

Neath Port Talbot County Borough
Council Standing Advisor Council for
Religious Education (SACRE) / Standing
Advisor Council for Religion Values and
Ethics (SAConRVE)

Annual Report 2022-2023



SACRE

**Neath Port Talbot Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education/Religion,
Values and Ethics
ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023**

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Forward by Chair of Neath Port Talbot SACRE/SAConRVE – Councillor Nia Jenkins

It is my great pleasure to present you with this Annual Report from Neath-Port Talbot SACRE, which outlines our work in the academic year, 2022 – 2023.

It has been a busy and productive year and we owe a debt of gratitude to the work of the teachers in the Authority, Vice Chair, Council Officers and our members.

Meeting in person, after the restrictions faced during the pandemic, has enabled us to discuss and plan ongoing work and to address the developments within Religious Education – including the launching of the Curriculum for Wales Religion, values and ethics in our Secondary School, following the successful roll-out in our Primary Schools.

I would like to formally thank our recent Vice Chair and former Headteacher of St Joseph's Catholic School and Sixth Form Centre, Eugene Scourfield, for his steadfast dedication and hard work on behalf of NPT SACRE. His contribution to the group has been invaluable.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the committee for their dedication and enthusiasm as we look forward to our annual Holocaust Memorial Evening, which we are justly proud of.

Section 1: Information about SACRE/SAConRVE

1.1 Duty to establish a SACRE/SAConRVE

All local Education Authorities (LEAs) are required to constitute a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) with their local area.

1.2 Composition of SACRE/SAConRVE

The SACRE/SAConRVE shall comprise persons appointed by the local authority to represent respectively:

- a. Such Christian, other religious denominations and a group of persons to represent such non-religious philosophical convictions as, in the opinion of the LA, will appropriately reflect the principal religious and non-religious traditions in the area.
- b. Such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the LA, ought to be represented having regard to the circumstances of the area.
- c. Members of the LA.

The SACRE/SAConRVE may also include co-opted members.

1.3 Membership of SACRE/SAConRVE

The list of members of Neath Port Talbot SACRE/SAConRVE is set out in Appendix 1. Every effort has been made to seek representation from all noted religious and non-religious communities but SACRE/SAConRVE has experienced difficulties in finding such representation. The Advisor to SACRE/SAConRVE has extensively contacted the leading bodies of these organisations and continues to await responses. This work will continue in the next academic year to further develop the diversity within Neath Port Talbot SACRE/SAConRVE.

1.4 Functions of SACRE/SAConRVE

The function of the SACRE/SAConRVE is to advise the Local Authority (LA) on such matters connected with the provision of teaching and learning, under the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021, either in respect of the mandatory elements of RVE, or the post-compulsory education in maintained schools of optional RVE which includes:

- methods of teaching
- the choice of teaching materials
- the provision of teacher training.

In addition, the SAC may advise on any other matter the local authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit, such as:

- advise the LA on Collective Worship
- Develop and review the agreed syllabus on the request of the LA.

Under Education Acts, the LA must provide local arrangements for dealing with Complaints. The SAC on RVE will therefore consider complaints about the provision of or lack of provision of RVE.

1.5 Record of SACRE/SAConRVE Meetings

Three meetings of SACRE/SAConRVE were held at Baglan Education and Training centre, Elmwood Road, Baglan, Port Talbot during the academic year 2022-2023

- Wednesday 26th October 2022
- Wednesday 22nd March 2023
- Tuesday 13th June 2023

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

1.6 Circulation of the Annual Report

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

Section 2: Advice given by SACRE/SAConRVE

2.1 The Locally Agreed Syllabus

Neath Port Talbot Agreed syllabus conference (ASC) has fulfilled its legal requirement to review and agree the agreed syllabus for Religious Education during this academic year. Neath Port Talbot SACRE supports the syllabus put in place by the ASC. In January 2023 the ASC endorsed the re-adoption of the National Exemplar Framework as the Neath Port Talbot Agreed Syllabus for the remainder of the roll out of RVE within secondary schools.

Following the publication of the statutory guidance for RVE on Hwb on the 10th of January 2023 and the re-establishment of Neath Port Talbot SACRE/SAConRVE on the 1st of September 2022. SACRE/SAConRVE advised the LA of the need to convene the Agreed Syllabus Conference in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021.

Between September and December 2022, the ASC convened to produce a new agreed syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021, to be presented to Neath Port Talbot Council. In January 2023, Neath Port Talbot Council and SAConRVE adopted a new agreed syllabus for the authority's schools to be implemented from January 2023 for all primary school learners. For year 7 learners, schools in the county had flexibility on whether to roll out the Curriculum for Wales in September 2022, or to roll out the Curriculum for Wales for Years 7 and 8 together in September 2023. During the period of curriculum roll out, as a secondary school or setting 'adopts' the Curriculum for Wales Framework for a particular year group, the Neath Port Talbot Agreed syllabus will supersede the legacy Neath Port Talbot agreed syllabus.

The new agreed syllabus sets out the details regarding teaching and learning in the mandatory element of Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) in line with the Curriculum for Wales, for all schools and settings maintained by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. The document has been adopted as the agreed syllabus for RVE in Neath Port Talbot, in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council adopted the document as the agreed syllabus for RVE in January 2023, following a formal recommendation to the Local Authority by the Agreed Syllabus Conference in December 2022. Copies of the 2023 Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council agreed syllabus have been distributed to all schools within the county and are available from the SACRE Clerk.

2.2 Standards in Religious Education/ Religion, Values, and Ethics

SACRE/SAConRVE provided advice to the LA on standards in religious education. Changes to Welsh Government guidance on school performance data and reporting of Key Stage three assessment data has changed the way that SACRE/SAConRVE has been able to monitor school performance in RE in the secondary sector.

SACRE/SAConRVE has continued to consult Estyn reports for evidence of standards of RE/RVE provision, and no issues have been raised with regard to RE/RVE or Collective

Worship. Reports have generally spoken positively about the spiritual and moral development of learners.

2.3 Curriculum Developments

SACRE/SAConRVE has received termly updates from the county RVE Support Officer regarding curriculum developments as they relate to RE/RVE and Collective Worship. SACRE/SAConRVE have developed an understanding of their purpose and role as a council committee. A shared understanding of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 and the Curriculum for Wales has been developed in relation to RE/RVE. Focusing on the name change, the changes in the statutory requirements and the status of the locally determined agreed syllabus. SACRE/SAConRVE has been advised on the curriculum changes to RVE and have been updated on any developments from Welsh Government as they have happened during the academic year.

SACRE/SAConRVE have been advised on and discussed the proposed changes to the GCSE qualification within Religious Studies. It has responded to Qualifications Wales consultations on the GCSE offer and the full 14-16 qualifications offer. SACRE/SAConRVE has recognised the need for both a Religious Studies full course GCSE as an optional subject alongside a statutory qualification up to level 2 standard that will sit in the wider offer of qualifications.

Neath Port Talbot SACRE/SAConRVE will continue to provide supporting materials, in addition to the agreed syllabus, to support practitioners in their curriculum planning and pedagogy, offering breadth and depth of knowledge, skills and experiences for learners across the local authority. The RVE Support Officer has presented to primary headteachers to support with agreed understanding of RVE within in the Curriculum for Wales and how it can be implemented within their settings. Collective Worship was also discussed during this session. Additionally, the RVE Support Officer has begun delivering ADDS sessions to schools that have requested specific RVE support alongside those who have required some guidance via telephone conversations or email.

The RVE Support Officer attends and contributes to the secondary subject network meetings for RVE. This is an opportunity for RE/RVE leads to share good practice, to familiarise themselves with new resources, develop their shared understanding of RVE within the Curriculum for Wales, respond to relevant Welsh Government and Qualifications for Wales consultations as well as support each other with the teaching and learning of RE/RVE. There has been a focus on developing an agreed understanding of progression within these meetings. The team has now developed a draft statement of progression which will be returned to and further developed in the next academic year. SACRE/SAConRVE is updated on these meetings.

Neath Port Talbot SACRE/SAConRVE have also viewed, considered, and shared with school settings the resource developed by WASACRE funded by Welsh Government on 'What is new in RVE' [Repository - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

2.4 Examinations

Through the RVE Support Officer SACRE/SAConRVE have discussed the adaptations to summer 2023 Religious Studies examinations. Additionally, SACRE/SAConRVE have also discussed, as noted above, the proposed changes to future GCSE qualifications.

SACRE/SAConRVE do not feedback on individual school attainment in RE/RVE since the changes in the requirements of schools to report on results.

2.5 School inspection Reports

SACRE/SAConRVE considers Estyn inspection reports and thematic reviews. During this academic year six reports, including primary, secondary and an all through school, were published and one from a primary faith school. Positive comments were noted within the reports on learner's Knowledge and understanding on different faith communities, diversity, and morality. It was recognised that collective worship requirements were appropriate and followed legislative requirements.

2.7 Pedagogy and Resources.

Neath Port Talbot Education Support Officers have offered a range of professional learning opportunities in line with the principle of subsidiarity in the Curriculum for Wales for all practitioners within the county. Additionally, the RVE support officer had given RVE specific support which included:

- Adds session on understanding the changes to the legislation and teaching of RE as it becomes RVE
- Attendance and contribution to the heads of Secondary RE/RVE meetings lead by two of the counties ESO's
- Support and guidance for Secondary RE/RVE leads on responding to Qualifications Wales consultations
- Support and guidance for Secondary RE/RVE leads on adaptations to RS GCSE summer examinations
- Delivery of session understanding of the legislative and curriculum changes for RE/RVE for secondary RE/RVE teachers during a county inset
- Sharing of contact information and guidance for external visitor's to schools
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2023. Resources were shared and an opportunity given to take part in the county Holocaust Memorial Evening and competition that was run alongside this.
- Sharing of the Estyn, WASACRE and Welsh Government documentation on Collective Worship
- Details were shared on the resources developed by WASACRE funded by Welsh Government.
- The development and distribution of the Neath Port Talbot Agreed Syllabus.

Section 3: Advice on Collective Worship

3.1 School Inspection

Details on Estyn inspection Reports can be seen in section 2.5. As a SACRE/SACONRVE we have ensured that schools are supported to fulfil their statutory requirements for collective worship and to provide worthwhile experiences for learners. Through SACREs/SACONRVE monitoring of Estyn's inspection reports we can identify and support any schools where any issues have risen during the inspection. There have been no issues of concern raised in Estyn inspections in the academic year 2022-23 SACRE/SACONRVE shared any suitable information and resources relating to collective worship.

3.2 Applications for Determinations

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

3.3 School Visits

No school visits took place during the academic year 2022-23. SACRE/SACONRVE would like to develop this practice during the coming academic year.

Section 4: Other Issues

4.1 Holocaust Memorial Evening 2023

SACRE/SACONRVE once again held a very successful Holocaust Memorial Evening at the Princess Royal Theatre on the 31st of January. It was pleasing once again to have in attendance members of the local Jewish community. This year's theme was 'Ordinary people', schools fully engaged with the theme, and it was pleasing to see their contributions in the artwork presented for the competition and on the evening.

Senior Prefects from Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera led and compared the evening in a professional manner which ensured that the evening flowed seamlessly from performances to the sharing of information always keeping in focus the theme. Five schools contribute with individual performances, including song and dance; on the evening, along with representatives from the youth council who shared a poem and a personal experience of visiting Auschwitz as part of the 'Lessons for Auschwitz' Project. Additionally, learners for St. Joseph's Catholic School & sixth form read the 7 commitments in a range of languages.

4.2 WASACRE

SACRE/SACONRVE continues to support the work of WASACRE and values the work it carries out promoting RE/RVE and Collective Worship nationally; and on its development of Welsh Government funded resources. SACRE/SACONRVE also values the termly meetings that WASACRE has with Welsh Government and other stakeholders as a way of ensuring that RE/RVE remains central to educational discussions within Wales.

SACRE/SACONRVE supports the RVE Support Officer to attend each termly WASACRE meeting and supports additional members, up to three, to attend if they so choose.

SACRE/SACONRVE is pleased to support the RVE Support Officer as a member of the WASACRE Executive Committee as Immediate past Chair. All WASACRE meetings have been held through Teams and Zoom in the academic year 2022-2023.

Feedback and discussion on WASACRE meetings take place in SACRE/SACONRVE meetings. Any issues raised by WASACRE that are pertinent to teachers are also shared via email and in RE/RVE leaders' meetings.

4.3 National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (NAPfRE/NAPFRVE)

SACRE/SACONRVE is represented on NAPfRE by the RE/RVE Support Officer. These meetings have been held virtually in the academic year 2022-2023 through TEAMS. Through these meetings SACRE/SACONRVE has been kept abreast of RE/RVE developments across Wales. NAPfRE has worked closely with WASACRE on the development of RE/RVE and has been part of the discussions with Welsh Government and other stakeholders. The focus has been on the developments within the Curriculum for Wales and the RVE guidance, progression and the consultation by Qualifications Wales on the future qualifications both GCSE and the wider 14-16 offer. NAPfRE have begun considering the present guidelines for the writing of annual reports and possible changes that will be needed due to the Assessment and Curriculum (Wales) Act 2021.

Feedback and discussion on NAPfRE meetings take place in SACRE/SAConRVE meetings. Any relevant information and resources are shared with teachers via email and in RE/RVE leaders' meetings.

4.4 Training for SACRE/SAConRVE Members

As part of training of members SACRE/SAConRVE:

- Have received a session on the role of SACRE/SAConRVE and its members during the first termly meeting of the academic year
- Have received the WASACRE document 'So you're joining your local SACRE' with all members
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Fblfp8Wk5NZFUZD1BFcBpxy0r5pBkavK/view>
- Members have been updated on developments within RE/RVE and collective worship through discussion points and presentations in the termly meetings
- Members have been invited to attend the termly WASACRE meetings
- Received feedback on the termly WASACRE and NAPfRE meetings.

Appendix 1: SACRE Membership 2022-2023

LA Officers

Mrs. Rachel Samuel – NPT RVE Support Officer
Emily Sweeney – Clerk to SACRE/SACONRVE
Andrew Thomas - Director of Education and Life Long Learning

Religious and non-religious traditions and denominations– Committee A

Rev. Canon Timothy Hewitt (Church in Wales)
Rev. Canon Lynda Newman (Church in Wales)
Eugene Scourfield (Roman Catholic Community) (Vice Chair of SACRE/SACONRVE)
Norma Glass (Jewish Community)
Imam A Lorgat (Muslim Community)
Member representing the free Churches Vacant
Member for the Hindu Community Vacant
Member of the Sikh Community Vacant
Member of the Humanist Community Vacant

Teacher Associations Representatives – Committee B

Lee Workman (Chair of LLAN)
Miss. Cerys Phillips (Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera) NEU member
Ailee Sotero (Cwm Brombil) NEU member
Sarah Powell (Dwr-y-felin) NEU member
Fiona Shaw (Cwmtawe) NASUWT member
Kate Evans (Llangatwg) NASUWT member
NHTU member Vacant
ASCL member Vacant
UCAC Member Vacant (Rachel Samuel temporarily)

Local Authority – Committee C

Cllr. Nia Jenkins (Chair of SACRE/SACONRVE)
Cllr. Wayne Carpenter
Cllr. Jeff Jones
Cllr. Rhidian Mezen
Cllr. Rebecca Phillips
Cllr. Peter Rees
Cllr. Dave Whitelock

Co-opted members

Jen Hamilton-Jones

Appendix 2: Record of Meetings and Agenda Items

All meetings were held in person at Baglan Education and Training Centre, Baglan.

26th October 2022

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair
3. Record of last meeting on 14.04.22 – non-quorate
4. What is SACRE/SACONRVE?
5. NPT SACRE/SACONRVE Constitution
6. Update of NPT Agreed Syllabus
7. Qualifications Wales design proposal for new GCSE consultation
8. Holocaust Memorial Evening.

22nd March 2023

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minutes for SACRE/SACONRVE meeting 26.10.22
3. Matters arising
4. Feedback from the Holocaust Memorial Evening
5. Update on NPT Agreed Syllabus
6. Update on NPT Constitution
7. Support Guidance for school visitors
8. Update from WASACRE and NAPFRE autumn and spring meetings
9. Update on the design proposal for the new GCSE qualification
10. Correspondence – WASACRE nominations to executive committee.

13th June 2023

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minutes from SACRE/SACONRVE meeting 22.03.23
3. Matters arising
4. Qualifications Wales full offer 14-16 qualifications consultation
5. NPT Constitution – final agreement
6. Final draft of support guidance for school visitors
7. Update on WASACRE and NAPFRE
8. Information on support given to schools by RVE support Officer.

APPENDIX 3: CIRCULATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

COPIES WILL BE SENT ELECTRONICALLY TO THE RELEVANT BODIES.

- Members of Neath Port Talbot SACRE/SAConRVE
- Neath Port Talbot Council Education and Lifelong Learning Department
- Neath Port Talbot Education Support Officers
- All Neath Port Talbot Schools
- WASACRE
- Welsh Government
- The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
- Wales National Centre for Religious Education Wales.