



# Complete Agenda

**Democratic Service**  
Swyddfa'r Cyngor  
CAERNARFON  
Gwynedd  
LL55 1SH

Meeting

**SACRE**

Date and Time

**3.30 pm, TUESDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER, 2023**

Location

**Virtual Meeting -Zzoom**

**(For Public Access, Please Contact Einir Davies)**

Contact Point

**Einir Rh Davies**

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(DISTRIBUTED 13/11/23)

## **SACRE**

### **MEMBERSHIP (7)**

#### **Plaid Cymru (4)**

Councillors

Menna Baines  
Elin Walker Jones

Meryl Roberts

Paul John Rowlinson

#### **Independent (3)**

Councillors

Anne Lloyd-Jones  
Angela Russell

John Pughe Roberts

#### **Ex-officio Members**

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council

#### **Christian and Other Religions and Non-Religious Philosophical Convictions**

Nathan Abrams  
Mr Mohamed Arabi  
Eurfryn Davies  
Bethan Davies Jones  
Edward Parri-Jones  
Eirian Bradley Roberts  
Dr Sibani Roy  
Rev. Nick Sissons  
Patrycja Bielak Smith  
Gwawr Maelor Williams  
Naomi Wood

Judaism  
Islam  
Union of Welsh Baptists  
Union of Welsh Independents  
Humanist  
Catholic Church  
Hinduism  
Methodist Church  
Buddhism  
Presbyterian Church of Wales  
Church in Wales

#### **Teachers**

Miriam A. Amlyn  
Heledd Jones  
Emma Roberts  
Vacant Seat - NAHT

NAS/UWT  
NEU  
UCAC  
NAHT

#### **Co-Opted Members:**

Eleri Moss

Secondary Heads

# A G E N D A

## 1. PRAYER OR QUIET REFLECTION

An Opportunity for Prayer or Quiet Reflection

## 2. APOLOGIES

To Receive any Apologies for Absence

## 3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To Receive any Declaration of Personal Interest

## 4. URGENT ITEMS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration

## 5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

5 - 8

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on the 4th July, 2023 be signed as a true record

## 6. UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS SACRE MEETINGS

Gwynedd Updates in Relation to :

- i. SACRE Annual Report 2021 – 2022
- ii. Specialist Support to the SACRE
- iii. Correspondence sent on behalf of SACRE

## 7. AN UPDATE ON THE WORK OF DEVELOPING THE COLLECTIVE WORSHIP GUIDELINES

9 - 11

An Update on the Work of Developing the Collective Worship Guidelines

## 8. WASACRE MATTERS

12 - 33

- I. Report of the Activities of the Association 2022-2023 (Chair)
- II. Report for 2022/2023 Financial Year (Treasurer)
- III. Membership of WASACRE Executive Committee 2023/2024
- IV. Draft Minutes of the Summer WASACRE Meeting held on 19 June 2023
- V. An opportunity to give feedback on the consultation on the new GCSE Religious Studies (beginning of teaching 2026 (on the WJEC website)
- VI. An opportunity to contribute to the creation of an exciting program for the 2024 Conference which will include free interactive online seminars, as well as the physical conference day event



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## S.A.C.R.E - STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 04/07/2023

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**Present:**

**Councillors:** Menna Baines, Anne Lloyd Jones, Meryl Roberts and Paul Rowlinson

**Others:**

**Christians and Other Faiths and Non-religious Philosophical Convictions:** Nathan Abrams (Judaism), Eurfryn Davies (The Baptist Union of Wales), Bethan Davies Jones (The Union of Welsh Independents), Reverend Nick Sissons (The Methodist Church) and Gwawr M Williams (Presbyterian Church of Wales)

**Teachers:** Miriam Amlyn (NAS/UWT), Heledd W Jones (NEU) and Eleri Moss (Headteachers' Representative)

**Officers:** Garem P Jackson (Head of the Education Department) Einir Rh Davies, Ffion E Evans and M Eirian Roberts (Member Support Officers), B Mair Huws (Assistant Resources Officer and SACRE Clerk and Glesni M Foulkes (Translator)

### 1. PRAYER OR QUIET REFLECTION

The meeting was opened with some words from Councillor Menna Baines and an opportunity for reflection.

### 2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Menna Baines was re-elected as Chair of the Committee for the 2023/2024 period

### 3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Councillor Meryl Roberts was re-elected as Vice-chair of the Committee for the 2023/2024 period

### 4. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Elin Walker Jones, John P Roberts, Angela Russell, Beca Brown and Eirian Bradley-Roberts (The Catholic Church)

### 5. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

### 6. URGENT ITEMS

No urgent items were received.

### 7. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

**RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of a meeting of this Committee held on 14 March 2023 as a true record, and they were signed by the Chair.

## 8. DRAFT SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Thanks was expressed for the draft report, and the following was noted:

3.1 – Membership - addition of the details of the Cabinet decision (2019 meeting) to amend the constitution to extend representation of other religions as this was an important constitutional addition, and check the names of the Teaching Unions

Attention was drawn to a typing error in the English version, and the use of the term "Determination" in the Report. It was confirmed that "Determination" was used in relation to collective worship, which was broadly a Christian service, although it could vary from school to school, but no schools had requested to vary this during the period of the Report

It was confirmed that Cyngor Gwynedd's Cabinet had accepted Welsh Government Guidelines as an agreed Syllabus in a previous meeting, but that Gwynedd needed to create its own Plan, based on the Guidelines. Once the Plan was approved by SACRE it became the Final Plan. It was noted that it was hoped that schools had the essential resources, especially in Welsh, in order for the Plan to succeed.

The Group approved the Annual Report, subject to the above additions.

**RESOLVED:** To accept the Draft SACRE Annual Report 2021-2022 subject to Revising 3.1 to include a reference to the Cabinet's decision in 2019 to amend the constitution to expand the representation of religions on SACRE and to reflect the changes in the names of Teaching Unions.

## 9. UPDATE: COLLECTIVE WORSHIP GUIDANCE

The Chair referred to a discussion held on the guidance at the previous meeting, when it was concluded that it required updating as it only referred to Christianity, and that the language was no longer inclusive. At the meeting, SACRE agreed to form a Working Group to examine the existing Guidance. It was reported that, despite a request, only two names had been proposed for this task, and consequently the Working Group had not been convened, and nobody had been appointed to lead this work.

It was reported there were relatively frequent requests for the document, although it was dated, and it was not considered to be a live document. It was noted that the Legislation remained the same, that it was the language of the document that had dated, and that information about religions apart from Christianity needed to be added.

Reverend Nick Sissons offered to examine the document and to contact the other Member who had volunteered for the task, and report back with initial ideas at the next meeting. An enquiry was made about whether it would be possible to contact experts in this field, outside SACRE, to provide input to this work?

**RESOLVED:** To accept Reverend Sissons' offer to examine the guidelines and report back at the next meeting. As another name had been proposed at the last meeting to sit on the Working Group, it was agreed to contact that Member as she was not present.

## 10. SPECIALIST SUPPORT FOR SACRE

Everyone was reminded that the GwE Officer's specialist support had been withdrawn in 2018, which had been a source of concern and had highlighted a lack of expertise in this field.

The Head of the Education Department reported that he had been seeking a resolution and that he was now in discussions regarding the possibility of commissioning specialist support for SACRE through GwE, in order to make progress, subject to GwE's approval.

**RESOLVED:** To give approval for the Head of Education Department to discuss the possibility of commissioning specialist support for the SACRE through GwE, and to progress the matter as soon as possible.

## 11. WASACRE Matters

- i. **Guidelines for Visiting Schools**
- ii. **New Professional Teaching Opportunities for Religion, Values and Ethics**
- iii. **WASACRE Draft Minutes 21 March 2023**
- iv. **Qualifications Wales Consultation: The Full Proposal of Qualifications 14-16**

It was noted that the Guidelines for Visiting Schools was a very comprehensive and useful document.

In relation to the New Professional Teaching Opportunities for Religion, Values and Ethics, it was noted that it was desirable for the English and Welsh language materials to arrive at the same time. The Head of the Education Department reported that this was an important step, and that SACRE had an important contribution to make, and that there were many opportunities to teach Religious Education within the humanities. He also referred to a presentation by Lea Crimes on curriculum development, which was a good example of how to develop the curriculum.

It was noted that different presentation methods must be offered, by focusing on initial teacher training, and that it was crucial to keep an eye on the situation. The need to consider what would happen with GCSE was noted. There may be more than one platform to voice an opinion.

It was felt that it would be beneficial to ask GwE to hold a discussion regarding the new model and its suitability for giving Religion, Values and Ethics due attention, whilst considering the provision of resources through the medium of Welsh. It was also decided to write a letter regarding the provision of Welsh Language Resources (to ensure that they were available the same time as the English resources) in the name of SACRE, the Head of Education and the Cabinet Member for Education to the WJEC, the Education Minister and the Welsh Sub-committee.

It was noted that it may be possible in due course to use the force of the words in the White Paper as a further opportunity to voice an opinion.

In relation to WASACRE Draft Minutes 21 March, 2023 and the relevant papers, it was reported that WASACRE had work to update a number of documents, including changing the format of reports as the guidance had dated.

In relation to the Qualifications Wales Consultation: The Full Proposal of Qualifications 14-16, it was confirmed that WASACRE had submitted strong arguments, and had received the support of SACRE.

### **RESOLVED:**

- i. Guidelines for Visiting Schools : a very comprehensive and useful document

- ii. New Professional Teaching Opportunities for Religion, Values and Ethics : ask GwE to hold a discussion regarding the new model and its suitability for giving Religion, Values and Ethics due attention, whilst considering the provision of resources through the medium of Welsh. It was also decided to write a letter regarding the provision of Welsh Language Resources (to ensure that they would be available the same time as the English resources) in the name of SACRE, the Head of Education and the Cabinet Member for Education to WJEC's Chief Executive, Head of WJEC Resource Department, the Education Minister and the Welsh Sub-committee
- iii. Draft Minutes: note that WASACRE had work to update documents
- iv. Qualifications Wales Consultation: support WASACRE's response

The meeting commenced at 3.30 p.m. and concluded at 16:45 p.m.

**CHAIR**



**Some initial reflections on the Gwynedd Education Department Schools Service  
Collective Worship Policy 2010**

**Discussion paper prepared for SACRE**

Reverend Nick Sissons and Councillor Elin Walker Jones

Task: Review the Collective Worship policy.

**Background**

*The current situation is intolerable: the law on Collective Worship is uncompromising in its requirements but entirely out of step with the current situation in Wales. Furthermore, it appears that both Welsh and Westminster Governments have no current desire to devote any time to changing the law. In addition, the Inspection system appears to effectively condone those schools who effectively disregard the provisions of the legislation. It seems that the Collective Worship policy is regularly ignored by schools, Estyn and indeed the Governments.*

*SACRE appears to be unique in that, due to its legal obligation, it is active in ensuring that the law is implemented. If so, what action should SACRE be taking?*

**Some questions**

*Why are our governments not taking action on a matter that is fundamentally about wellbeing and mental health, identity, young people's relationships with themselves, others and indeed the world?*

*What are the responses of the Church and other Christian bodies to the current situation? Current legislation disproportionately favours the Christian faith beyond any other religious or humanist organisation so it would be logical to expect these bodies to lead on change. Humanist organisations have been unsuccessful to date in their attempts to change legislation, even though their arguments are reasonable and supported by many across different faith communities.*

*Is there a purpose therefore in reviewing this policy or should we wait until the law changes, or until there is an appetite for change beyond Gwynedd SACRE?*

**Current Concerns: Rationale for considering changes to the Collective Worship Policy**

*We suggest that there is an ethical content to the Collective Worship policy as it makes an attempt to meet spiritual needs. Collective Worship has a role in the development of a value base and a moral compass in children and young people. As such, the policy and its practice have an influence on the mental health and wellbeing needs of children and young people, asking and answering, if possible, those eternal questions about who we are, where are we going? Identity, our place in the universe, how we behave around other people, understanding ourselves and how we behave towards our fellow creatures and the planet.*

*The current crisis in young people's mental health suggests that we ignore children and young people's spiritual needs at our peril, so we suggest that we write to WG to ask them to take this matter seriously and review the Collective Worship legislation as a matter of urgency.*

*Christianity is only one of many different faiths and ideologies in Wales, and therefore we suggest that we should address the issue of collective worship being seen as Christian, or mostly Christian. We have changed the membership of SACRE to include representatives of other religions as well as the humanist community, and any attempts to create a policy for schools on collective worship, or "inclusive assemblies" as the Wales humanists suggest, must therefore reflect the diverse faith communities living in Wales today.*

*In addition, it is suggested that it would be useful for children and young people of all ages within a school to gather together, even if it's only once a week, rather than only to meet in classes or year groups. It is suggested that children and young people learn from each other, and that there is value in the whole school community coming together. This is already stated in the current policy: "Inclusive Collective Worship... promotes the sense of community in the school" (p.2). The emphasis should be as much on values and spirituality as on specific religious traditions.*

*Actual assembly content should be addressed by teachers or those who have expertise in these matters. The assembly content aspects of the policy should therefore be undertaken by those who are currently involved in leading assemblies, supported by faith and humanist practitioners who could be available as consultants.*

*We have a real opportunity here to make a difference to children and young people's mental health, identity, and sense of relationship with themselves and the world and engage in some real debate about what matters. We look forward to further discussion on this important issue.*

### Recommendations

#### Options for consideration by SACRE

*Option 1: Do nothing*

*Option 2: Tinker with an out of date Collective Worship policy.*

*Advantages: SACRE meets its legal obligation.*

*Disadvantage: an opportunity for real change is missed.*

*Option 3: Write to Welsh Government to request that they take the issue of collective worship or assembly seriously and review the Collective Worship legislation as a matter of urgency.*

*Advantage: potential for real change if matter taken seriously.*

*Disadvantage: will take a long time.*

*Option 4: A compromise? Write to Welsh Government AND create a new policy that takes children and young people's mental health, spiritual and moral needs seriously. A policy that is written by those who undertake these tasks within school environments regularly. A policy that values the idea of a whole-school community.*

*Further thoughts*

*We are keen to contact schools in Gwynedd to identify what are current practices. We believe that this may have been carried out by SACRE in the past? We are also keen to approach Church bodies, so that they themselves can campaign for change.*

*We submit these thoughts, ideas and options for consideration at the SACRE meeting. We suggest that SACRE considers some or all of these options for action and welcome any alternative options.*

*Diolch yn fawr*

*Nick ac Elin*



## **Report of the activities of the Association 2022-2023**

It has been a very busy year for the Association, especially with the Curriculum for Wales roll out beginning in September, the process of preparing the agreed syllabi for RVE, and the Qualifications Wales consultation.

### **1. This year the Association met on three occasions.**

Our Autumn meeting on 16 November 2022 was hosted by Blaenau Gwent SACRE / SAC through TEAMS. Our spring meeting on 21 March 2023 was hosted by Pembrokeshire SACRE / SAC through Zoom. Our Summer meeting, today, was hosted by Denbighshire SACRE / SAC through Zoom. We are grateful for the continued support of SACREs / SACs with their hosting of these meetings.

### **2. The Executive Committee met on three occasions:**

5 October 2022 (TEAMS), 8 February 2023 (Zoom) and 17 May 2023 (Zoom), all of which took place on-line through either TEAMS or Zoom. The Executive Committee had a full agenda throughout the year that included the following items and activities.

- a. The continued consideration and response to developments relating directly to RVE and RE within the Curriculum for Wales.
- b. Advice and support given to advisors and SACs in Wales in relation to locally agreed syllabi for RVE, working arrangements for SACREs / SACs, as well as other matters.
- c. Representatives from the WASACRE Executive Committee (with a NAPfRE representative) met with Welsh Government colleagues as part of our established regular cycle of meetings. These meeting gave opportunity to raise issues of importance to local SACREs / SACs.
- d. At the request of the Welsh Government, WASACRE was asked to conduct an informal desk-based review of agreed syllabi for RVE. A WASACRE team of specialists undertook the task on behalf of the Executive Committee, and the report was submitted to the Welsh Government on 27 March 2023. The report is part of a wider supportive approach being taken by the Welsh Government during the early stages of curriculum roll out and it also offers a valuable opportunity to share practice across Wales within the contexts of both local determination and collaboration.

- e. The first fruits of the major national professional learning partnership between the Welsh Government and WASACRE were published on the Welsh Government Hwb. The first batch of professional learning modules was published in March 2023, comprising five playlists for headteachers, secondary, primary, early years, and ALN. Work continued on the second and third batches of modules. This initiative came about through WASACRE raising the need for such baseline national professional learning and developing a robust proposal for consideration by Welsh Government colleagues. All resources have been rigorously quality assured before publication on the Welsh Government Hwb.
- f. Representatives from the WASACRE Executive Committee (often with a NAPfRE representative) met with various organisations both within and outside Wales on a number of occasions throughout the year. Within Wales this included an Estyn meeting and also meeting with those working on the Community Focused schools guidance and the relevance of SACs within it. Other meetings included those with Regional RE Hubs and the RE Council for England and Wales raising questions about relationships between the organisations and potential impacts on the Curriculum for Wales roll out for RVE. In addition, there was a meeting with NASACRE representatives to explore future connections. Representatives from WASACRE attended the NAPfRE 30 years celebration and AGM.
- g. WASACRE has continued to provide both a forum and support for guidance on national consultations affecting RVE in Wales. This year was concerned with two Qualifications Wales consultations relating to the GCSE Religious Studies Qualification and the Full Qualifications Offer.
- h. In the spring term, WASACRE subscribed to a Zoom account to enable simultaneous translation in meetings. After exploring several options, WASACRE is pleased to be in a position to renew its commitment to bilingual meetings, after moving online during the Covid period.
- i. Preparations for a major WASACRE Conference for RVE in partnership with NAPfRE.
- j. The provision of funding for a teacher to attend the EFTRE conference.

### **3. Accounts:**

The Treasurer's report for 2021-2022 was shared at the summer AGM of 2022. A statement of accounts and a report explaining the information was presented. It was noted that income exceeded expenditure for the year by £7,722.90. All SACREs / SACs have paid their subscriptions. It was noted that the financial position remained in a healthy condition and that the level of funds available to WASACRE, to fund its planned activities, was encouraging. The recommendation was made that an increase to the yearly subscription in line with inflation of 3% to £495 was proposed and agreed to.

### **4. New members of the Executive Committee:**

At the Summer AGM 2022 three members were elected to the executive committee for the period of 2022-2025: Vicky Barlow (Flintshire); Mathew Maidment (RCT); Louise Brown (Monmouthshire). Edward Evans was elected as Vice Chair.

Tania ap Sion took the position of Chair, and Rachel Samuel moved to Immediate Past Chair.

#### **5. WASACRE constitution amendments:**

At the Summer AGM 2022 WASACRE members accepted and approved amendments to the Association's constitution.

#### **6. NAPfRE and WASACRE presentations:**

As there were no 'physical meetings' NAPfRE presentations have been kept to a minimum and focused on the most immediate priority.

- The Blaenau Gwent meeting on 16 November 2023 received a presentation from Rachel Samuel and Paula Webber on the Qualifications Wales Consultation: New GCSE – Religious Studies.
- The Pembrokeshire meeting on 21 March 2023 received a National Professional Learning presentation by Libby Jones on the professional learning resources being developed by WASACRE and recently published on the Welsh Government Hwb.
- In today's Denbighshire meeting we have received a presentation from Leah Crimes, Headteacher of St Brigid's School in Denbigh on 'Emerging practice from a "faith" school perspective'.

As Chair of WASACRE, I would like to thank all our SACREs / SACs for their commitment to the Association and their support. Also, for all the hard work of our Executive Committee members without whom our activities would not be possible.

## WALES ASSOCIATION OF SACREs

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 19<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2023

REPORT BY: Treasurer

SUBJECT: Report for 2022/2023 Financial Year

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REPORT FOR: Information and Decision

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#### **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/2023**

Attached, as an Appendix to this report, is the independently examined Statement of Accounts for the 2022/2023 financial year. Members will note that, during the year, income exceeded expenditure by £8969.44, compared with £7,722.90 in 2021/2022. At the end of the financial year, subscriptions from 16 SACREs had been received, and the subscriptions from the remaining SACREs have now been received. It is pleasing to report that subscriptions have, again, been paid in respect of all SACREs. It is good to be able to report that income exceeded expenditure again this year and by a substantial amount. Further information on the reasons for the increase on last year is provided below. The financial year commenced with a balance of £45,502.79 and ended with a balance of £54,472.23. The finances of WASACRE, therefore, remain in a healthy condition and the level of funds available to WASACRE, to fund its planned activities, is encouraging. Members will have noted that the balance of funds has increased steadily during the last few years and this is part of the plan to ensure the availability of funding for the next WASACRE conference.

#### a) **Receipts**

As in previous years, the main source of income for WASACRE during 2022/2023 has been the annual subscriptions paid by member SACREs. Members will be aware that, at the 2001 Annual General Meeting of WASACRE, it was decided to raise the level of subscriptions by the level of inflation on an annual basis. The annual subscription, therefore, for 2022/2023 was £495.00 which has resulted in an income of £7,920.00. This figure represents the 16 subscriptions, received during the financial year, and it is pleasing to report that the remaining SACRE subscriptions have now been paid. Therefore, I can report that all subscriptions for 2022/2023, have now been received. The receipts also included the late payment of £1,440.00, which represents 3 subscriptions of £480.00 relating to the 2021/2022 financial year.

The other regular annual source of income for WASACRE has been Bank Interest and this amounted to £20.66 in 2022/2023, an increase of £20.10 on £0.56, the amount received in 2021/2022. The Bank Interest rate remained low at the start of the year but increased during the year. Interest paid on the WASACRE Business Money Manager Account during the first quarter



amounted to £0.68 while the interest paid during the last quarter amounted to £12.83. While this is a move in the right direction, It is clear, as has been previously noted, that it will be some time before significant income is received through Bank Interest.

During the year, WASACRE received a payment of £4,250.00 from the Welsh Government. This payment was in response to work, commissioned by the Welsh Government and carried out by WASACRE in undertaking an informal review of agreed syllabi. Officers of the Welsh Government actually approached WASACRE with the request that this work be carried out which is an indication of their high regard for the competence and professionalism of WASACRE. Unfortunately, this payment was received by WASACRE on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023, which means that, while the income is included in the 2022/2023 financial year, the payments made against it are recorded in the 2023/2024 financial year. This has inflated the figure for excess of income over expenditure and a more realistic figure would be £4,719.44.

b) **Expenditure**

During 2022/2023 there has also been lower than usual expenditure. This year there were no payments in relation to officers' travel and accommodation as all the meetings have been virtual, and held via the Teams or Zoom platforms. In addition, there have been no requests for release of teaching staff to attend meetings as, in the main, they have been held at times that were convenient for members to attend. There also have been no requests for payment of expenses for attendance at conferences and other similar events.

The areas of expenditure in the 2022/2023 accounts are as follows:-

The cost of convening meetings amounted to £1055.88 for the translation of documents, compared with £1392.53 in 2021/2022. There were no other costs of holding both the termly meetings of WASACRE and the Executive Committee meetings as these were all held virtually via Teams except for the Spring meeting of WASACRE. This was held via the Zoom Platform as this platform supports simultaneous translation.

Members will be aware that the WASACRE secretarial arrangements have continued unchanged. The post of Co-ordinator Secretary has continued with the role of overseeing the secretarial function but without the full range of secretarial activities. This post still attracts an honorarium of £1,500.00 and, this is now, usually paid, as termly instalments. The Co-ordinating Secretary is supported by an Assistant Secretary but, currently, no honorarium is paid for this post. The secretarial costs have been minimised through the use of electronic communications and no claims for secretarial expenses were made during the year. The post of Minute Secretary also attracts an honorarium of £1,500.00 but the post has remained unfilled since the departure of the previous post holder. With the departure of the Minute Secretary, the services were bought in of an individual who was willing to minute the meetings,



remotely, from recordings of the meetings. The costs of this service, for the last financial year, amounted to £1,294.55 and are well within the honorarium that would have been paid to a Minute Secretary. The payment relates to the actual amount of work involved, rather than an honorarium. WASACRE is fortunate in being able to secure the services of an individual who is able to provide high quality minutes of the meetings and, so far, this arrangement has worked well.

Members will recall that, some time ago, WASACRE produced a document entitled 'Managing the right of Withdrawal from Religious Education', which was very well received. As Religion Values and Ethics is included within the Humanities area of the National Curriculum, from which there is no right of withdrawal, it was agreed that surplus copies of the book would be circulated to local authorities and Diocesan Directors of Education in Wales, before the full implementation of Religion, Values and Ethics, and the cost of this circulation amounted to £306.88.

The Treasurer's Expenses amounted to £44.24, which is very similar to £46.81, the level of expense in 2021/2022. These expenses relate, in the main, to postage charges and stationery.

During the year, a total of £298.00 has been spent on Membership Subscriptions which is similar to £388.00, the amount spent in 2021/2022. The only difference was that, in 2021/2022, there were two payments of £99.00 to the RE Council – one relating to 2020/2021 and the other to 2021/2022.

These comprise the following:-

- The RE Council for 2022/2023 - £99.00
- EFTRE 2022 - £90.00
- The Interfaith Network 2022 - £100.00

The sum of £100.67 has been paid for hosting the WASACRE website. Members will agree that a high-quality website is an excellent resource and plays a valuable role in raising the profile of WASACRE as well as providing a source of information in relation to Religious Education and Collective Worship. This has been achieved with the development of the new website and this will provide excellent support for WASACRE. In addition, it will be a valuable source of information on Religion, Values and Ethics, as well as Collective Worship for SACREs, teachers and other professionals.

This is the first full year of Bank Charges. With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2021, HSBC changed the WASACRE Community Account (current account) into a Charitable Bank Account. This account carries a monthly fee of £5.00 and cheques paid into and out of the account over the counter are charged at £0.40 per cheque. The charges for 2022/2023 amounted to £70.00. Fortunately, only 2 authorities paid subscriptions by cheque this year and only 19 cheques were drawn within the financial year.

Members are invited to receive and adopt the attached statement of accounts.

## **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 2023/2024**

In considering an appropriate annual subscription per SACRE for membership of WASACRE during the 2023/2024 financial year, members will be aware that the decision was taken at the 2001 Annual General Meeting of WASACRE that, in future, the subscription to WASACRE would be increased in line with inflation.

It is important for WASACRE to follow this practice in order to ensure that sufficient resources are available to meet the ongoing costs of WASACRE activities, including meeting expenses, operating costs, officers' expenses, officers' honoraria and subscriptions. Although some of these costs have not been incurred in the 2022/2023 financial year, they are likely to occur in the 2023/2024 financial year. In addition, WASACRE needs to have sufficient resources available to meet the costs of All Wales events, such as national conferences, and to enable it to become involved in other initiatives for the support of Religion, Values and Ethics, together with Collective Worship across Wales including the provision of further training and preparation of publications. Although the WASACRE finances are currently in a healthy state, it is important that a substantial balance is maintained if WASACRE is to be able to, with confidence, arrange further national events and undertake more projects.

However, at the recent meeting of the WASACRE Executive Committee, it was agreed that, in the light of the current difficult financial circumstances, experienced by Local Authorities, there should be no uplift to the subscription to WASACRE for 2023/2024. It is, therefore,

**RECOMMENDED** that the annual subscription per SACRE for membership of WASACRE during the 2023/2024 financial year, remain at £495.00, the same level as the 2022/2023 subscription.

## **PAYMENT OF EXPENSES**

Members will recall that the following arrangements for the payment of expenses were either agreed at the 2020 Annual General Meeting of WASACRE or agreed subsequently: -

- payment of 45 pence per mile to officers undertaking business on behalf of WASACRE where they are unable to claim from their local SACREs and reimbursement at the same level for speakers contributing to WASACRE meetings;
- reimbursement to officers of actual parking costs, where incurred, in relation to the conduct of WASACRE business;
- where public transport is used rather than private car, reimbursement of actual rail/coach fares up to the level of standard fare on the understanding that advantage of saver arrangements would be taken wherever possible;
- reimbursement of reasonable subsistence costs in respect of officers of WASACRE and speakers at WASACRE meetings;
- reimbursement of actual costs of overnight accommodation on the understanding that reasonable costs are incurred;



- in relation to teachers being released from school to make presentations at meetings of WASACRE, WASACRE will fund up to one full day's supply cover. In the event of this proving inadequate, early contact must be made with the Treasurer, who will be given discretion to agree a higher level of supply cover in consultation with either the Chair or Vice Chair.
- Members of SACREs and others attending main meetings of WASACRE are not eligible to claim expenses from WASACRE but should claim from their own SACRE or the body that they represent;
- the Co-ordinator Secretary will receive an annual honorarium of £1,500. If the position is taken by a serving teacher, then supply cover would be paid in addition to the existing honorarium and expenses (necessary travel, accommodation and subsistence). Supply cover would be paid to the school and the honorarium would be paid to the individual officer;
- if appointed, a Minute Secretary will receive an annual honorarium of £1,500 plus expenses, plus overnight accommodation if necessary. If the current arrangement continues, WASACRE will pay invoices submitted by the individual preparing minutes from recordings of meetings in accordance with the level of work involved;
- Members of the WASACRE Executive Committee are able to claim expenses from WASACRE for attendance at Executive Committee Meetings where they are unable to claim expenses from elsewhere;
- Members of the WASACRE Executive Committee, who are serving teachers, are eligible to claim supply cover costs to enable them to be released to attend meetings. The claim should be submitted to the Treasurer by the employing school and should represent actual costs;
- although there is some common membership, NAPfRE is a separate entity and WASACRE is unable to fund their meetings or expenses;
- where NAPfRE members are undertaking work on behalf of WASACRE, WASACRE will contribute to their expenses. Requests must be submitted, in advance, to the Treasurer, who will be given discretion to consider them in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair;
- WASACRE will, on occasion, pay fees for people to attend meetings or carry out work on professional working days if this has been agreed in advance. Requests must be submitted, in advance, to the Treasurer, who will be given discretion to consider them in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair. It is expected that there will be evidence of the work undertaken and this could be a paper or report following the meeting attended.

It is

**RECOMMENDED** that the above arrangements be approved for 2023/2024.

**WALES ASSOCIATION OF SACRES  
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/2023**

**RECEIPTS**

Annual Subscriptions 2021/2022 (3 SACRES at 480.00 per SACRE)	1440.00
Annual Subscriptions 2022/2023 (16 SACREs at 495.00 per SACRE)	7920.00
Payment from Welsh Government for work, carried out by WASACRE, at their request - informal review of agreed syllabi	4250.00
Bank Interest	<u>20.66</u>

Total Receipts	<b>13630.66</b>
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**EXPENDITURE**

Meeting Expenses:

Translation of Documents	1055.88
Taking Minutes of meetings	1294.55
Co-ordinating Secretary's Honorarium 2022/23	1500.00
Distribution of WASACRE document on Withdrawal from RE	306.88
Treasurer's Expenses:	44.24

Membership Subscriptions:

RE Council 2022/2023	99.00
EFTRE 2022	90.00
Interfaith Network 2022	<u>100.00</u>
	289.00
Bank Charges	70.00
Website Hosting	100.67

Total Expenditure	4661.22
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ADD Excess of Receipts over Expenditure	<u>8969.44</u>
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**13630.66**

**BALANCE SHEET AT 31/3/23**

Balance at 31/3/22	45502.79	
ADD		
Excess of Receipts over Expenditure	<u>8969.44</u>	
Balance at 31/3/23		<u>54472.23</u>

Represented by:

Bank Balances at 31/3/23:

Business Money Manager Account	5511.37	
Charitable Bank Account	<u>49105.77</u>	54617.14

LESS

2 cheques drawn and not presented on 31/3/23

44.24	
<u>100.67</u>	
	<u>144.91</u>

54472.23

**Inspected and found correct:**

Signed: .....  .....  
I.F.A.

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023



## **Aelodaeth Pwyllgor Gwaith CCYSAGauC / Membership of WASACRE Executive Committee 2023/2024**

Cadeirydd / Chair – Rev. Dr Tania ap Sion (Wrecsam / Wrexham)

Is-Gadeirydd / Vice Chair – Rev. Edward J. Evans (Pen-y-bont / Bridgend)

Ysgrifennydd / Secretary – Alice Parry (Pen-y-bont / Bridgend)

Ysgrifennydd Cynorthwyol / Assistant Secretary - Libby Jones (Wrecsam / Wrexham)

Trysorydd / Treasurer – John Mitson (Powys)

Cyn-Gadeirydd diweddaraf / Immediate Past Chair – Rachel Samuel (CNP / Neath Port Talbot)

Cynrychiolydd o PYCAG / Representative of NAPfRE – Paula Webber

### **Aelodau cyffredinol / Executive members:**

Kathy Riddick - Blaenau Gwent /Blaenau Gwent (2021-2024)

Vicky Barlow - Sir y Fflint / Flintshire (2022- 2025)

Louise Brown - Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire (2022-2025)

Mathew Maidment - Rhondda Cynon Taff / Rhondda Cynon Taf (2022-2025)

Jennie Downes - Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire (2023-2026)

Marged Williams and Tyler Saunders - Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan (2023-2026) \*

\*rhannu swydd / job share

**Attendance**

<p><b>Ynys Môn / Anglesey</b> Owen Davies (OD)</p> <p><b>Blaenau Gwent</b> Chris Abbas (CA) Hayley Jones (HJ)</p> <p><b>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend</b> Alice Parry (AP) Donna Graves (DG)</p> <p><b>Caerffili/ Caerphilly</b> John Taylor (JT) Marina Chacon-Dawson (MCD) Hayley Jones (HJ)</p> <p><b>Caerdydd / Cardiff</b> John Taylor (JT) Donna Graves (DG)</p> <p><b>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire</b> Jennifer Harding Richards (JHR)</p> <p><b>Ceredigion</b> Keith Evans (KE) Mary Davies (MD)</p> <p><b>Conwy</b> Phil Lord (PL) Collette Owen (CO) Ellie Chard (EC)</p>	<p><b>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire</b> Phil Lord (PL) Geraint Davies (GD) Leah Crimes (LC) James Brown (JB) Ruth Thackray (RT)</p> <p><b>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire</b> Vicky Barlow (VB) Lyn Oakes (LO)</p> <p><b>Gwynedd</b> Paul Rowlinson (PR) Eurfryn Davies (ED)</p> <p><b>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil</b> Donna Graves (DG)</p> <p><b>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire</b> Louise Brown (LB) Hayley Jones (EAS) Suzanne Gooding (SG)</p> <p><b>Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot</b> Nia Jenkins (NJ) Rachel Samuel (RS)</p> <p><b>Casnewydd / Newport</b> Hayley Jones (HJ) Huw Stephens (HS)</p>	<p><b>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire</b> Jennifer Harding Richards (JHR)</p> <p><b>Powys</b> John Mitson (JM)</p> <p><b>Rhondda Cynon Taf</b> Mathew Maidment (MM) Donna Graves (DG)</p> <p><b>Abertawe / Swansea</b> Jennifer Harding Richards (JHR)</p> <p><b>Torfaen</b> Hayley Jones (HJ)</p> <p><b>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan</b> Kathy Riddick (KR) Donna Graves (DG)</p> <p><b>Wrecsam / Wrexham</b> Tania ap Siôn (TS) Libby Jones (LJ)</p> <p><b>NAPfRE</b> Paula Webber (PW)</p>	<p><b>Observers:</b></p> <p><b>REMW</b></p> <p><b>WJEC</b> Chris Owens (CO)</p> <p><b>Estyn</b> Aranwen Morgans-Thomas (AMT)</p> <p><b>Welsh Government</b></p> <p><b>Church in Wales</b></p> <p><b>Catholic Education Service</b> Angela Keller (AK)</p> <p><b>Minutes (from recording)</b> Jo Nicholls (JNI)</p>
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## **Minutes of the meeting**

### **1. Introduction and welcome**

TaS welcomed everyone to the summer meeting and thanked the Denbighshire Local Authority and SACRE/SAC for hosting the meeting. TaS welcomed and introduced the Head of Education Service for Denbighshire, Geraint Davies.

Geraint Davies formally welcomed everyone to the meeting. Geraint introduced the meeting with the following:

The curriculum has gone through a great deal of change over the last few years. Religion, Values and Ethics has taken the place of Religious Education. The law has formalised the inclusion of non-religious philosophical convictions and the voluntary aided sector now must have regard to a locally agreed syllabus also.

These changes have been a challenge to our schools, with every challenge comes exciting opportunities for staff to be creative to provide a truly local curriculum. The opportunities to ensure that RVE feeds into the four purposes is integral to the new Curriculum for Wales. These changes allow our pupils to be healthy confident individuals and have secure values and establish their spiritual and ethical beliefs. These opportunities help shape them to become ethically informed citizens and to respect the rights and needs of others in our diverse society.

Geraint Davies gave examples of Denbighshire's history with regards to faith and belief and reflected on how it will change in the future.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century has seen great advancement in technology and that has impacted and continues to impact on our lives.

There is a need to equip our young people with the skills to critically engage with beliefs and the benefits from the society they live in and embrace the increasingly intercultural communities that we all serve.

TaS thanked Geraint Davies for his introduction and for hosting the meeting.

### **2. Quiet reflection**

In May 2023, LJ and TaS represented WASACRE at the NASACRE conference in London. NASACRE were celebrating 30 years of the Association, supporting the SACREs of England.

Even though it is clear that the education systems in Wales and England are becoming increasingly different there is a distinctive common history which is worth celebrating. A history centred on the significant local role given to SACREs and SACs for RVE and collective worship. A history in which during the last 3 decades a national association has been formed to the work for SACREs and SACs recognising both the value of the local but also the strength and support that comes with working together at a national level.

TaS led a quiet reflection, when members were asked to pause briefly and bring to mind their own local authorities that they were representing today. What have they got to offer to this meeting and the AGM today? What is that they can take back home with them to share?

### **3. Apologies**

Apologies from the Executive Committee member, Edward Evans, Elin Stock and Kate Russell from Qualification Wales.



#### 4. Minutes of the last meeting held on Zoom on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Amendments to be made:

Page 1 Change Microsoft TEAMS to Zoom.  
Page 2 JHR to be included as representing Carmarthenshire.  
Page 9 Regional RE Hubs – changes to be made, TaS to forward exact details to Alice:

- Delete first sentence of the second paragraph.
- Misspelling of AREIAC and AULRE
- RE Today needs to be removed from the list of steering group organisations. (RE Today has not been on the steering group, rather 'the Regional RE Hubs is enable and supported by RE Today).
- NATRE can be added to the list as can TRS-UK and Culham St Gabriels.

With the above amendments, the minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023

RS proposed to accept the minutes and HS seconded.

TaS will sign the final minutes and AP will file the minutes.

#### 5. Matters arising from minutes of the last WASACRE meeting.

The name 'Regional RE Hubs' has changed to Regional RE Hubs UK.

Any other matters arising will be addressed in the agenda items of the meeting.

#### 6. Welsh Government matters:

- 1) The only meeting since the last report was about the informal agreed syllabus review which was completed at the end of March. Welsh Government (WG) has put on record its thanks to WASACRE for undertaking the review of the agreed syllabi and are now in the process of responding to it.

We have a date scheduled to meet with Welsh Government colleagues about this and about specific matters such as the changes that WASACRE have asked for the legal section on Hwb.

- 2) National professional learning update – WASACRE are producing national resources in partnership with the Welsh Government. WASACRE presented the first batch of the national professional learning playlists at the Policy Insight Event on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023. These have now been published on the WG Hwb. This event was well attended with over 100 attendees. It is recommended that all members visit the WG Hwb to view the playlists.

Work is continuing on the next batch of RVE resources and will soon be published in the early Autumn term. These will include RVE and cross-curricular skills – literacy, numeracy and digital competence, as well as a playlist for school governors.

A third batch of resources will cover pedagogy within RVE and RVE within the humanities.

#### 7. NAPfRE presentation: Emerging practice from a 'faith' school perspective [Leah Crimes – Headteacher, St Brigid's School, Denbigh]

Phil Lord, the Advisor for Denbighshire introduced the NAPfRE presentation. Leah Crimes (LC) is the Headteacher of St Brigid's School, Denbigh. St Brigid's is a school for 3-18 year olds, located on the outskirts of Denbigh. It is a faith school with a designated religious character. The school's trust designates the school's character as Roman Catholic, but it is not associated with the Catholic Education Service nor the Diocese of Wrexham. As a result, the school does not follow the Catholic Education Service's religious education curriculum directly.

St Brigid's has been working with Denbighshire SACRE/SAC and PL and the school has planned RVE with regard to the Welsh Government's guidance on RVE and Denbighshire's agreed syllabus and its own designated religious character.

LC presented a sample of work in relation to the RVE curriculum. She stressed that it was a work in progress and was not suggesting that it is best practice. It has been created having regard to the agreed syllabus and looking at the history of St Brigid's School. They are basing the school's Curriculum for Wales and RVE curriculum on their cynefin with the history of school and beyond Denbighshire, and including a range of pluralistic views. LC will be working with PL to refine and improve the curriculum for September. It is a new way of teaching and has been well received by learners up to year 7 who have enjoyed the authentic experience.

A copy of the presentation will be sent to the WASACRE members. LC is also happy to share resources.

TaS thanked LC for the inspiring presentation.

LW: Thanked LC for the presentation. Suggested that manmade climate change would be better linked with stewardship rather than veganism. In relation to the sanctity of life, as pro-life is considered to be a non-religious philosophical conviction in the European Court, this could be included accordingly. Although currently Humanism is secular, in the past there have been Christian Humanists, worth considering looking at this in more depth.

LC: Thanked LB and agreed that climate change would sit well with stewardship and agreed to look into pro-life. LC thanks LW for raising these two points and explained that certain aspects have been condensed in the presentation. Good points to help us to refine our curriculum.

PW: Thanked LC for the presentation and the deep thought that has been put into the curriculum design. PW asked, how, in a practical way, did they unpack the statements of what matters during the curriculum design process?

LC: They planned backwards and looked at how their children could understand those statements and made sure that they provided them with the skills and experiences in order to hit those statements. They use a program called Taith360 but are still deciding whether it is of benefit. It is a program that displays all curriculum areas and it is used as a planning tool. It assesses your curriculum and produces a colour-coded output of coverage of the statements of what matters.

KE: Requested a copy of the slides.

LC: Happy to share the slides with the members and happy to talk with KE's school in Ceredigion.

LB: Is St Brigid's School under voluntary control rather than voluntary aided?

LC: St Brigid's School is a Voluntary aided school.

TaS: Wished LC all the best as they continue on their journey.

**ACTION:** LC to send a copy of slides to the secretary for onward distribution to WASACRE members.

TaS explained that there was difficulty with the Welsh translation and the meeting was paused while a solution was found.

## 8. Qualification Wales (QW)

RS: The consultation closed on 14 June. To prepare for this the WASACRE Executive Committee produced a short video and shared the Executive Committee's draft response with SACREs/SACs. SACREs/SACs were encouraged to respond and to share the information with teachers within their local authorities.

The Executive Committee responded to the consultation on behalf of WASACRE using opinions and comments previously shared. The main foci of the response were:

- Noting that a specific qualification is needed for Religion, Values and Ethics for a number of reasons, such as those shared within the draft distributed to the SACREs/SACs.
- The importance of obtaining a qualification within a mandatory subject and its value to the learners was emphasised.
- It was shown how it would support the Curriculum for Wales and the four purposes.
- It was emphasised that it would also provide an opportunity for progression within Religion Values and Ethics up to the age of 16.
- Attention was drawn to the problem that the new GCSE starts in 2025 and there will be a box until 2027 until the full proposal starts to be taught. What can be done to respond to the gap?

The next steps will be to wait to hear the results of the consultation. It will depend on the number of responses and their comments whether a qualification is suggested by Qualifications Wales. If they were to develop a qualification it will be a short qualification on Religion, Values and Ethics which will sit within the foundation qualifications. We have emphasised that if such a qualification is developed it will need to be available from entry level standard up to level 2 to ensure opportunities for all learners. If such a qualification is developed we are sure that Qualifications Wales will be in touch to receive help and support from the members of WASACRE as they develop the qualification. We will update you on any developments when we hear more.

The final design of the new GCSE will be published for development by WJEC on the 26 June.

TaS: Hopefully QW has received a large number of responses, and this will affect the outcome. TaS emphasised the importance of responding to consultations. WASACRE provides support to SACREs and SACs when responding to consultations.

## 9. EFTRE conference [August 2023]

In March WASACRE agreed to fully fund one teacher to attend the conference in August. TaS confirmed that one expression of interest was received from Alice Parry, WASACRE Secretary. TaS delighted that AP would be able to attend and asked AP to report back to the members after the conference.

## 10. Up-dates:

- **Report from the Executive Committee held on 17 May 2023**

TaS – most things are covered on the agenda.

The Executive Committee agreed to hold a WASACRE conference in the coming school year. Planning has commenced and will involve national professional learning and case studies. WASACRE's aim is to create an exciting, cutting-edge event. As is usual practice, WASACRE will work with NAPfRE with regards to planning. WASACRE will fully fund the conference. It won't just take the form of a full conference day but there will be a series of online seminars in the lead up to the conference. These will all be free to member SACREs/SACs and their schools / practitioners. More information to be shared in the autumn term.

It had been agreed to award the WASACRE Assistant Secretary an honorarium in recognition of the enormous amount of work being conducted in this role.

- **Estyn**

TaS: In the spring meeting Estyn provided a helpful briefing paper on Estyn inspection guidance for schools.

AMT: Thanked WASACRE for inviting Estyn to the meeting and pleased to hear that the briefing paper was useful. AMT reported that Estyn is in the process of preparing the new inspection framework for 2024. The consultation is open on the Estyn website and AMT encouraged responses. Estyn will be happy to provide a brief update at the next meeting.

TaS expressed thanks to AMT and accepted Estyn's offer to feedback at the next meeting. TaS reinforced the importance of responding to consultations.

- **WJEC**

CO: Thanked WASACRE for the invite to the meeting. WJEC is in full examination mode until the end of July and cannot speak to the current examination summer series 2023.

CO confirmed that there has been a fall in the number of candidates across GSCE, AS and A level for Religious Studies.

CO's responsibility is only GSCE RS, and the results will be released on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Following up from RS's QW item, WJEC are waiting for the recent materials from QW from June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Worth noting that WJEC is in the process of appointing a subject advisor for RS and also looking for support to help with the writing of materials. The advert is displayed on the WJEC website. Looking for subject writers for the new specification. The remit is to help produce specification content in line with the qualification outline to produce assessment tasks, mark schemes etc. The deadline for applications is Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

In the Autumn Term, the Professional Learning (formally known as CPD) will include face-to-face events scheduled for Cardiff and Llandudno and there will be a **Cardarg** (1.25.53 mins) PL event schedule to take place in North Wales.

TaS thanked CO for the helpful update.

- **REC**

KR: It was the REC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the start of May. A big event was held at Conway Hall in London, home of The Ethical Union. There was a presentation from the Children's Commissioner for England who was an RE teacher herself.

At the meeting KR presented on the progress in Wales with the new curriculum and recognised that most of the RE community in England would like to be moving in the same direction as Wales and have strong support from the Government acknowledging the importance of SACREs and SACs.

At the end of April, the REC had a meeting with representatives from Welsh Organisations who are part of the REC: that is, WASACRE, REMW and Church in Wales. We were able to give them our perspective on whether we believe that the REC is a place for Wales to be represented as the two countries' curriculums are diverging so much. It was noted that it is important that the REC recognises Wales in everything it does and that it does not become an England-centric organisation.

REC will now work on how Wales can be represented more fully in the work that the REC does.

TaS thanks KR for the update.

- **EFTRE**

PL encourages everyone to look at the website; there are interesting country reports available. The one for Wales has been finalised and is waiting for upload to the website. There are also training videos available on the EFTRE website.

TaS: Thanked PL for representing WASACRE on the EFTRE board.

- **REMW**

No representative present.

- **NAPfRE**

NAPfRE met last week. It was PW's first meeting back and PL has been covering for her.

NAPfRE have also responded to the QW consultation in line with WASACRE's response. NAPfRE is delighted and excited that WASACRE are going ahead with the conference and is looking forward to fully participating in the planning process.

The working party groups were reinstated last week to look at the most pressing issues. As well as the termly meetings, NAPfRE are going to trial a meeting once a month with additional twilight sessions to work on projects. If there is anything that WASACRE members would like NAPfRE to look at, then please contact PW.

Four issues are identified for WASACRE to consider:

- 1) The group met last week to discuss the SACRE/SAC Annual Reports. NAPfRE would like WASACRE to write a letter to Welsh Government asking for an update on the status of the current 1996 and 2006 versions of the annual report guidance document produced by ACCAC. NAPfRE considers this document to be out of date in terms of language content, current practice, curriculum etc.

The WASCRE members agreed to this request.

- 2) WASACRE has a meeting with WG on a termly basis, with a NAPfRE representative. PW asked whether there is a meeting planned before the end of term to discuss the annual reports.

TaS mentioned that WASACRE have a meeting scheduled with a specific agenda but will be in touch with PW to see what can be included in the time limit of that meeting.

- 3) NAPfRE recently discussed the nature of RVE in the new curriculum and how it was developed in the writing process and how it was written to be a rigorous subject discipline which has parity with the other humanities disciplines. This led NAPfRE to consider undertaking a piece of work which would tackle the myths and misconceptions which have risen, or potentially could arise around RVE. PW wondered whether WASACRE would be interested in this document 'myths and misconceptions' maybe an FAQ to be displayed on the website?

TaS stated that WASACRE would be interested to see the document once developed. WASACRE members agreed.

- 4) During the recent meeting DG in liaison with HJ produced a playlist for members of SACRE/SAC in order to help them to provide PL on their roles and responsibilities. DG asked NAPfRE to quality assure the playlist. PW wondered whether it would be of interest for WASACRE to house this on the website or share with other SACREs/SACs so they can access this playlist.

TaS: This sounds like a very welcome resource. It might also be useful to look at whether it can join a relevant area on the Welsh Government Hwb.

LB: Recalls the question of the Free Church Council guidance and the discussion about whether WASACRE could put this on its website also. It will be useful to look at the playlist first.

It is recognised that there is a whole process of quality assurance for Hwb and WASACRE would play a role in this given the playlist focus.

NAPfRE also discussed the document 'So you are thinking of joining your local SACRE' this was updated by RS and PW a while ago, but it requires a rewrite because legislation has been changed. Is it the right time to update this document.

TaS: Agrees that this is the right time and suggests going ahead.

**ACTION:** WASACRE members to contact PW with anything they would like NAPfRE to work on.

## - IFN

LJ reported that the [Interfaith week](#) takes place from 12<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023. IFN are keen to have schools and organisations preparing early and to start thinking about how to use this week as a platform to highlight and deepen interfaith religion and belief dimensions of their work. Lots of activity ideas on the [Interfaith](#) website.

The Development of Levelling up Housing Communities will no longer be funding IFN and hasn't since April 2023. IFN's Board of Trustees and staff are working to address this challenging situation and the Board has met on a weekly basis to carefully review the financial position taking appropriate steps so that IFN's vital work can continue. They have asked for member bodies to write to ministers and other public figures to show support for the IFN.

TaS: This request will be taken back to WASACRE Executive Committee to consider writing a letter and to whom.

CA: Suggested to contact Interfaith Council for Wales for more localised news on Interfaith week.

## 11. Correspondence

- Email from CA with a flyer about a short video pilot project for young people.

CA: This is an initiative from the Interfaith Council for Wales requesting young people to create short films around service to community, in anyway way they wish. The endeavour is to show these at some stage to celebrate the organisation's 20+ anniversary this year.

TaS: Thanked CA for sharing this initiative and suggested that advisors might want to take this to their local SACREs and SACs and identify schools that might want to take part in it.

- Email from NAPfRE regarding the 4 points raised in item 6.

**12. Any other business (to be agreed in advance of the meeting with the Chair)**

HS: On behalf of the Committee, HS thanked TaS as Chair and the Executive Committee members for their representation at meetings and reporting on behalf of WASACRE. This all involves considerable time and it is very important that this expertise is been given on their behalf.

TaS: Thanked HS for his support and acknowledgment.

**13. Date for next meeting: Autumn Term,**

This will be a Zoom meeting on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 hosted by RCT.

TaS thanked Denbighshire local authority for hosting the meeting. The meeting ended at 11.50pm.

DRAFT

Dear Clerks to SACRE/ SACs,

The consultation on the proposed new GCSE Religious Studies qualification (first teaching 2026) is being opened today on the WJEC website. It is important for practitioners to be aware of the consultation and to share their views on the proposals through the online survey.

Therefore, please can you share the links below with your SACRE/SAC and teaching practitioners.

Link to consultation document: [gcse-religious-studies-qualification-outline-consultation-version-e.pdf \(wjec.co.uk\)](#)

Link to feedback survey: [Made-for-Wales GCSEs and related qualifications: subject outline consultation GCSE: RELIGIOUS STUDIES Survey \(surveymonkey.co.uk\)](#)



Dear Clerk to SACRE / SAC

WASACRE is putting together an exciting programme for its 2024 conference which will include free online interactive seminars, in addition to the physical conference day event. We would like to hear from your SAC about the kind of seminars you would like to be included.

We would be grateful to receive your responses through an online questionnaire (links below). Closing date: 30 November.

English:

<https://forms.office.com/e/u6HV5uNHY2>

Welsh:

<https://forms.office.com/e/23GF0c9RUG>