

Bridgend County Borough Council

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr



Bridgend County Borough Council

**Standing Advisory Council on
Religious Education (SACRE)**

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

Annual Report 2023-24

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

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF BRIDGEND SACRE/SAC 2023-2024

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

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

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

Bridgend SACRE/SAC would like to express its gratitude to all those involved in the planning and teaching of RE/RS/RVE, for their sterling work, providing the learners of the county of Bridgend with the care, support and dedication. As Chair, I would also like to extend my gratitude to SACRE/SAC members for their continued commitment, attendance, participation and contributions to benefit the learning of RVE/RE/RS and DACW within the local authority.

Bridgend SACRE/SAC welcomes correspondence via the clerk: **edsu@bridgend.gov.uk**

SECTION 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE/SAC

1.1 Duty to Establish SACRE/SAC

All local authorities are required to constitute a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) and a Standing Advisory Council in Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC) within their local area. Bridgend SACRE and SAC will share membership and meet as one body with one constitution/Terms of Reference.

1.2 Composition of SACRE/SAC

The membership of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) is determined by the Education Acts of 1944 and 1993, and the Education Reform Act of 1988. The membership of the Standing Advisory Council on Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC) is determined by the 2021 Curriculum and Assessment Act in Wales. SACRE/ SAC has three constituent groups; each group being entitled to one vote:

- members appointed to the group to represent a religion, denomination or non-religious philosophical conviction shall, as far as is consistent with the efficient discharge of the group's functions, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that religion, denomination, or non-religious philosophical conviction in the area
- associations representing teachers/practitioners
- the local authority

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

- play a part in the local statutory complaints procedure where cases are referred to it relating to RE, RVE, RS or DACW

Advice to the Local Authority may relate to:

- pedagogy
- the choice of teaching resources
- the provision of professional learning
- any other matter relating to RE, RS, RVE and DACW which SACRE/SAC considers appropriate

1.5 RECORD OF MEETINGS

During 2023-2024 all the three meetings were held in-person:

- Tuesday 21st November 2023 at 3.30pm
- Tuesday 12 March 2024 at 9.30am
- Tuesday 2 July 2024 at 1.30pm

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

1.6 CIRCULATION OF REPORT

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

SECTION 2: ADVICE GIVEN BY SACRE/SAC ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE), RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RS) AND RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS (RVE)

2.1 The Locally Agreed Syllabus

In February 2022, the local authority re-adopted its legacy agreed syllabus for RE. In 2022 the Bridgend local authority agreed a new syllabus for RVE under the new Curriculum for Wales. Copies of both agreed syllabi are available on the council's website, CSCJES website and from the SACRE/SAC Clerk.

2.2 Standards in Religious Education (RE), Religious Studies (RS) and Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE)

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

- Practitioners are invited to share their good practice with SACRE/SAC members in the termly meetings. SACRE/SAC encourages collaboration between schools to identify and support good practice. A newly established CSCJES/EAS Youth Voice for RVE and DACW forum encourages further collaboration, sharing of good practice and listening to learner voice to inform practitioners, schools/settings and SACRE/SAC. Practice shared has included schools' approaches to curriculum design for RVE and humanities, Philosophy 4 Children (P4C) and RVE, and approaches to teaching about values.
- SACRE/SAC reviews Estyn inspection reports to identify and share effective practice and to support schools with RE, RVE, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) and the daily act of collective worship (DACW). In 2023-24, the inspection findings of four non-maintained nursery settings, ten primary schools, one secondary school and one special school were considered by SACRE/SAC. Positive comments were made by Estyn relevant to RE and RVE along with the provision of SMSC and DACW. SACRE/SAC was pleased to note these positive comments recorded by Estyn. SACRE/SAC has sent letters of congratulations or offers of support to individual schools, following the publication of their Estyn Inspection report. SACRE/SAC has raised concerns that changes to Estyn reporting have made it more difficult for SACRE/SAC to monitor standards in RE/RVE as it is required by legislation to do – one of the functions required of SACRE/SAC. These concerns have been raised with WASACRE, Estyn, the local authority and Welsh Government. Discussions are ongoing in terms of monitoring the curriculum provision, pedagogy and standards in these areas.
- SACRE/SAC is looking into sharing and discussing RS examination results for schools in the LA, in line with WASACRE advice. SACRE/SAC has discussed access to ALP's data for the local authority.

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 local authority's Principal Improvement Partner, Improvement Partners and those practitioners and governors who have engaged with professional learning, network meetings and community areas on the CSCJES website area.

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

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

SACRE/SAC has discussed the Qualification Wales consultations and decisions made regarding a new GCSE RS (for 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 and A Level since 2017 and considered an RE Council of England and Wales report on the matter. Concerns over reduced entries have been shared with WASACRE and NAPfRE. Concerns were also raised about the accessibility and appropriateness of the current RS qualification. SACRE/SAC discussed recent reductions in entry for RS GCSE, the time allocated to GCSEs within schools and the enthusiasm for a short course RS option. SACRE/SAC advised practitioners to engage with WJEC advisory groups in discussing the new qualification for 2025.

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

2.4 Professional Learning and Resources for Practitioners

Bridgend SACRE/SAC continues to provide supporting materials related to the local authority 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 local authority. CSCJES has shared updates for all subject related professional learning, network meetings and links to resources to SACRE/SAC through briefing papers and discussion at each meeting.

- CSCJES provides termly networking and sharing opportunities for secondary and primary practitioners, led by school-based practitioners and CSCJES staff. Secondary networking opportunities focused on sharing practice related to standards at GCSE and A level, the Agored Cymru 'Exploring Worldviews' course, RVE within the humanities area of learning experience (AoLE), and developing links and connections with other subjects. At these meetings, schools have shared their approaches to curriculum design, progression, Philosophy for Children, and developing links between Religion and Science as part of a funded project with the Faraday Institute, 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 any local authority schools on request. Specific RVE bespoke support was provided to thirteen schools in Bridgend in 2023-24 focused upon:
 - curriculum design in RVE
 - planning units of work
 - cluster working to plan for progressive RVE
 - leadership of RVE/RS including self-evaluation
 - collective worship
 - pedagogy

Humanities bespoke support, which included RVE, was provided to 7 schools in Bridgend. There was a cluster support event to one cluster group of schools within the local authority for this period as well.

- CSCJES has offered a range of professional learning events, projects and programmes related to RVE/RS/RE, as part of the CSCJES Humanities professional learning offer. These opportunities are available to all practitioners within Bridgend. Examples of the range of professional learning, resources and materials developed and shared to support schools by CSCJES and SACRE/SAC can be found in Appendix 6. A total of 43 practitioners, from the Bridgend local authority, have engaged in professional learning for humanities during 2023-24. These practitioners are representatives from 22 out of the 60 schools in the Bridgend local authority, which equates to 37%.

Recommendation for the Local Authority:

In the spring SACRE/SAC meeting, it was recommended that all SACRE/SAC members apply through the local authority for a Hwb email to access the practitioner resources, professional learning information and case studies materials from CSCJES.

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 provided to individual schools in Bridgend by the CSCJES Associate Advisor. SACRE/SAC discussed enquiries and concerns from stakeholders regarding this matter.

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

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

- [Supplementary guidance: collective worship in non-denominational schools](#) 2017
- [WASACRE](#) Guidance on the withdrawal of pupils from collective worship, October 2021
- Estyn, Supplementary guidance: collective worship in nondenominational schools, 2013

3.1 School inspection reports

SACRE/SAC has continued to support schools to fulfil their statutory requirements for DACW. SACRE/SAC has monitored Estyn inspection reports for recommendations relating to DACW and SMSC and the local authority follows up on any non-fulfilment of statutory requirements by requesting the school action plan.

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

3.2 Applications for determinations

Collective worship must be of a broadly Christian character. The determination procedure permits the suspension of these requirements in relation to some or all the pupils/learners in a school where they are deemed inappropriate. No applications were received from schools within the Bridgend local authority for determinations in 2023-24.

3.3 School visits

SACRE/SAC has expressed intention to see practice related to DACW in 2024-25.

Section 4: SUMMARY OF OTHER AREAS

4.1 WASACRE

SACRE/SAC continues to support the work of WASACRE and recognises the value of the body in promoting RE, RS, RVE and DACW on a national basis. Full discussions have taken place at SACRE/SAC on the issues raised by WASACRE. Bridgend LA is represented on WASACRE Executive committee by the Chair and who, since the summer of 2024, is the Chair of WASACRE. At Bridgend SACRE/SAC the Chair, Associate Advisor and two other SACRE/SAC members from the local authority are permitted to attend, to a maximum of four members from each LA. The LA was also represented at the WASACRE RVE Conference of 2024 and Bridgend SACRE/SAC members presented workshops.

4.2 National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (NAPfRE)

SACRE/SAC was fully represented on NAPfRE by the CSCJES Associate Advisor for RE/RS/RVE. and SACRE/SAC. SACRE/SAC has been informed of developments across Wales and has played a crucial role in informing decisions and policies that affect RE. NAPfRE has worked closely with Welsh Government and other stakeholders during the development of the new curriculum, and on the development of statutory guidance for RVE in the Curriculum for Wales. SACRE/SAC has also received reports and information this year from Estyn, and Welsh Government relating to RVE.

4.3 Training of SACRE/SAC Members

As part of training for members, SACRE/SAC has:

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

4.4 Youth Voice for RVE, RE, RS and DACW

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

APPENDIX 1: BRIDGEND SACRE/SAC MEMBERSHIP 2023-24

Committee A - Religious denominations and non-religious philosophical convictions

Rev. Canon Edward Evans (Chair)	Church in Wales
Rev. Dr Phillip Manghan	Catholic Church
Kenny Dykes	Associating Evangelical Churches in Wales
Craig Hopkins	Lead Pastor Brackla Tabernacle
Andy Chyba	Humanism
Vacancy	Judaism
Suliman Hawas	Islam
Vacancy	Buddhism
Vacancy	Sanatana Dharma/Hindu Dharma/Hinduism
Vacancy	Sikhi

Committee B - Teacher union associations

Ceris Matthews	NAS/UWT
Alice Parry	NEU
Lowri Florence	NUT
Cathryn Davies	NAHT
Mike Street	NAHT
Ashley Howells	ASCL
Vacancy	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
Vacancy	RE Teacher's Association

Committee C - Local authority

Councillor Martin Hughes	Local Authority
Councillor Elaine Winstanley (Vice Chair)	Local Authority
Councillor Jeff Tidelsley	Local Authority
Councillor Jon-Paul Blundell/Councillor Martyn Jones	Local Authority

LA Officers

Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People
Susan Roberts	Group Manager School Support – LA Officer
Neil Arbery	School Support – Lead Officer Strategic Development for Primary
Sarah Humphreys	School Support – Lead Officer Strategic Development for Secondary
Helen Shepherd	Clerk to SACRE/SAC
Donna Graves	CSCJES Associate Advisor for RE/RS/RVE and SACRE/SAC

APPENDIX 2: The Bridgend of Meetings and Main Agenda Items

Tuesday 21ST November 2023 at 3.30PM

Venue: Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd

1.	Welcome and apologies (SACRE/SAC)																		
2.	General overview of school curriculum (staff from YGG Llangynwyd)																		
3.	SACRE/SAC 3.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair (SACRE/SAC) 3.2 Membership (SACRE/SAC) 3.3 ToR/Constitution update (SACRE/SAC)																		
4.	Minutes from the last meeting 11/07/2023 (SACRE/SAC)																		
5.	Matters arising (SACRE/SAC)																		
6.	Briefing paper (SACRE/SAC)																		
7.	Bridgend SACRE/SAC Annual Report 2022-2023 (SACRE/SAC) 7.1 Draft 7.2 SACRE's/SAC's recommendations to the Local Authority																		
8.	Estyn Inspection Reports (SACRE/SAC)																		
9.	WASACRE (SACRE/SAC) 9.1 Minutes from summer 2023, 19/06/2023 9.2 Minutes from AGM 2023 9.3 Agenda from Autumn 2023, 25/10/2023 9.4 WG advice to WASACRE/SACRE/SAC on data use 9.5 Annual Conference 2024 – see briefing paper (6.)																		
10.	Schedule for future meetings (SACRE/SAC) <table><tr><th></th><th>Meeting Date</th><th>Location</th><th>Time</th></tr><tr><td>Spring 2024</td><td>12/03/2024</td><td>TBC</td><td>3:30pm</td></tr><tr><td>Summer 2025</td><td>TBC</td><td>TBC</td><td>3:30pm</td></tr><tr><td>Autumn 2026</td><td>TBC</td><td>TBC</td><td>3.30pm</td></tr></table>				Meeting Date	Location	Time	Spring 2024	12/03/2024	TBC	3:30pm	Summer 2025	TBC	TBC	3:30pm	Autumn 2026	TBC	TBC	3.30pm
	Meeting Date	Location	Time																
Spring 2024	12/03/2024	TBC	3:30pm																
Summer 2025	TBC	TBC	3:30pm																
Autumn 2026	TBC	TBC	3.30pm																
11.	Items for Spring Agenda 2024 (SACRE/SAC)																		
12.	AOB (SACRE/SAC)																		

Tuesday 12 March 2024 at 9.30am

VENUE: St. Roberts R.C. Primary School, Aberkenfig

1.	Welcome and apologies (SACRE/SAC)			
2.	St. Robert’s R. C. Primary (SAC) 2.1 School Presentation 2.2 Observe P4C in Action			
3.	Matters arising (SACRE/SAC)			
4.	Updates (SACRE/SAC) 4.1 Membership 4.2 SACRE/SAC TOR/Constitution 4.3 Annual Report Distribution			
5.	Bridgend Briefing Report (SACRE/SAC)			
6.	Estyn Inspection Summaries (SACRE/SAC)			
7.	WASACRE (SACRE/SAC) 7.1 Minutes of autumn term meeting 7.2 Spring term meeting – 5 th March 2024 7.3 Conference – 13 th June 2024 (Wrexham) 7.4 WASACRE nominations			
8.	Youth Voice (SACRE/SAC)			
9.	Schedule of future meetings: (SACRE/SAC)			
		Date	Location	Time
	Summer 2024	2 July 2024	TBC	3.30pm
	Autumn 2024	TBC	TBC	3.30pm
	Spring 2025	TBC	TBC	3.30pm
10.	Suggestions for agenda items for the summer 2024 meeting (SACRE/SAC)			
11.	Recommendations/suggestions to the LA? (SACRE/SAC)			
12.	AOB (SACRE/SAC)			

Tuesday 2 July 2024 at 1.30pm-3.30pm

VENUE: Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School, Brackla

1.	Welcome and apologies (SACRE/SAC)																			
2.	Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School (SACRE/SAC) School Presentation																			
3.	Matters arising (SACRE/SAC)																			
4.	Updates (SACRE/SAC) 4.1 Membership 4.2 SACRE/SAC TOR/Constitution																			
5.	Bridgend Briefing Report (SACRE/SAC)																			
6.	Estyn Inspection Summaries (SACRE/SAC)																			
7.	WASACRE (SACRE/SAC) 7.1 Minutes of spring term meeting – 5 th March 2024 7.2 Conference – 13 th June 2024 (Wrexham) 7.3 Nominees for the WASACRE Executive Committee (Information only – no voting)																			
8.	Youth Voice (SACRE/SAC)																			
9.	Advice for Schools Resource (SAC)																			
10.	The Board of Deputies of British Jews (SACRE/SAC) Update from meeting																			
11.	Correspondences (SACRE/SAC) The Message Trust																			
12.	Schedule of future meetings: (SACRE/SAC) <table><tr><td></td><td>Date</td><td>Location</td><td>Time</td></tr><tr><td>Autumn 2024</td><td>TBC</td><td>TBC</td><td>3.30pm</td></tr><tr><td>Spring 2025</td><td>TBC</td><td>TBC</td><td>3.30pm</td></tr><tr><td>Summer 2025</td><td>TBC</td><td>TBC</td><td>3.30pm</td></tr></table>					Date	Location	Time	Autumn 2024	TBC	TBC	3.30pm	Spring 2025	TBC	TBC	3.30pm	Summer 2025	TBC	TBC	3.30pm
	Date	Location	Time																	
Autumn 2024	TBC	TBC	3.30pm																	
Spring 2025	TBC	TBC	3.30pm																	
Summer 2025	TBC	TBC	3.30pm																	
13.	Suggestions for agenda items for the Autumn 2025 meeting (SACRE/SAC)																			
14.	Recommendations/suggestions to the LA? (SACRE/SAC)																			
15.	AOB (SACRE/SAC)																			

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

- Welsh Government
- Wales Association of SACREs/SACs (WASACRE)

Available on the Bridgend County Borough Council website for public accessibility.

APPENDIX 4:

Bridgend County Borough Council

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Standing Advisory Council on Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC)

Revised to coincide with the implementation of Curriculum for Wales from 2022-2023 school year onwards. (The report was approved by Cabinet on 14 May 2024)

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) in Bridgend 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 on Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC) in Bridgend is established in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 (see Annex 1).

Constitution

Terms of reference

1. To advise the local authority on matters connected with collective worship in county schools.
2. To advise the local authority 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 local authority should review its agreed syllabus.
4. To consider with the local authority and the Agreed Syllabus Conference any changes required to the agreed syllabus.
5. To consider, with the local authority, 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:
 - specify any matters on which it has advised the local authority;
 - broadly describe the nature of the advice;
 - set out its reasons for offering advice on any matters which were not referred to it in the first place by the local authority; and
 - record the membership of SAC/SACRE and the dates of meetings held.
8. To participate in the local authority'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:
- 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);
 - such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the local authority, ought to be represented having regard to the circumstances of the area; and
 - the local authority.
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 local authority has taken all reasonable steps to assure itself that the persons appointed are representative of the denominations, organisations, associations 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, organisations, association, or of the authority they were appointed to represent.
16. Any member of the Council may at any time resign their 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 local authority will appoint a clerk to SACRE/SAC.
19. The Council meets on, at least, one occasion during each school term.
20. The Council shall elect from its membership a chairperson and vice chairperson at the first meeting in each school 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 item 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 SAC/SACRE, clerk to SAC/SACRE, and Local Authority Professional Officer. Any voting member of SAC/SACRE 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 require 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 and Family Support Directorate 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:
 - by a vacancy in the office of any member of the Council; or
 - 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, organisation or association in question.
30. The representative groups on the Council, other than that representing the local authority, may call, at any time, for a review of the agreed syllabus current in the local 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 SAC/SACRE shall arrange for copies of the annual report to be published on the local authority website, sent to all schools within the local authority to Welsh Government and such other individuals and institutions as the local authority sees fit.

ANNEX 1

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

The constitution, functions and working arrangements of Bridgend SAC shall follow those of Bridgend 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 Bridgend SACRE will be dissolved, and Bridgend SAC will continue.

APPENDIX 5:

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 Bridgend schools.

CSCJES produced professional learning resources:

- [CSCJES Primary Humanities Community Area](#) shares a range of announcements and files relevant to the Curriculum for Wales
- [CSCJES Secondary Humanities: RVE Community Area](#) shares a range of announcements and files relevant to the Curriculum for Wales, Religious Education and Religious Studies
- [CSCJES Knowledge Bank](#) contains a range of materials on RVE for practitioners
- [Enquiry and Interpretation in Humanities](#). A new playlist resource is now available here to support practitioners in understanding and developing the skills of enquiry and interpretation in humanities, with specific pages for RVE as well as the other four subjects within humanities
- Non-religious philosophical convictions playlist [here](#)
- RVE: Meeting the Legislative Requirements – the new resource is available – [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, Hindu Dharma/Sanatana Dharma, Buddhism, Sikhi
- [Diversity and Anti-Racism within Humanities professional learning](#) – one day event exploring school approaches to developing diversity and anti-racism within humanities

CSCJES sharing of other professional learning resources and materials including:

- Bridgend 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