

**Standing Advisory Council
for Religious Education**

**GWYNEDD
ANNUAL REPORT**

September 2021 - August 2022

Head of the Education Department

Mr Garem Jackson

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SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SACRE's function in relation to Religious Education

A clear outline of SACRE's function is given in the Welsh Office Circular 10/94

SACRE advises the LEA on matters relating to the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship, and is responsible for the establishment of an ad hoc body, the Agreed Syllabus Conference, to produce or consider amendments to the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

1.1 Introduction by the Chairman

**Councillor Menna Baines
Chairman Gwynedd SACRE, 2021/2**

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SECTION 2: ADVICE TO GWYNEDD EDUCATION AUTHORITY

2.1 SACRE's Function in Relation to Religious Education

A clear outline of SACRE's function is given in the Welsh Office Circular 10/94.

SACRE advises the LEA on matters relating to the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship, and is responsible for the establishment of an ad hoc body, the Agreed Syllabus Conference, to produce or consider amendments to the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

2.2 The Agreed Syllabus

Gwynedd and Anglesey SACREs have adopted the 'National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education for 3 to 19 year old learners' as the Agreed Syllabus for Gwynedd and Anglesey (2008).

A SACRE's main function is '*...to advise the Authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit.*'

Education Reform Act 1988 s.11 (1) (a)

As a result of the emergence of the Curriculum and Assessment Act (Wales) 2021 and the establishment of the Curriculum for Wales, the Agreed Syllabus Conference was held for Gwynedd SACRE on 15 February 2022. The unanimous decision of the Conference was to recommend that Gwynedd Council adopt the Welsh Government's Guidelines on Religion, Values and Ethics so that it would be operational from September 2022.

2.3 How Good Are Standards?

In previous years Gwynedd SACRE has monitored religious education standards and collective worship by:

- receiving a summary of a school's self-evaluation report in response to the key questions of ESTYN's Inspection Framework;
- analysing the Local Authority's teacher assessments and secondary examination results;
- reviewing ESTYN inspection reports for references to 'religious education' or 'collective worship';
- inviting teachers and head teachers to share their good practices with members in the termly meetings;
- visiting schools, through invitation at the moment, to attend a collective worship session.

2.3.1 Schools' Self-evaluation Reports

At the Gwynedd SACRE meeting on 9 February 2011 it was decided that SACRE would fulfil its statutory responsibilities by inviting schools to share their own evaluation of Religious Education, joint worship and the spiritual and moral development of pupils with the Members. Gwynedd SACRE, Headteachers and Members of the National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (PYCAG) have approved the templates drawn up in response to the ESTYN Inspection Framework (see Appendix 3.5). The Gwynedd SACRE Clerk, who is an Assistant Education Resources Officer with Gwynedd Council, is responsible for distributing and collecting the self-evaluations. Primary and secondary schools are asked to submit a summary of the school's self-evaluation to the attention of the Gwynedd SACRE clerk during the year when ESTYN inspects the school. Due to the Covid-19 situation, ESTYN's visits ended during March 2020 and no visit was carried out during the year from September 2020 to August 2021. From September 2021 to August 2022 ESTYN did not undertake a full inspection programme and some schools only volunteered to pilot revised inspection arrangements. Consequently no inspection reports were published for individual schools during the year. Gwynedd schools were not asked to provide self-evaluation as a result of this.

2.3.2 Teacher Assessment and External Examination Results in the Secondary Sector

KS3 teacher assessments and KS4 and KS5 external examination results were not discussed during the meetings held in 2021-2022.

2.4 Response of Local Authority

Mair Huws, Assistant Education Resources Officer for Gwynedd Council ensures that any guidance or recommendations made by Gwynedd SACRE is communicated to the primary and secondary head teachers and to Gwynedd Council.

Up until April 2018, Gwynedd Council commissioned GwE (School Effectiveness and Improvement Service) to support Gwynedd SACRE meetings and to represent Gwynedd SACRE in regional and national meetings. In March 2018, the Gwynedd SACRE clerk was notified that GwE would no longer be supporting Gwynedd SACRE.

During the year from September 2021 – August 2022 schools began rebuilding in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. It was also a year where both Primary and Secondary schools worked towards implementing the Curriculum for Wales from September 2022 (and September 2023 in the case of some Secondary schools). Education is therefore in the midst of a period of great change, which made it impossible to monitor standards within Religious Education during the year.

SACRE's recommendations to Gwynedd Education Authority

- Ensure that Gwynedd SACRE receives appropriate support and strategic leadership to discharge its duties as a statutory committee

2.5 Religious Education and the Welsh Government

The Welsh Government has published and distributed guidance documents to support RE teachers:

- <http://wales.gov.uk> > search for Religious Education
- The Agreed Syllabus (or the National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education in Wales)
- Religious Education: Guidance for KS2 and KS3 (2011)
- Exemplar Pupils Profiles at KS2 and KS3 in Religious Education: Supplementary Guidance (2011)
- Religious Education: Guidance for 14-19 year old learners (2009)
- People, Questions and Beliefs: Religious Education in the Foundation Phase (2013)
- Religious Education: Chief Moderator's Report 2012 (<http://cbac.co.uk>)

Curriculum for Wales

- During 2014-15, Professor Graham Donaldson was commissioned to undertake an independent review of the curriculum and assessment arrangements in Wales.
- The Wales Association of SACRES (WASACRE) is represented on the Welsh Government's Strategic Stakeholders Group and representatives from the National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (NAPfRE) have attended meetings during the year with representatives from the Welsh Government's Curriculum Department as they support the pioneer schools and develop a Curriculum for Wales.
- Extensive consultation work on the Guidelines took place from March 2020 onwards and the Wales Association of SACRES (WASACRE) was an integral part of this work. The fruits of the labour of the consultation that was held is the guidelines which have since been published by Welsh Government.
- The Curriculum and Assessment Act (Wales) 2021 established the Curriculum for Wales under the law, replacing the Basic Curriculum (that includes, for example, national and local curricula noted in Part 7 of the Education Act 2002).
- The Curriculum and Assessment Act (Wales) 2021 notes the four purposes of the curriculum under the law. It also notes the mandatory elements (which includes religion, values and ethics) that encompass the 3 to 16 years old learning continuum:

- The Curriculum for Wales came to force in Primary Schools on 1/09/22 and Secondary Schools are working towards implementation from September 2023 onwards (if they have not already implemented it).
- The guidance on RVE ([Religion, values and ethics guidance](#)) contained within the Humanities Area is statutory and published under section 71 of the Act and designed to assist those responsible under the Act for designing the RVE syllabus as part of the school curriculum

2.6 Religious Education and ESTYN

Gwynedd SACRE recommends the following resources to the area's RE teachers and head teachers:

- www.estyn.org.uk
- Religious Education in Secondary Schools (ESTYN, June 2013)
- Supplementary Guidance: collective worship in non-denominational schools (ESTYN, October 2017)
- Religious Education in Key stage 2 and Key stage 3 (ESTYN, June 2018)

SACRE's recommendations to Gwynedd Education Authority

- Ensure that schools and secondary RE teachers are aware of the findings of the ESTYN report and act on the recommendations.

2.7 SACRE's Function in Relation to Collective Worship

Welsh Office Circular 10/94 notes that the LEA should work with their SACRE to keep an eye on the daily collective worship provision, and should consider with it any steps which may be taken to improve such provision.

The collective worship must be "of a broadly Christian character". The "determination" procedure permits the suspension of these requirements in relation to some or all of the pupils in a school where they are deemed inappropriate.

- SACRE members and Gwynedd schools have received collective worship guidance documents:
 - 'Supplementary guidance for inspecting collective worship in non-denominational schools' (ESTYN, October 2017);
 - Guidance on Collective Worship (WASACRE, June 2013).
- Gwynedd SACRE monitors standard of collective worship by receiving and reviewing schools' self-evaluation reports during the meetings;
- No self-evaluation reports were received in 2021-2022 as no school was asked to prepare one.

Determinations

There was no request from any school for a determination in relation to collective worship

SACRE's Recommendations to Gwynedd Education Authority

- Ensure that schools conform to the statutory requirement for collective worship and provide quality collective worship sessions;
- Encourage schools to invite Gwynedd SACRE Members to attend collective worship sessions within the County's schools

SECTION 3: ANNEXES

3.1 General Information Regarding SACRE's Constitution

SACRE was established by Gwynedd Education Committee in 1996 to include:

Christians and Other Faiths, namely

- The Methodist Church
- The Union of Welsh Baptists
- The Presbyterian Church of Wales
- The Church in Wales
- Union of Welsh Independents
- The Catholic Church

Teachers, namely,

- Head Teachers Association (SHA)
- National Union of Teachers in Wales (UCAC)
- National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
- National Union of Teachers (NUT)
- Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)
- National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)

Elected Members

3.2 Gwynedd SACRE Membership 2021-22

Representatives of the Religious Denominations

The Methodist Church	<i>Awaiting nomination</i>
Union of Welsh Baptists	Eurfryn Davies
Presbyterian Church of Wales	Gwawr Maelor Williams
Church in Wales	Rebeka Davie-Tetmor followed by Naomi Wood
Union of Welsh Independents	<i>Awaiting nomination</i>
The Catholic Church	Eirian Bradley Roberts
Buddism	Dashu (Scott Smith)
Humanists	Edward Parri-Jones

Teachers' representatives

ASCL	<i>Awaiting nomination</i>
UCAC	<i>Awaiting nomination</i>
NASUWT	Mrs Catherine Davey
NUT	Miriam Amlyn Mrs
ATL	Mrs Heledd Jones
	<i>Awaiting nomination</i>
	Mr Noel Dyer
	Mrs Miriam Amlyn
	Mr Euron Hughes
	<i>awaiting nomination</i>

Local Authority Representatives

Councillor Paul Rowlinson	Plaid Cymru
Councillor E Selwyn Griffiths	Plaid Cymru
Councillor Menna Baines	Plaid Cymru
Councillor Judith Humphreys	Plaid Cymru
Councillor Elin Walker	Plaid Cymru
Councillor Menna Baines	Plaid Cymru
Councillor Medwyn Hughes	Independent
Councillor Dewi Wyn Roberts	Independent
Councillor Mike Stevens	Independent

Co-opted members (non voting)

Officers

Garem Jackson	Head of Education Department
Mair Huws	Assistant Education Resources Officer
	Democratic Services Officer
Sion Huws	The Council's Legal Representative
Einir Rh Davies	Democratic Services Officer

3.3 SACRE Meetings 2020-21

Dates of meetings may be obtained beforehand by contacting the SACRE Clerk. During 2021-2022, Gwynedd SACRE met three times via Zoom :

23 November 2021
1 February 2022
12 July 2022

The following matters were discussed and further details are provided in the minutes and in the main body of this report:

- a) **23 November 2021 meeting – no quorum present**
 - There was a comprehensive Presentation on the proposed Guidelines on Religion, Values and Ethics within the new Curriculum for Wales which was in draft form by Libby Jones from WASACRE
- b) **1 February 2022 meeting- no quorum present**
 - The Agreed Syllabus Conference for Religion, Values and Ethics which was to be held on 15/02/2022, was discussed. It was emphasized the need for members to attend the conference which would be led by Phil Lord from GwE
- c) **12 July 2022 meeting**
 - A new Chairman was elected (Councillor Menna Baines) and Councillor Paul Rowlinson was thanked for his tireless work over the five years he was Chairman.
 - The Education Department was asked, following the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 15/02/2022, to prepare a report for the attention of the Gwynedd Council Cabinet recommending the Agreed Syllabus as discussed at the Conference.

Gwynedd Agreed Syllabus Conference 15/02/2022

As a result of the emergence of the Curriculum and Assessment Act (Wales) 2021 and the establishment of the Curriculum for Wales, the Agreed Syllabus Conference was held for Gwynedd SACRE on 15 February 2022. The unanimous decision of the Conference was to adopt the Welsh Government's Guidelines on Religion, Values and Ethics.

3.3.1 Gwynedd SACRE has affiliated with the Wales Association of SACREs and its members regularly attend meetings held by WASACRE.

3.3.2 The following provide SACRE with professional support:

Garem Jackson	Head of Gwynedd Education Department
Mair Huws	Assistant education improvement officer and SACRE clerk
Einir Davies	Democratic Services Officer who administers SACRE on behalf of Gwynedd Council

Enquiries should be sent to the SACRE Clerk at the Education Department, Gwynedd Council, Caernarfon, Gwynedd. LL55 1SH

3.3.3 A list of Organisations that received a copy of the SACRE Report

Electronic copies of the annual report were distributed to the following:

- Department for Education and Skills, Welsh Government
- Head of Gwynedd's Education Department
- Gwynedd Council Leader

- Wales Association of SACREs
- Gwynedd schools

A copy was distributed also to :

- Members of Gwynedd SACRE

3.4 Record Sheet for Members of Gwynedd and Anglesey SACRE Members as they attend a collective worship session

Details to follow

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