

# Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Standing Advisory Council on  
Religious Education (SACRE)

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

Annual Report 2023-24



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

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>SECTION 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE/SAC</b>	
1.1 Duty to establish SACRE/SAC	<b>3</b>
1.2 Composition of SACRE/SAC	<b>3</b>
1.3 Membership of SACRE/SAC	<b>3</b>
1.4 Functions of SACRE/SAC	<b>3</b>
1.5 Records of Meetings	<b>4</b>
1.6 Circulation of Report	<b>4</b>
<b>SECTION 2: ADVICE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE), RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RS) AND RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS (RVE)</b>	
2.1 The Locally Agreed Syllabus	<b>5</b>
2.2 Standards in Religious Education (RE), Religious Studies (RS) and Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE)	<b>5</b>
2.3 Curriculum	<b>6</b>
2.4 Professional Learning and Resources for Practitioners	<b>7</b>
<b>SECTION 3: ADVICE ON THE DAILY ACT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP (DACW)</b>	
3.1 School Inspection Reports	<b>9</b>
3.2 Applications for Determinations	<b>9</b>
3.3 School Visits	<b>9</b>
<b>SECTION 4: SUMMARY OF OTHER AREAS</b>	
4.1 WASACRE	<b>10</b>
4.2 National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (NAPfRE)	<b>10</b>
4.3 Training of SACRE/SAC Members	<b>10</b>
4.4 Youth Voice for RVE, RE, RS and DACW	<b>11</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1: SACRE/SAC MEMBERSHIP 2023-2024</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2: SCHEDULE AND AGENDA OF SACRE/SAC MEETINGS</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>APPENDIX 3: CIRCULATION OF SACRE/SAC REPORT</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>APPENDIX 4: CONSTITUTION OF SACRE/SAC</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>APPENDIX 5: PROFESSIONAL LEARNING, RESOURCES AND MATERIALS SHARED WITH PRACTITIONERS</b>	<b>21</b>

## **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. Merthyr Tydfil SACRE and SAC will share membership and meet as one body with one constitution/Terms of Reference (ToR).

### **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 the two meetings were held via TEAMS (online):

- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 4.15pm (inquorate)
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 4:15pm (inquorate)
- Wednesday 3rd July 2024, 4:15pm (inquorate and cancelled)

A record of the main agenda items for these 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 (RE), RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RS) AND RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS (RVE)**

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

In February 2022, the LA re-adopted its legacy agreed syllabus for RE. In 2022 the Merthyr Tydfil 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)**

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

- Practitioners are invited, when in attendance to meetings, 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, RS, RE 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, RS, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) and the daily act of collective worship (DACW). In 2023-24, the inspection findings of two non-maintained nursery settings and three primary schools that were considered by Merthyr Tydfil SACRE/SAC in the spring term meeting of 2024. The summer 2024 meeting did not take place due to inactivity, despite the advice of CSCJES Associate Advisor and the sustained efforts of the LA Officer to develop the SACRE/SAC membership, especially the teaching union representatives, and so further inspection reports were not considered. 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 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 will continue to be ongoing in terms of monitoring the curriculum provision, pedagogy and standards in these areas.

SACRE/SAC continues to recommend 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 has discussed the Qualification Wales (QW) consultations and decisions made regarding a new GCSE RS (for the 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 qualifications in religious studies, 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 GCSE 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 advises practitioners to engage with WJEC advisory groups in discussing the new qualification for 2025.

Through the CSCJES practitioner networks, schools were updated on the changes to the 'teaching from 2025' GCSE specifications for Religious Studies.

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

Merthyr Tydfil SACRE/SAC continues to provide 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 continues to acknowledge and support 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 the autumn and spring term meetings. The summer term briefing paper was produced by the CSCJES Associate Advisor, but it was not presented or discussed due to the inaccuracy of the summer term meeting, that meant the meeting did not go ahead.

- 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, the Agored Cymru 'Exploring Worldviews' course, RVE within the humanities area of learning experience (AoLE), and developing links and connections with other subjects. At these meetings, schools have shared their approaches to curriculum design, progression, Philosophy for Children (P4C), and developing links between religion and science as part of a funded project with the Faraday Institute of Cambridge University, primary network opportunities focused on designing the RVE and humanities curriculum, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources.
- 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 the LA schools, upon request. Specific RVE bespoke support was provided to one school in Merthyr Tydfil in 2023-24. The support focused upon curriculum design for RVE and planning. There was also humanities bespoke support, which included RVE in content, which was provided to one other school in Merthyr Tydfil. There were cluster support events on offer but there were not any requests for cluster support for RVE or humanities during 2023-2024.

- 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 Merthyr Tydfil. 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. Seven practitioners, from Merthyr Tydfil LA, engaged in professional learning specifically for RVE and another seven engaged with professional learning for humanities (including RVE) during the academic year of 2023-24. These practitioners are representatives from six out of the twentyfive schools in the Merthyr Tydfil local authority, which equates to 24%.



## **SECTION 3: ADVICE ON THE DAILY ACT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP (DACW)**

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 available to individual schools in Merthyr Tydfil via the CSCJES Associate Advisor.

CSCJES has introduced 'drop-in' sessions for DACW. Individual, and groups of schools in Merthyr Tydfil can book meetings to receive bespoke support for DACW, at their convenience.

SACRE/SAC and schools in the LA were made aware of additional guidance for DACW through CSCJES networks, professional learning, and community areas:

- [Daily Act of Collective Worship \(DACW\): Meeting the Legislative Requirements](#)
- [Resources to support school self-evaluation of provision for the Daily Act of Collective Worship \(DACW\)](#)
- [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, from the autumn and spring term meetings, not the summer term due to inquiracy and not taking place, 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. 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 Merthyr Tydfil LA for determinations in 2023-24.

### **3.3 School visits**

Merthyr Tydfil SACRE/SAC have welcomed presentations on DACW from schools, practitioners, and learners in their 2023-2024 meetings. The meetings but did not receive any presentations on DACW in the autumn or spring meetings. The monitoring of DACW will be further explored, once Merthyr Tydfil SACRE/SAC becomes quorate.

## **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. At Merthyr Tydfil SACRE/SAC the CSCJES Associate Advisor and three other SACRE/SAC members from the LA are permitted to attend WASACRE meetings, to a maximum of four members from each LA. The LA was also represented at the national WASACRE RVE Conference of 2024 through the CSCJES Associate Advisor. They delivered a professional learning workshop on Philosophy for Children (P4C) and a free live webinar for new SACRE/SAC members, at the request of WASACRE. This webinar is now available to download via the WASACRE website.

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

Merthyr Tydfil SACRE/SAC was fully represented on NAPfRE by the CSCJES Associate Advisor for RE/RS/RVE and SACRE/SAC. Merthyr Tydfil SACRE/SAC has been informed of developments across Wales and has played a crucial role in informing decisions and policies that affect RE, RVE and RS. 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. Merthyr Tydfil SACRE/SAC has also received updates, reports and information this year through NAPfRE, from Estyn, and Welsh Government relating to RVE, RS and RE.

### **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, RE, RS and DACW**

Merthyr Tydfil SACRE/SAC explored how to hear youth voice, considering forums already in place or how the setting up youth representation through a cross-regional Youth Voice forum may work, without putting pressure on practitioners. 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, RE, RS and DACW forum has been set up and an initial meeting has been held in the July of 2024. Merthyr Tydfil schools are not yet represented on the forum, and it is hoped that learners from the LA will contribute their views and experiences of RE/RVE/DACW through the Youth Voice for RE/RS/RVE and DACW forum or through existing forums. There will be termly meetings of the Youth Voice for RE, RS, RVE and DACW in the next academic year and following each meeting feedback from this forum will be provided to Merthyr Tydfil SACRE/SAC at the following termly meetings.

Merthyr Tydfil SACRE/SAC welcomes correspondence via the contact below.

The Clerk to SACRE/SAC: Sharon.Davies@merthyr.gov.uk

## APPENDIX 1: Merthyr Tydfil SACRE/SAC Membership Academic Year 2023-24

### APPENDIX 1: Merthyr Tydfil SACRE/SAC MEMBERSHIP Academic Year 2023-24

#### Local authority – Committee C

Councillor Ian Thomas	Local Authority
TBC	Local Authority

#### Teacher associations – Committee B

Sian Bernard-Henderson	National Union of Teachers
<b>Vacancy</b>	NAS/UWT
<b>Vacancy</b>	NAS/UWT
<b>Vacancy</b>	Association of College Managers
<b>Vacancy</b>	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
Jemma Davies	RE Teacher's Association
<b>Vacancy</b>	UCAC
<b>Vacancy</b>	Secondary Heads Association
Judith Edwards	NAHT

#### Religious denominations and Non-religious philosophical convictions – Committee A

<b>Vacancy</b>	Roman Catholic Church
Ann Star	Presbyterian Church/United Reform Church (URC)
The Revd. Marc-Aston Walford	Church in Wales
<b>Vacancy</b>	Salvation Army
<b>Vacancy</b>	Evangelical Church
Sheila Gewolb	Judaism
<b>Vacancy</b>	Islam
<b>Vacancy</b>	Buddhism
<b>Vacancy</b>	Hinduism/Sanatana Dharma
<b>Vacancy</b>	Sikhism/Sikhi
Andrew Chyba	Humanism

#### LA Officers

Andrea May	MTCBC Education Representative
Sharon Davies	Clerk to SACRE
Donna Graves	CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RVE/RS and SACRE/SAC

## APPENDIX 2: Merthyr Tydfil SACRE/SAC Meetings and Main Agenda Items

**Autumn Meeting: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 4:15pm**

**Venue: TEAMs (Online)**

**This meeting was inquorate. The discussions went ahead but no voting took place.**

Item	Agenda	Lead	Papers
1	<b>Welcome and apologies (SACRE/SAC)</b>	MJ	
2	Declaration of Interest Members are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and prejudicial interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 relating to Council Tax, the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct Note: (a) Members are reminded that they must identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest and (b) Where Members withdraw from a Meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they must notify the Chair when they leave	MJ	
3	<b>SACRE/SAC</b> 3.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair (SACRE/SAC) 3.2 SACRE/SAC membership 3.3 SACRE/SAC ToR/Constitution (Voting)	AM AM/ Clerk AM/DG	3.3 ToR draft
4	<b>Minutes</b> 4.1 Minutes meeting Monday, 20 March 2023 (SACRE/SAC) 4.2 Notes meeting Thursday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023 (SACRE/SAC – INQUORATE)	Chair/ AM	4.1 Minutes 4.2 Notes
5	<b>Matters arising (SACRE/SAC)</b>	Chair/AM	
6	<b>Notification for any AOB (SACRE/SAC)</b>	Chair	
7	<b>Briefing Paper (SACRE/SAC)</b>	DG	7.1
8	<b>Annual Report (SACRE/SAC) (Voting)</b>	DG	8

<b>9</b>	<b>WASACRE (SACRE/SAC)</b> 9.1 WASACRE minutes summer 2023, 19/06/23 9.2 Draft minutes AGM 2023 9.3 Agenda autumn 2023, 25/10/2023 9.4 Advice from WG on use of data by SACRE/SAC 9.5 WASACRE Conference 2024	DG DG DG DG DG	9.1 9.2 9.3 9.4
<b>10</b>	<b>Schedule for future meetings (SACRE/SAC)</b> 10.1 Spring 2024 - TBC 10.2 Summer 2024 - TBC 10.3 Autumn 2024 - TBC	Chair Chair Chair	
<b>11</b>	<b>Suggestions for agenda items for spring 2024 (SACRE/SAC)</b>	Chair	
<b>12</b>	<b>AOB (SACRE/SAC)</b>	Chair	

**Spring Meeting: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 4:15pm**

**Venue: TEAMs (Online)**

**This meeting was inquorate. The discussions went ahead but voting took place.**

	Agenda Item	Person	Papers
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and apologies (SACRE/SAC)</b>	Chair	
<b>2.</b>	<b>(SACRE/SAC)</b> Declaration of Interest Members are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and prejudicial interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 relating to Council Tax, the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct Note:  (a) Members are reminded that they must identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest and (b) Where Members withdraw from a Meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they must notify the Chair when they leave	Chair	

3.	<b>Elections (SACRE/SAC)</b> 3.1 Chair 3.2 Vice-chair	<b>LA Officer</b>																	
4.	<b>Minutes (SACRE/SAC) and Matters Arising</b> 4.1 Minutes Monday, 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2023 4.2 Notes Thursday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023 (Inquorate) 4.3 Notes Wednesday, 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 (Inquorate)	<b>Chair</b>	4.1 4.2 4.3																
5.	<b>Updates (SACRE/SAC)</b> 5.1 Membership and attendance to meetings 5.2 SACRE/SAC TOR/Constitution 5.3 Annual Report Distribution	<b>Chair</b>	5.2 5.3																
6.	<b>Merthyr Tydfil Briefing Report (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Advisor</b>	6. Briefing Report																
7.	<b>Estyn Inspection Summaries (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Advisor</b>	7. Estyn Inspection Summary																
8.	<b>WASACRE (SACRE/SAC)</b> 8.1 Minutes of autumn term meeting 8.2 Spring term meeting – 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 8.3 Conference – 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 (Wrexham) 8.4 WASACRE Exec. Nominations	<b>Advisor</b>	8.1 Draft minutes  8.3 WASACRE Conference flyers 8.4 Nominations																
9.	<b>Youth Voice (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Advisor</b>	9. PPT on Youth Voice																
10.	<b>Schedule of future meetings: (SACRE/SAC)</b> <table border="1" data-bbox="395 1290 912 1581"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Meeting Date</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Time</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Summer 2024</td> <td>TBC</td> <td>TBC</td> <td>4.15pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Autumn 2024</td> <td>TBC</td> <td>TBC</td> <td>4.15pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spring 2025</td> <td>TBC</td> <td>TBC</td> <td>4.15pm</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Meeting Date	Location	Time	Summer 2024	TBC	TBC	4.15pm	Autumn 2024	TBC	TBC	4.15pm	Spring 2025	TBC	TBC	4.15pm	<b>Chair</b>	
	Meeting Date	Location	Time																
Summer 2024	TBC	TBC	4.15pm																
Autumn 2024	TBC	TBC	4.15pm																
Spring 2025	TBC	TBC	4.15pm																
11.	<b>Recommendations/suggestions to the LA? (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Chair</b>																	
12.	<b>AOB (SACRE/SAC)</b>	<b>Chair</b>																	

**Summer Meeting: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 at 4:15pm**

**Venue: TEAMs (Online)**

**This meeting did not take place at the advice/request of the LA due to continued inquoracy.**



### **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 Merthyr Tydfil SACRE and SAC
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Democratic Services
- All Merthyr Tydfil County Borough schools
- Welsh Government
- Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE)
- National Library, Aberystwyth
- Estyn
- Central South Consortium Joint Education Services (CSCJES)

This document will be made available to the public via the Wales Association of SACRE's (WASACRE) website to any other interested individuals or organisations.

## **APPENDIX 4: CONSTITUTION OF SACRE/SAC**

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

#### **Revised for 2022-23 academic year onwards**

The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) in Merthyr Tydfil 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 Merthyr Tydfil is established in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 (see Annex 1).

#### **Constitution**

##### **Terms of reference**

1. To advise the LA on matters connected with collective worship in county schools.
2. To advise the LA on matters connected with religious education or religion, values and ethics which is given in accordance with the agreed syllabus.
3. To decide when, within the five year statutory time scale, the LA should review its agreed syllabus.
4. To consider with the LA and the Agreed Syllabus Conference any changes required to the agreed syllabus.
5. To consider with the LA the support offered to religious education and religion, values and ethics in its schools, with particular regard to methods of teaching, the choice of teaching materials and the provision of training for teachers.
6. To offer advice on any other matters related to its function as it sees fit.
7. To publish an annual report on its work, which should:
  - a. specify any matters on which it has advised the LA;
  - b. broadly describe the nature of the advice;
  - c. set out its reasons for offering advice on any matters which were not referred to it in the first place by the LA; and
  - d. record the membership of SACRE/SAC and the dates of meetings held.
8. To participate in the LA's statutory complaints procedures in those instances where the complaints relate to religious education or religion, values and ethics and/or collective worship.
9. To receive and make determinations in respect of applications from headteachers of county schools for the lifting or modifying of the requirements that collective worship in such schools must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

##### **Composition**

10. The council shall comprise three groups representing:
  - a. Such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the Local Authority will appropriately reflect the religious traditions in the area and also such persons who represent holders of non-religious beliefs in the same way as they permit the

appointment of persons who represent holders of religious beliefs; (section 390(4)(a) of, and paragraph 4(2)(1) of Schedule 31 to, the 1996 Act and in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021).

b. Such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the LA, ought to be represented having regard to the circumstances of the area.

c. The LA.

11. The Council may also co-opt members.

12. Membership of the Council shall be for a period of four years. Any outgoing members may be re-appointed.

13. Membership of the Council is subject to the condition that the LA has taken all reasonable steps to assure itself that the persons appointed are representative, as the case may be, of the denominations, associations or non-religious belief group in question.

14. Members representing associations of teachers must include teachers of religious education and/or religion, values and ethics.

15. Individuals may be removed from the Council if they cease to be representative of the denomination, association or of the Authority they were appointed to represent.

16. Any member of the Council may at any time resign his or her office.

17. Any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without apology will cease to be a member. An individual who is so disqualified shall not be precluded from being reappointed by the appropriate nominating body.

#### Proceedings

18. The LA will appoint a clerk to SACRE/SAC.

19. The Council shall meet not less than once in each school term.

20. The Council shall elect from its membership a chairperson and vice chairperson at the first meeting in each academic year. The chairperson and vice chairperson in any one year shall not be drawn from the same representative group. An outgoing chairperson may be re-appointed.

21. If both the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson are absent from a meeting, a person to take the Chair for the meeting shall be appointed upon the collective consent of the members present at the meeting. Should the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson arrive during the rest of the meeting, the appointed substitute will hand over to them as soon as the time under discussion on their arrival is completed.

22. On any question to be decided by the Council only the representative groups on the Council shall be entitled to vote, and each group shall have a single vote. Before a formal vote is taken opportunity shall be given to each representative group to determine how its vote is to be cast.

23. Co-opted members are not entitled to vote.

24. The agenda for each meeting shall be determined by the chairperson and vice chairperson in consultation with the advisor to SACRE/SAC, clerk and LA Professional Officer. Any voting member of SACRE/SAC shall be entitled to propose items for an agenda.

25. The SACRE/SAC may, if it so wishes, arrange the attendance at a meeting of a specialist speaker who is not a member of the SACRE/SAC.

26. Each or any of the representative groups may request to SACRE/SAC, who will need to agree, the attendance of a specialist speaker who is not a member of the SACRE/SAC, but only for the period during which any relevant matter is under consideration and provided that at least ten working days' notice of such requirement is given to the Clerk for inclusion in the agenda for the meeting.

27. In the case of any member not being able to attend a Council meeting, a substitute may be nominated by the body which that person represents, provided that the substitute meets the eligibility criteria and the Education Directorate of the LA is notified in advance of the meeting.

28. A meeting of the Council will be deemed to be quorate if at least one member of each of the three representative groups is present.

29. The validity of proceedings of the Council shall not be affected:  
a. by a vacancy in the office of any member of the Council or  
b. on the grounds that a member of the Council appointed to represent any denomination or association does not, at the time of the proceedings, represent the denomination or association in question.

30. The representative groups on the Council, other than that representing the Authority, may call, at any time, for a review of the agreed syllabus current in the Authority. At such time an Agreed Syllabus Conference shall be constituted and convened.

31. The Council shall consider its annual report at the first meeting to be held in each academic year. Upon the Council's ratification of the report it shall proceed to publication.

32. The clerk to the SACRE/SAC shall arrange for copies of the annual report to be sent to all county schools within the Authority, to DfES, the National Library and to such other individuals and institutions as the LA sees fit.

## **ANNEX 1**

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

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

## 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 Merthyr Tydfil 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 (RE), Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) and Religious Studies (RS)
- [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 – [primary](#); [secondary](#)
- 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 resource links – [Primary](#); [Secondary](#)
- '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 – [primary](#); [secondary](#)
- RVE, Diversity and Anti-Racism resources – [primary](#); [secondary](#)
- Non-religious philosophical convictions playlist [here](#)
- Mapping and progression in RVE – [primary](#); [secondary](#)
- Teaching Challenging and Sensitive Issues – [primary](#); [secondary](#)
- 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, Santana Dharma/Hindu 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:**

- Merthyr Tydfil 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