE, as part of the CSCJES Humanities professional learning offer. These opportunities are available to all practitioners within the Vale of Glamorgan. Examples of the range of professional learning, resources and materials developed and shared to support schools by CSCJES and SACRE/SAC can be found in Appendix 6. A total of thirtyfour practitioners, from the Vale of Glamorgan LA, have engaged in professional learning for RVE and a further thirty nine for humanities, including RVE content, during 2023-24. These practitioners are representatives from twentyone out of the fiftythree schools in the Vale of Glamorgan local authority, which equates to 39.6%.



## 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.

SACRE/SAC discussed advice on DACW and received information on discussions at WASACRE and NAPfRE regarding enquiries about the right to withdraw. Advice has been provided to individual schools within the Vale of Glamorgan by the CSCJES Associate Advisor. SACRE/SAC discussed enquiries and concerns from stakeholders regarding this matter.

CSCJES has introduced 'drop-in' sessions for DACW. Individual, and groups of schools in the Vale of Glamorgan can book meetings to receive bespoke support for DACW.

SACRE/SAC and schools in the LA were made aware of additional guidance for DACW through CSCJES 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 support schools to fulfil their statutory requirements for DACW. SACRE/SAC has monitored Estyn inspection reports for recommendations relating to DACW and SMSC and the local authority follows up on any non-fulfilment of statutory requirements by requesting the school action plan.

SACRE/SAC has continued to inform schools of appropriate information and resources relating to DACW. CSCJES has produced a resource, available on their website, [DACW: Meeting the Legislative Requirements](#). When issues or recommendations are highlighted by Estyn concerning DACW, these are followed up by the local authority.

### 3.2 Applications for determinations

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. No applications were received from schools within the Vale of Glamorgan LA for determinations in 2023-24.

### 3.3 School visits

No school visits were made, by SACRE/SAC for the Daily Act of Collective Worship (DACW) during the 2023-2024 academic year. SACRE/SAC has expressed intention to see practice related to DACW in 2024-25.

## **Section 4: SUMMARY OF OTHER AREAS**

### **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. Full discussions have taken place at SACRE/SAC on the issues raised by WASACRE. The Vale of Glamorgan LA is represented on WASACRE Executive committee by the Chair and who, since the summer of 2024, is the Chair of WASACRE. At the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE/SAC the Chair, Associate Advisor and two other SACRE/SAC members from the LA are permitted to attend, to a maximum of four members from each LA. The LA was also represented at the WASACRE RVE Conference of 2024 and the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE/SAC members presented workshops.

### **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. SACRE/SAC has been informed of developments across Wales and has played 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
- invited members to meetings of Wales Association for SACREs (WASACRE)
- ensured that the SACRE/SAC was represented at WASACRE and that members receive regular feedback
- encouraged new members to attend a WASACRE webinar, facilitated by the CSCJES Associate Advisor for RVE/RE/RS, and the Education Achievement Service (EAS) Curriculum Partner for RVE
- shared online free webinar training sessions, with the [National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education \(NASACRE\)](#)
- provided the [WASACRE handbook for new members](#) of SACRE/SAC

#### **4.4 Youth Voice for RVE and DACW**

SACRE/SAC has explored setting up youth representation through a cross-regional Youth Voice forum. SACRE/SAC have been supportive of the project and have worked with LA and CSCJES advisors to consider how best to ensure young people's voices are heard. The Youth Voice for RVE and DACW forum has been set up and an initial meeting has been held in the July of 2024. The Vale of Glamorgan schools are represented on the forum, and learners from the LA have contributed their views and experiences of RE/RVE/DACW. There will be termly meetings in the next academic year and following each meeting feedback will be provided to the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE/SAC at termly meetings

## APPENDIX 1: THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN SACRE/SAC MEMBERSHIP 2023-24

### Committee C - Local authority (6 places)

Councillor Eddie Williams (Chair)	Local Authority
Councillor Nic Hodges (stepped down summer 2024)/Councillor Julie Aviet (from summer 2024)	Local Authority
Councillor Susan Lloyd-Selby (stepped down summer 2024)/ <b>Vacancy</b> (from summer 2024)	Local Authority
Councillor Ewan Goodjohn	Local Authority
Councillor Rhys Thomas	Local Authority
<b>Vacancy</b>	Local Authority

### Committee B - Teacher associations (8 places)

Jean-Marc Alter	NASUWT
Tyler Saunders	NASUWT
<b>Vacancy</b>	
<b>Vacancy</b>	
<b>Vacancy</b>	
<b>Vacancy</b>	
<b>Vacancy</b>	

### Committee A - Religious denominations and Non-religious philosophical convictions (12 places)

Moawia Bin-Sufyan	Islam
Dr Ramez Delpak (Stepped down Summer 2024)	Bahá'í
Rev. Phillip Hibbert	Baptist
Kalpana Natarajan	Sanatana Dharma/Hindu Dharma/Hinduism
Elaine Holley	Baptist
Kathy Riddick (Vice Chair)	Humanism
Claire Lewis (Stepped down Spring 2024) /Paul Booth (from spring 2024)	Church in Wales
Bernadette Vella-Jones	Roman Catholic Church
Norma Glass (from summer 2024)	Judaism
<b>Vacancy</b>	Sikhism/Sikhi
<b>Vacancy</b>	Free Churches
<b>Vacancy</b>	Buddhism

### Co-opted members: 4 places

Dafydd Treharne
Marged Williams
<b>Vacancy</b>
<b>Vacancy</b>

### LA Officers

Trevor Baker Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resource  
 Jeremy Morgan – Local Authority Officer and SACRE/SAC Clerk (stepped down Autumn Term 2023)  
 Francesca Wright From Autumn Term 2023 Senior Governor Support Officer and SACRE/SAC Clerk

### Advisor to SACRE/SAC

Donna Graves CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RS/RVE and SACRE/SAC

## APPENDIX 2: The Vale of Glamorgan Meetings and Main Agenda Items

**Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 3:45pm**

**Venue: Pencoedtre High School, Barry**

Item	Agenda	Lead	Papers
1.	<b>Welcome and apologies (SACRE/SAC)</b>	EW	
2.	<b>Presentation: RE/RS/RVE at Pencoedtre High School</b>	School	
3.	<b>SACRE/SAC</b> 3.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair (SACRE/SAC) 3.2 Membership (SACRE/SAC) 3.3 ToR/Constitution update (SACRE/SAC)	FW FW FW	3.3
4.	<b>Minutes from the last meeting 07/06/2023 (SACRE/SAC)</b>	Chair	4.
5.	<b>Matters arising (SACRE/SAC)</b>	Chair	
6.	<b>Briefing paper (SACRE/SAC)</b>	DG	6.
7.	<b>VoG SACRE/SAC Annual Report 2022-2023 (SACRE/SAC)</b> 7.1 Draft 7.2 SACRE's/SAC's suggestions to the Local Education Authority	Chair/ DG	7.1
8.	<b>Estyn Inspection Reports (SACRE/SAC)</b>	DG	8.
9.	<b>WASACRE (SACRE/SAC)</b> 9.1 Minutes from summer 2023, 19/06/2023 9.2 Draft minutes from AGM 2023 9.3 Agenda from Autumn 2023, 25/10/2023 9.4 WG guidance for SACRE SAC on data	DG	9.1 9.2 9.3 9.4
10.	<b>WASACRE (WJEC Consultation)</b> 10.1 GCSE Religious Studies Consultation Document – WASACRE Response  Link to consultation document: <a href="https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/10000000/10000000/gcse-religious-studies-qualification-outline-consultation-version-e.pdf">gcse-religious-studies-qualification-outline-consultation-version-e.pdf (wjec.co.uk)</a>  Link to feedback survey: <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/survey/Made-for-Wales-GCSEs-and-related-qualifications-subject-outline-consultation-GCSE-RELIGIOUS-STUDIES">Made-for-Wales GCSEs and related qualifications: subject outline consultation GCSE: RELIGIOUS STUDIES Survey (surveymonkey.co.uk)</a> NOW CLOSED		10

11.	<b>Schedule for future meetings (SACRE/SAC)</b>				Chair	
		<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>		
	Spring 2024	06/03/2024	TBC	3:45pm		
	Summer 2025	19/06/2024	TBC	3:45pm		
	Autumn 2026	TBC	TBC	3.45pm		
12.	<b>Agenda items for Spring Agenda 2024 (SACRE/SAC)</b>				Chair	
13.	<b>AOB (SACRE/SAC)</b>				Chair	

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 3:45pm**

**VENUE: TEAMS (online conferencing)**

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Papers</b>
1.	<b>Welcome and apologies (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Chair</b>	
2.	<b>Minutes from autumn meeting 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Chair</b>	2. Minutes
3.	<b>Matters arising (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Chair</b>	
4.	<b>Updates (SACRE/SAC)</b> 4.1 Membership 4.2 SACRE/SAC TOR/Constitution 4.3 Annual Report Distribution	<b>LA Officer</b>	4.2 4.3
5.	<b>Vale of Glamorgan Briefing Report (SACRE/SAC)</b> 5.1 Briefing Report 5.2 Case Study – St. Nicholas CiW Primary 5.3 Snippets of Success (Dec 2023) – Pencoedtre High	<b>Advisor</b>	5.1 5.2 5.3
6.	<b>Estyn Inspection Summaries (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Advisor</b>	6.
7.	<b>WASACRE (SACRE/SAC)</b> 7.1 Minutes of autumn term meeting 7.2 Spring term meeting – 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 7.3 Conference – 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 (Wrexham)	<b>Advisor</b>	7.1 7.3

	7.4 WASACRE Exec. Nominations		7.4			
8.	<b>Youth Voice (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Advisor</b>	8.			
9.	<b>Schedule of future meetings: (SACRE/SAC)</b>			<b>Chair</b>		
		<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Location</b>			<b>Time</b>
	Summer 2024	19/06/24	TBC			3.45pm
	Autumn 2024	TBC	TBC			3.45pm
	Spring 2025	TBC	TBC	3.45pm		
10.	<b>Recommendations to the LA (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Chair</b>				
11.	<b>AOB (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Chair</b>				

**Wednesday 26th June 2024 at 3:45pm**

**VENUE: TEAMs (online conferencing)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Papers</b>
1.	<b>Welcome and apologies (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Chair</b>	
2.	<b>Advice for Schools – new draft resource (SAC)</b>	<b>Advisor</b>	2.
3.	<b>Minutes and matters arising (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Chair</b>	3.
4.	<b>Updates (SACRE/SAC)</b> 4.1 Membership 4.2 SACRE/SAC TOR/Constitution	<b>Chair/LA Officer</b>	4.2
5.	<b>Vale of Glamorgan Briefing Report (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Advisor</b>	5.

6.	<b>Estyn Inspection Summaries (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Advisor</b>	6.																
7.	<b>WASACRE (SACRE/SAC)</b> 7.1 Minutes of spring term meeting – 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 7.2 Conference – 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 (Wrexham) 7.3 Nominees for the WASACRE Executive Committee (Information only – no voting) 7.4 WASACRE AGM notes 2023	<b>Advisor</b>	7.1 7.2 7.3																
8.	<b>Youth Voice (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Advisor</b>	8.																
9.	<p><b>Schedule of future meetings: (SACRE/SAC)</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><b>Date</b></th> <th><b>Location</b></th> <th><b>Time</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Autumn 2024</b></td> <td>TBC</td> <td>TBC</td> <td>3.30pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Spring 2025</b></td> <td>TBC</td> <td>TBC</td> <td>3.30pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Summer 2025</b></td> <td>TBC</td> <td>TBC</td> <td>3.30pm</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Autumn 2024</b>	TBC	TBC	3.30pm	<b>Spring 2025</b>	TBC	TBC	3.30pm	<b>Summer 2025</b>	TBC	TBC	3.30pm	<b>Chair</b>	
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<b>Spring 2025</b>	TBC	TBC	3.30pm																
<b>Summer 2025</b>	TBC	TBC	3.30pm																
10.	<b>Suggestions for agenda items for the Autumn 2024 meeting (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Chair</b>																	
11.	<b>Recommendations/suggestions to the LA? (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Chair</b>																	
12.	<b>AOB (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Chair</b>																	



### **APPENDIX 3: CIRCULATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT**

Copies of this annual report 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 Vale of Glamorgan SACRE/SAC
- Vale of Glamorgan Council Learning and Skills Directorate
- All of the Vale of Glamorgan schools/settings
- Wales Association of SACREs/SACs (WASACRE)
- Welsh Government
- The National Library
- Central South Consortium
- Estyn



## APPENDIX 5: PROFESSIONAL LEARNING, RESOURCES AND MATERIALS SHARED WITH PRACTITIONERS

CSCJES have offered a range of professional learning opportunities for all practitioners within the region, focusing on sharing practice and empowering teachers. The following list provides information on aspects of the CSCJES professional learning offer relevant to RE/RVE/DACW. These have been available to the Vale of Glamorgan schools.

### CSCJES produced professional learning resources:

- **CSCJES Primary Humanities Community Area** shares a range of announcements and files relevant to the Curriculum for Wales
- **CSCJES Secondary Humanities: RVE Community Area** shares a range of announcements and files relevant to the Curriculum for Wales, Religious Education and Religious Studies
- [CSCJES Knowledge Bank](#) contains a range of materials on RVE for practitioners
- [Enquiry and Interpretation in Humanities](#). A new playlist resource is now available here to support practitioners in understanding and developing the skills of enquiry and interpretation in humanities, with specific pages for RVE as well as the other four subjects within humanities
- Non-religious philosophical convictions playlist [here](#)
- **RVE: Meeting the Legislative Requirements** – the new resource is available
- The Daily Act of Collective Worship (DACW): Meeting the Legislative Requirements – the new resource is available - [link](#)
- RVE and Philosophy 4 Children ('P4C') – funded project case studies new resources links
- 'Objective, Critical and Pluralistic RVE' funded project, along with the Church in Wales, case studies new resource - [link](#)
- RVE and Science – funded project case studies [link](#)
- RVE case studies
- RVE, Diversity and Anti-Racism resources
- Non-religious philosophical convictions playlist [here](#)
- Mapping and progression in RVE
- Teaching Challenging and Sensitive Issues
- Digital Humanities - CSCJES Case Studies for the funded project – [link](#)

### **Professional learning programmes and events:**

- **New to Leading Primary Humanities** – 3 session programme designed to support leaders in primary settings
- **Philosophy 4 Children (P4C) and RVE** – one day event focusing on P4C pedagogy in RVE
- **Confidence teaching controversial and sensitive issues in the classroom** - one day event to support practitioners' confidence
- **'Cynefin.'** A half day event exploring what Cynefin is, and how we can focus meaningfully on it within a curriculum context in humanities
- **RVE webinars.** CSCJES and EAS have provided a series of webinars designed to develop practitioner knowledge for RVE. These focused on Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Humanism, Hindu Dharma/Sanatana Dharma, Buddhism, Sikhi
- **Diversity and Anti-Racism within Humanities professional learning** – one day event exploring school approaches to developing diversity and anti-racism within humanities

### **CSCJES sharing of other professional learning resources and materials including:**

- The Vale of Glamorgan Agreed Syllabus and supporting materials
- Holocaust Memorial Day information, resources and webinars
- WJEC newsletters, information and resources
- Materials from WASACRE conference, including online seminars
- Free teaching and learning resources from NATRE
- Materials from WASACRE conference
- Resources and information on Hwb
- WASACRE's resources and advice for RE, RVE, RS and DACW
- Welsh government professional learning programmes, podcasts and RVE e-magazine
- CSCJES 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
- 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

- Information about the Welsh Jewish heritage centre in Merthyr Tydfil
- Humanism UK teaching resources
- School attendance and religious festivals guidance 2024
- DARPL professional learning opportunities and resources
- Podcasts
- Discovering Muslims in Britain – resources e.g. ‘meet a Muslim’
- The ‘history of religion in Wales’ resource
- The Jewish history association of south wales resources and website link to support RVE