



Bridgend County Borough Council

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

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

Annual Report 2024-2025

(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 2024-2025

The rollout of the Curriculum for Wales continues apace as it begins to apply to Year 10 students. This means of course that for the first time students who will be sitting public examinations in RE/RS/RVE will be affected.

It has become more important than ever then that Bridgend SACRE /SAC continues to support in whatever way it can, the teachers of these subjects in our secondary schools as well as continuing to support teachers in other educational settings.

The need for students of all ages to have an understanding, particularly of religion, values and ethics, in today's world is more important now than it has been for a very long time. In a world that is being fractured in so many ways it is to our young people that we look with hope for the future and so it is imperative that today's young people are taught to the highest standard about matters that will influence their lives as they grow up and mature.

In his report *Successful Futures*, the foundation of the Curriculum for Wales, Professor Graham Donaldson writes about the four purposes of the new curriculum and in particular of his hope that all pupils will become *ethical informed citizens* who are *ready to become citizens of Wales and the world* but who are also *healthy confident individuals who have secure values and are establishing their spiritual and ethical beliefs* that they become *ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society*.

A heavy responsibility therefore lies on those who teach RE/RS/RVE in our schools and who need all the support they can have to enable them to carry out this important role. Bridgend SACRE/SAC has over the past year, as in previous years, endeavoured to give that help to our teachers. Working in partnership with our regional school improvement service, Central South Consortium, we believe that we have been able to do this. Encouraged by Bridgend SACRE/SAC (and other SACRE/SACs) CSC has hosted many programs which have provided practical support for our teachers and Bridgend SACE/SAC is grateful for the unstinting work and support of the CSC professional advisor for RE/RS/RVE. As a SACRE/SAC we are fortunate to have her support in our work as we seek to support all our schools and their teachers in this ever-changing world of Welsh education.

Bridgend SACRE/SAC continues to be an active member of WASACRE and again is it grateful to the Officers of that body for the continuing support it gives. Bridgend was pleased to host the Spring term meeting of WASACE, albeit virtually, and is grateful to the Director of Education for the opening address that he gave at that meeting, an address which clearly showed the support that is given to teachers in Bridgend through the work of its SACRE/SAC

As has been noted in previous years there are many changes taking place in the Welsh world of education. With new qualifications on the horizon support is going to be needed more than ever by our teachers. Bridgend SACRE/SAC commits itself to continue to provide that support at the highest level and so teachers and others who will be responsible for implementing the many changes over the coming months and years can be assured of the continuing support of SACRE/SAC.

Again this year 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 STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION(RVE)/STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL IN RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS (RVE)

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 (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.

1.3 Membership of SACRE/SAC

The members representing each of these groups for 2024-2025 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 2024-2025 all the three meetings were held in-person:

- Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 3.30pm
- Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 3.30pm
- Tuesday 1st July 2025 at 3.30pm.

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 syllabi

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 (CfW). Copies of the RVE agreed syllabus is available on the council's website, CSCJES ('CSC' from September 2025) 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, RS 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. The CSCJES/EAS Youth Voice for RVE, RE, RS and SACRE/SAC forum encouraged 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, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) and the daily act of collective worship (DACW). In 2024-2025, the inspection findings of four non-maintained nursery settings, fifteen primary schools, four 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 raised concerns that changes to the 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 discussed RS examination entry numbers and results for schools in the local authority, in line with WASACRE advice. SACRE/SAC discussed Alps data for Religious Studies for the local authority for WJEC qualifications for 2023-2024. Trends were discussed and questions raised focusing upon entry numbers and results. The data shows a decrease in A level entries. Practitioners expressed that RVE is more academic compared to criminology/sociology/psychology which A level students seem to be choosing instead. The removal of the GCSE short course has contributed to this issue, and this will not be reinstated. Data for non-WJEC qualifications are not accessible for the local authority e.g. Agored Cymru 'Exploring Worldviews' or NCFE Level 2 'Equality and Diversity'. Details concerning non-examined provision and standards for mandatory RE for 2024-2025 is not accessible, other than sign posting on Estyn reports. A comprehensive view for Bridgend SACRE/SAC has been hindered by these barriers.

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](#)
- [Annual Report 2023-2024](#)
- [Estyn Improvement Resources.](#)

For 'RE' provision for learners (years 10 and above in the 2024-2025 academic year) 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 (CfW)

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 continued to advise that all schools are aware of the requirement to have regard to the CfW (2022) locally agreed syllabus and the statutory RVE guidance on Hwb. SACRE/SAC has continued to advise that all schools are reminded that there is no parental right to withdraw from RVE in the CfW. CSCJES has produced resources for schools to ensure that they are aware of how they meet the legal requirements for RVE within the CfW ([link](#)).

SACRE/SAC has discussed the changes to RVE as a mandatory requirement of the CfW 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 CfW. CSCJES has provided advice on this to the local authorities' Principal Improvement Partner (PiP), Improvement Partners (IPs) and those practitioners and governors who have engaged with professional learning (PL), network meetings and community areas on the CSCJES website area.

SACRE/SAC has devised guidance for guest speakers and external providers, to support headteachers and practitioners of RVE, within the local authority.

SACRE/SAC has discussed the new GCSE RS (for the teaching from September 2025) and wider skills qualifications (for teaching from September 2027). Concerns were raised regarding how the new qualifications would meet the needs of all learners and in line with the CfW RVE curriculum. Views were expressed, along with practitioners' feedback. CSCJES supported schools with advice and facilitating a network meeting for secondary GCSE practitioners for the new GCSE on 23rd June 2025. Of the eleven schools that attended, three of them were from Bridgend.

SACRE/SAC discussed 'values' and the importance for learners of exploring a values rich curricular both within the academic mandatory subject of RVE as well as a whole school ethos, following themes and positive comments within the Estyn Inspection reports for schools/settings within the local authority. Initial consideration of connections between values education and behaviour of learners.

RE/RS Curriculum for Years Ten to Thirteen

SACRE/SAC affirmed the curriculum and right to withdraw requirements for learners in years ten 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 GCE since 2017. Concerns over reduced entries have been shared with WASACRE and NAPfRE. Concerns were also raised about the accessibility of the current RS qualification. SACRE/SAC discussed reductions in entry for RS GCSE

within Wales, the curriculum time allocated to GCSEs within schools and the enthusiasm from practitioner for a short course RS option to remain. SACRE/SAC advised practitioners to engage with WJEC advisory groups in discussing the new qualification for 2025, reminding them of their opportunities to express their opinions to WJEC subject officer and Qualifications Wales (QW).

2.4 Professional learning and resources for practitioners

Bridgend SACRE/SAC has continued to provide supporting materials related to the local authority agreed syllabus. These were updated in the academic year of 2024-2025. This resource material was produced as a 'live' working document, reflecting the evolution of the CfW.

Bridgend SACRE/SAC has devised and shared a document 'Guidance for Guest Speakers and Bridgend' for schools/settings. Further bespoke guidance and advice was available from SACRE/SAC and CSCJES for schools.

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 these offers.

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 the termly SACRE/SAC briefing papers and discussions 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/AoLEs. At these meetings, schools have shared their approaches to curriculum design, progression and approaches to planning for the new GCSE RS qualification, first teaching from September 2025. The primary network opportunities focused on designing RVE and humanities curriculum, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources. CSCJES has a network for special schools and PRU's. Meetings focused on designing the humanities and RVE curriculum, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources.

CSCJES provides, at no cost to schools, bespoke support to any local authority schools/settings upon request. RVE, along with humanities with RVE, bespoke support was provided to thirtyone schools/settings in Bridgend in 2024-2025. This figure includes two cluster supports. Some of these schools received support on more than one occasion, with multiple visits/discussions. The main areas of support included:

- curriculum design for RVE
- planning units of work for RVE/humanities
- cluster working and collaboration for RVE/humanities
- leadership of RVE/RS including self-evaluation
- daily act of collective worship (DACW)

- pedagogy
- sensitive and contentious issues within humanities/RVE.

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.

Bridgend local authority engagement with humanities/RVE professional learning 2024-2025 data:

Professional Learning Opportunity	Total Engagements	No. of Schools
Humanities (including RVE PL)	50	28
All RVE inc Network Meeting	27	17
RVE Excl Network Meeting	17	13
Secondary RS Network Meetings	10	4
Humanities Primary Network Meetings (inc RVE)	3	3

Summary of CSCJES humanities/RVE professional learning data for the region data:

PL Opportunity	Total Engagements	CSC School Engagements	No. of CSC Schools Engaged
Humanities (including RVE PL)	233	224	121
All RVE Incl Network Meetings	83	82	59
RVE Excl Network Meetings	56	55	43
Secondary RS Network Meetings	27	27	16
Humanities Primary Network Meetings	22	21	20

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 the daily act of collective worship (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.

Bridgend SACRE/SAC received an inquiry concerning DACW. It was confirmed that any child over the age of five must participate in the daily act of collective worship. The query raised was asking if a child has additional learning needs (ALN), who does not have a cognitive age of five, does this still apply? The advice shared was that the DACW session should be adapted to the child's needs as they still need to attend.

SACRE/SAC created and shared a document providing guidance on DACW for schools/settings and offering a generic DACW policy for adaptation by individual schools to make it suitable and pertinent to the individual school/setting.

CSCJES facilitated 'drop-in' sessions for DACW. Individual, and groups of schools in Bridgend had the facility to book meetings independently 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
- CSCJES resource '[Daily Act of Collective Worship \(DACW\): Meeting the Legislative Requirements](#)', 2024
- CSCJES resource '[Links to DACW Resources](#)', 2024

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 spiritual, moral, social and cultural (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 2024-2025.

3.3 School visits

SACRE/SAC has expressed intention to see practice related to DACW in 2025-2026.

SECTION 4: SUMMARY OF OTHER AREAS

4.1 Wales Association of SACREs/SACs (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 local authority is represented on WASACRE Executive committee by the Chair of SACRE/SAC and who, since the summer of 2024, has also been the Chair of WASACRE. Bridgend SACRE/SAC are permitted to send a maximum of four members to attend WASACRE. This has been Bridgend SACRE/SAC Chair, the Associate Advisor and two other SACRE/SAC members. WASACRE's [‘The Teacher Voice Project: RVE in the Curriculum for Wales’](#) survey details were shared with SACRE/SAC and schools/settings within the local authority. SACREs/SACs advisor has been appointed a member of WASACRE's Executive Committee, nominated by Merthyr Tydfil, commencing September 2025.

Bridgend local authority hosted the spring WASACRE meeting on the 6th March 2025, online. The Corporate Director for Education, Early Years and Young People, presented the welcome to WASACRE and reflected on the importance of and progression of RVE within Bridgend local authority.

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/RVE/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. SACRE/SAC has also received information from Estyn, and Welsh Government relating to RVE. The SACRE/SAC advisor was appointed vice-chair of NAPfRE in the summer term of 2025.

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 briefing papers, presentations, discussions and advice from CSCJES
- invited members to termly 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 watch a recorded [WASACRE webinar for new members of SACRE/SAC in Wales](#) (password accessible from the SACRE/SAC Clerk), 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 \(NASACRE\)](#)

- shared the [WASACRE handbook for new members](#) of SACRE/SAC.

4.4 Youth Voice for RVE, RE, RS and DACW

SACRE/SAC has supported the setting up and piloting of youth representation through a cross-regional Youth Voice forum for RVE/RE/RS and SACRE/SAC. SACRE/SAC have been supportive of the project and have worked with the local authority and the CSCJES advisor 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, with the initial meeting held in the July of 2024. Termly meetings have taken place since the success of this pilot meeting, during 2024-2025. Bridgend schools have been represented on the forum, and learners from the local authority have contributed their views and experiences of RE/RS/RVE/DACW. Feedback from the Youth Voice forum has been shared with SACRE/SAC at meetings. Bridgend SACRE/SAC Chair has been invited to the autumn 2025 meeting to 'host' and connect SACRE/SAC with Youth Voice forum moving forwards.

APPENDIX 1: BRIDGEND SACRE/SAC MEMBERSHIP 2024-25

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/ Zainab Abubakar (summer 2025)	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 Martyn Jones	Local Authority

Local authority officers

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

APPENDIX 2: Bridgend SACRE/SAC meetings and main agenda items

Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 3.30PM

Venue: Bridgend Civic Offices, Level 2 Conference Room

1.	Welcome and apologies (SACRE/SAC)
2.	SACRE/SAC 2.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair (SACRE/SAC) 2.2 Membership (SACRE/SAC)
3.	Minutes from the last meeting 02/07/2024 (SACRE/SAC)
4.	Matters arising (SACRE/SAC)
5.	Briefing paper (SACRE/SAC)
6.	Bridgend SACRE/SAC Annual Report 2023-2024 (SACRE/SAC)
7.	Estyn Inspection Reports (SACRE/SAC)
8.	Qualifications (SACRE/SAC) 8.1 New GCSE RS (SAC) (see briefing paper) 8.2 GCSE RS 2023-2024 (SACRE) (see briefing paper) 8.3 AS/A2 RS 2023-2024 (SACRE) (see briefing paper) 8.4 Wider qualifications – statutory RE/RVE (SACRE/SAC) (see briefing paper) 8.5 GCSE/GCE Religious Studies entries and results – Bridgend/All Wales
9.	WASACRE (SACRE/SAC) 9.1 Report of the Activities of the Association 2024 9.2 WASACRE Treasurers' Report 2023-2024 9.3 Agenda Autumn 2024 9.4 WASACRE 2024 Conference Resources (see briefing paper) 9.5 Bridgend Local Authority hosting WASACRE meeting Spring 2025
10.	Youth Voice for RE, RVE, RS and DACW (SACRE/SAC)
11.	Guidance for Schools on Guest Speakers/Visits (SAC)
12.	Bridgend Guidance on the Daily Act of Collective Worship Policy for schools (SACRE/SAC)
13.	Supporting Materials for the Agreed Syllabus for RVE

14.	Scoping – Local Community (SACRE/SAC)			
15.	Schedule for future meetings (SACRE/SAC)			
		Meeting Date	Location	Time
	Spring 2025	TBC	Brynteg Comprehensive?	3:30pm
	Summer 2025	TBC	TBC	3:30pm
	Autumn 2026	TBC	TBC	3.30pm
16.	Items for Spring Agenda 2025 (SACRE/SAC)			
17.	Recommendations to the Local Authority (SACRE/SAC)			
18.	AOB (SACRE/SAC)			

Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 3.30pm

VENUE: Bridgend Civic Offices, Level 2 Conference Room

1.	Welcome and apologies (SACRE/SAC)
2.	Membership (SACRE/SAC)
3.	Minutes from the last meeting 12/11/2024 (SACRE/SAC)
4.	Matters arising (SACRE/SAC)
5.	Spring term briefing paper (SACRE/SAC)
6.	Estyn Inspection Reports (SACRE/SAC)
7.	Qualifications (SACRE/SAC) 7.1 New GCSE RS (SAC) (see briefing paper; item 6.) 7.2 Wider qualifications – statutory RVE (SAC) (see briefing paper; item 6.) 7.3 Schools survey for RE/RVE/RS provision in years 10 and 11 – draft
8.	Marketing of RVE/RS within schools/settings
9.	WASACRE (SACRE/SAC) 9.1 WASACRE spring meeting 6 th March 2025, hosted by the Local Authority 9.2 WASACRE minutes autumn 2024 9.3 WASACRE Executive Committee nominee 9.4 Teacher Voice Survey 9.5 Annual Report (writing/structure/content) 9.6 Code of Conduct (draft)
10.	Youth Voice for RE, RVE, RS and DACW (SACRE/SAC)
11.	SACRE/SAC resources and website access 11.1 Guidance for schools on guest speakers/visits (SAC) 11.2 Hosting of CSC resources

12.	Schedule for future meetings (SACRE/SAC)			
		Meeting Date	Location	Time
	Summer 2025	TBC	TBC	TBC
	Autumn 2025	TBC	TBC	TBC
13.	Items for Summer Agenda 2025 (SACRE/SAC) Recommendations to the Local Authority (SACRE/SAC) AOB (SACRE/SAC)			

Tuesday 1st July 2025 at 3.30pm

VENUE: Bridgend Civic Offices

1.	Welcome and apologies (SACRE/SAC)														
2.	SACRE/SAC Membership update														
3.	Minutes (SACRE/SAC) 25th March, 2025 minutes														
4.	Matters arising (SACRE/SAC)														
5.	Bridgend summer term briefing paper (SACRE/SAC)														
6.	Monitoring of RVE/RE/RS and DACW (SACRE/SAC) Bridgend Estyn Inspection Summaries (SACRE/SAC)														
7.	Qualifications (SACRE/SAC) 7.1 See item 5. 7.2 Bridgend SACRE/SAC Survey for Years 10/11														
8.	WASACRE (SACRE/SAC) 8.1 WASACRE Minutes 6 th March 2025 8.2 WASACRE Executive Committee Nominee 8.3 WASACRE Agenda 2 th July 2025 and AGM														
9.	Youth Voice for RVE/RE/RS and DACW (SACRE/SAC) 9.1 Logo 9.2 Winner presentation 9.3 Video clip of the winning learner's logo for Youth Voice, Malpas Primary School														
10.	SACRE/SAC Moving Forwards 10.1 Bridgend Draft Action Plan (SACRE/SAC) 10.2 Bridgend Annual Report 2024-2025 and beyond (SACRE/SAC)														
11.	Schedule of future meetings (SACRE/SAC) <table><tr><th></th><th>Date</th><th>Location</th><th>Time</th></tr><tr><td>Autumn 2025</td><td>4 Nov</td><td>Civic level 2 Conference room</td><td>3.30pm</td></tr><tr><td>Spring 2026</td><td>TBC</td><td>TBC</td><td></td></tr></table>				Date	Location	Time	Autumn 2025	4 Nov	Civic level 2 Conference room	3.30pm	Spring 2026	TBC	TBC	
	Date	Location	Time												
Autumn 2025	4 Nov	Civic level 2 Conference room	3.30pm												
Spring 2026	TBC	TBC													

	Summer 2026	TBC	TBC		
12.	Suggestions for agenda items for the Autumn 2025 meeting (SACRE/SAC)				
13.	Recommendations/suggestions to the Local Authority (SACRE/SAC)				
14.	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 SACRE/SAC Terms of Reference (ToR)

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: PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

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/settings.

CSCJES produced professional learning resources

- [CSCJES Primary Humanities Community Area](#) shares a range of announcements and files relevant to the CfW
- [CSCJES Secondary Humanities: RVE Community Area](#) shares a range of announcements and files relevant to the CfW, RE, RVE and RS
- [CSCJES Knowledge Bank](#) contains a range of materials on RVE for practitioners
- [Enquiry and Interpretation in Humanities](#). A 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
- [Religion, Values and Ethics \(RVE\): Meeting the Legislative Requirement resource](#)
- The [Daily Act of Collective Worship \(DACW\): Meeting the Legislative Requirements](#)
- [RVE and Philosophy 4 Children \('P4C'\)](#) – funded project case studies new resource
- '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
- [RVE case studies](#)
- RVE, Diversity and Anti-Racism resources – [primary](#); [secondary](#)
- Mapping and progression in RVE – [primary](#); [secondary](#)
- Teaching Challenging and Sensitive Issues – [primary](#); [secondary](#)
- Digital Humanities - CSCJES Case Studies for the funded project – [link](#)
- RVE curriculum posters for practitioners, SLT and governors:
 - [RVE: What's Changed?](#)
 - [RVE: What's NOT Changed?](#)
 - [RVE in the CfW.](#)

CSCJES Professional learning programmes and events

- Effective Leadership of Areas of Learning and Experience and Subjects - Friday 8th November day 1 (compulsory for all attendees) and Thursday 21st November 2024 for Humanities leaders, including RVE leaders.
- Curriculum design in Humanities - Tuesday 24th September 2024 (primary), Tuesday 12th November 2024 (secondary) and Wednesday 22nd January 2025 (primary).
- Diversity and anti-racism in Humanities - whole day, in person, Thursday 19th September 2024
- High quality teaching and learning in Humanities - whole day, in person, Wednesday 6th November 2024
- Exploring philosophical enquiry in RVE (P4C) - whole day, in person, Wednesday 9th October 2024
- Curriculum design in Humanities - whole day, in person, Wednesday 22nd January 2025 (primary)
- Diversity and anti-racism in Humanities - whole day, in person, Wednesday 8th January 2025
- Authentic, Purposeful and Engaging RVE - whole day, in person, 4th February 2025 (primary)
- Understanding non-religious philosophical convictions; Sentientism webinar one-hour online webinar via TEAMS, 3:30pm-4:30pm (all practitioners of RVE/RE/RS)
- Tackling Islamophobia – BAMEed Regional Network webinar, one-hour on TEAMS, Tuesday 11th March 2025, 3:00pm-4:00pm
- Primary Humanities Curriculum Design – Focus ‘RVE’ – 21st May 2025, 9:00am-3:00pm, in person.

CSCJES Briefing Sessions via TEAMS provided updates on RVE/RS/RE

- RVE: Briefings for teachers and leaders spring term 2025 - Thursday, 13 February 2025 3:00pm – 3:45pm.

CSCJES network meetings

- Primary Humanities network – Autumn term Wednesday, 23rd October 2024 3:00pm - 4:30pm, online
- Primary Humanities network – Spring term Wednesday, 29th January 2025 3:00pm - 4:30pm, online
- Secondary RVE, RE and RS network – Autumn term Wednesday, 4 December 2024 3:00pm - 4:30pm, online
- Secondary RVE, RE and RS network – Spring term Tuesday 4th March 2025 3:00pm – 4:00pm, online
- GCSE Religious Studies network – Summer term Monday, 23 June 2025 9:00am - 3:00pm, in person at the Valleys Innovation Centre, Abercynon
- Humanities network for special schools/PRUs – Autumn term Thursday, 26 September 2024 3:00pm - 4:30pm, online

- Humanities network for special schools/PRUs – Spring term Wednesday, 12 February 2025 3:00pm - 4:30pm, online.

CSCJES drop-in sessions offered bookable slot to discuss individual school's RVE/ humanities curriculum

- Humanities (including RVE) drop-in sessions - 25th November 2024, 11th December 2024, 13th January 2025 and the 10th March 2025.
- DACW Drop-in Sessions - 11th February 2025.

CSCJES funded professional learning (PL) projects

The humanities/RVE funded project for 2024-2025 (financial year) is 'Teaching and Learning in Humanities'. Six schools across the region are took part, one secondary school from Bridgend.

CSCJES sharing of other professional learning resources and materials

- Bridgend Agreed Syllabus and supporting materials
- Hwb professional learning on RVE
 - [Module one: Early years](#)
 - [Module two: Primary](#)
 - [Module three: Secondary](#)
 - [Module four: Additional Learning Needs \(ALN\)](#)
 - [Module five: Headteachers](#)
 - [Module six: Governors](#)
- [Sentientism – worldview](#)
- [Church in Wales Education website](#)
- [Catholic Education Service – Wales](#)
- [A level Religious Studies Journal 'free'](#)
- [St. Giles' Centre free resources for RE/RVE/RS](#)
- The Welsh Jewish Cultural Centre – Merthyr Tydfil '[education](#)' link
- [Bridgend's beliefs/religion/worldviews Census 2021 Data](#)
- [Creigiau Primary School: Designing our RVE curriculum](#)
- Holocaust Memorial Day information, resources and webinars; [Holocaust Memorial Day](#) – 27th January 2025
- WJEC newsletters, information and resources

- Materials from [WASACRE conference 2024](#), including online seminars
- [WASACRE Conference 2024 – On Demand Recordings](#)
- 1. [Conference voices: The National WASACRE RVE Conference, 13 June 2024](#)
Delegates share their experiences at the National WASACRE RVE Conference at Wrexham University on 13 June 2024.
- 2. [Cabinet Secretary for Education, Lynne Neagle, \(National WASACRE RVE Conference, 13 June 2024\)](#) Lynne Neagle MS speaks at the National WASACRE RVE Conference, 13 June 2024, Wrexham University.
- 3. [Conference Day film: The National WASACRE RVE Conference, 13 June 2024](#) Recordings from the National WASACRE RVE Conference on 13 June 2024 at Wrexham University
- 4. [Professor Graham Donaldson – ‘The Values Imperative’ and the significance of RVE in the Curriculum for Wales](#) At the National WASACRE RVE Conference (13 June 2024) Professor Graham Donaldson talks about the challenges facing education and young people today, and why the Curriculum for Wales and Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) are so important
- 5. [Bishop of Llandaff, Rt Revd Mary Stallard – The Significance of Religion, Values and Ethics \(RVE\) for young people in Wales](#) At the National WASACRE RVE Conference (13 June 2024), the Rt. Revd. Mary Stallard, Bishop of Llandaff talks about the significance of RVE for young people in Wales
- 6. [A new film created especially for WASACRE by Fresh Gecko productions, on Religion, Values and Ethics](#). This short film promotes the value of RVE in the CfW, and is aimed at young people, schools and settings, parents/guardians, and others with an interest in RVE.
- [WASACRE’s resources and advice for RE, RVE, RS and DACW](#)
- Free teaching and learning resources from [NATRE](#)
- Resources and information on [Hwb](#)
- 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 – [Understanding Humanities](#)
- [DARPL](#) professional learning opportunities and resources
- Podcasts

- Discovering Muslims in Britain – resources e.g. ‘[Ask a Muslim](#)’ and ‘[The Story of Islam in Wales](#)’ project resource from Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK (Cardiff University)
- The ‘[History of Religion in Wales](#)’ resource
- The [Jewish History Association of South Wales](#) resources and website link to support RVE
- [Interfaith Week/Inter-belief Week](#) – 10th – 17th November 2024
- Holocaust in Wales Resources - all original resources have been amended to suit Curriculum for Wales and are now available online on [People’s Collection Wales](#) and on Hwb, from the Jewish History Association of South Wales.
- <https://understandinghumanism.org.uk> – practitioners’ website on Humanism in the UK. Many resources are now translated into Cymraeg.

CSCJES resources for the daily act of collective worship (DACW)

- [The Daily Act of Collective Worship \(DACW\): Meeting the Legislative Requirements](#)

Bridgend SACRE/SAC resources for the daily act of collective worship (DACW)

- The Daily Act of Collective Worship – Bridgend SACRE/SAC Guidance and Sample Policy.

Curriculum for Wales (CfW) general resources recently published by CSCJES

- [The cross-curricular skills and Welsh in English medium schools’ rubrics](#) have been developed in collaboration with schools in the region to support self-evaluation and improvement planning in mainstream settings for these important areas. Here are the links:
 - [Rubrics to Support Self-Evaluation and School Improvement in Skills - Literacy](#)
 - [Rubrics to Support Self-Evaluation and School Improvement in Skills - Welsh in English Medium Primary Schools](#)
 - [Rubrics to Support Self-Evaluation and School Improvement in Skills - Welsh in English Medium Secondary Schools](#)
 - [Rubrics to Support Self-Evaluation and School Improvement in Skills - Numeracy](#)
 - [Rubrics to Support Self-Evaluation and School Improvement in Skills - Digital Competence.](#)