

**AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS
(CARDIFF) AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)

AGENDA ITEM:7

Reason for this Report

1. To present the existing Cardiff Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education to Cabinet for re-adoption for pupils of Religious Education, during the period of Religion, Values and Ethics curriculum rollout.
2. To present the new Cardiff Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) to cabinet for adoption and have agreement that schools can start to deliver this agreed syllabus,
3. To agree the revised Terms of Reference for the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)/Standing Advisory Council (SAC).
4. **Background**
5. The introduction of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 (the Act) established the Curriculum for Wales in law and replaced the previous curriculum (which includes, for example, the national and local curricula set out in Part 7 of the Education Act 2002).
6. The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 Act sets out 'Religion, Values and Ethics' (RVE) as one of the mandatory subjects which spans the 3 to 16 learning continuum. The subject of RVE forms part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience within the new Curriculum for Wales. Subject specific guidance on RVE contained within the Humanities Area of the Curriculum for Wales, is statutory and is published under section 71 of the Act. The guidance is designed to assist those responsible under the Act for designing the RVE syllabus as part of the school curriculum.
7. The 2021 Act states that Local Authority Standing Advisory Councils for RVE (SACs) and agreed syllabus conferences (ASCs), are still responsible for creation of a locally agreed syllabus. Under the previous curriculum, the Local Authority's SACRE and ASC committees held these responsibilities.

8. Cardiff Council convened Agreed Syllabus Conferences in January, March, and June 2022. The current curriculum was first adopted in 2008. In June 2013 the Agreed Syllabus Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the Cardiff Agreed Syllabus, with an understanding that the syllabus would be reviewed once further information is received in relation to the National Curriculum review.
9. The current Cardiff agreed syllabus for Religious Education was considered suitable for recommendation to be readopted by the local authority.
10. This was in accordance with the legal requirement for a local authority to review and reconsider their agreed syllabus for Religious Education within five years of its adoption or re-adoption.
11. The Agreed Syllabus Conference are recommending that the Cardiff Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education is readopted for those learners who are not following the Religion, Values and Ethics curriculum, until the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales is completed.

Issues

The Curriculum for Wales

12. Cardiff ASC has worked with practitioners to develop this new agreed syllabus in line with the Curriculum for Wales legislation. One change is that this locally agreed syllabus must 'have regard' to the national RVE guidance. The Cardiff agreed syllabus development has focused on local elements specific to RVE, whilst also having regard to the national guidance.
13. The Cardiff locally agreed syllabus for RVE (and SAC/ASC membership) retains the requirement to 'reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Wales are in the main Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Wales'.
14. The legislation now adds the explicit requirement to 'reflect the fact that a range of non-religious philosophical convictions are held in Wales'. Although already a requirement in England and Wales due to the European Convention on Human Rights, it is now written directly into education law and is reflected in the Cardiff locally agreed syllabus.
15. One of the four purposes of the new curriculum is to 'create ethical citizens of Wales and the World'. Being able to present a range of religious and non-religious beliefs will enable children to develop a deep understanding and acceptance of their own and other's communities.
16. The Act also requires RVE to be delivered in a 'critical, objective and pluralistic' manner. Whilst this is not a new requirement, it takes on greater significance as the new legislation removes the parental right to

withdraw from RVE. As of September 2022, there is no parental right to withdraw from RVE in respect of all learners up to and including year 6, as the Curriculum for Wales will be implemented by all primary schools and settings from this date.

17. The curriculum for Wales is being rolled out from September 2022 on a phased basis. Given the Curriculum for Wales phased instruction, there will be some year groups to which the current legislative requirements for Religious Education still apply. Therefore, Cardiff will also need to reconsider and readopt their current locally agreed syllabus for Religious Education that applies to these older pupils in Secondary settings. This is in line with the five-year review cycle that is required.

Support to Schools and requirements

18. Cardiff SACRE will continue to support schools with the requirements of the 'legacy' curriculum during the phased roll out of the new Curriculum for Wales. In addition, SAC for RVE will support schools with the requirements of the Curriculum for Wales 2021.
19. Welsh Government will publish specific RVE training material (developed in partnership with the Wales Association of SACRE's (WASACRE). This, together with support from Cardiff SAC and Central South Consortium, will provide opportunity to deliver an exceptionally rich and diverse curriculum, inspiring learners to engage with RVE from nursery onwards.
20. Cardiff Agreed Syllabus Conferences were convened, in 2022, to devise the new locally determined Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) to fit the Curriculum for Wales Act 2021. The Curriculum for Wales legislation for RVE states: "A new syllabus replacing the current agreed syllabus must be adopted by a local authority for use in schools and settings implementing the Curriculum for Wales." Further information can be found in Appendix 2.
21. All schools and settings within the Cardiff area must have 'regard to' this locally Agreed Syllabus for RVE when designing and implementing their curriculum and RVE must be clearly evidenced through school's curriculum design and planning processes.

The agreed Syllabus and roll out

22. The Cardiff Agreed Syllabus Conferences brought a working party of teachers, representatives from faith and non-religious groups, local authority officers and experts in the field of RVE to create the new locally RVE Agreed syllabus.
23. The Cardiff Religion, Values and Ethics Agreed Syllabus has been written to be accessible to all those responsible for designing and delivering the RVE curriculum. The intended audience includes:
 - the headteacher of a maintained school or a maintained nursery school;
 - the governing body of a maintained school or a maintained nursery school;
 - a provider of funded non-maintained nursery education;
 - the teacher in charge of a pupil referral unit;
 - the management committee for a pupil referral unit;
 - a person who provides teaching and learning for a child, otherwise than at a maintained school, maintained nursery school or pupil referral unit, by virtue of arrangements made under section 19A of the Education Act 1996 (c. 56); and
 - the Cardiff local authority in Wales.
24. The implementation of the new Cardiff Agreed Syllabus will be effective from September 2022, for Religion, Values and Ethics in respect of all learners, up to and including year 6.
25. In respect of year 7 learners, schools in the region will have 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.
26. During the period of curriculum roll out, as a secondary school or setting 'adopts' the Curriculum for Wales Framework for a particular year group, this Cardiff Agreed Syllabus will supersede the current/legacy Cardiff Agreed Syllabus.
27. From September 2023, this new Agreed Syllabus, in respect of years 7 and 8 as all schools and settings will have implemented the Curriculum for Wales for those learners. Thereafter, the phased roll-out of the Curriculum for Wales will continue, and this Cardiff Agreed Syllabus will supersede the other:
 - year 9 learners in September 2024.
 - year 10 learners in September 2025.
 - year 11 learners in September 2026.

Cardiff Terms of Reference (Revised Constitution of SACRE/SAC for RVE)

28. The Cardiff Terms of Reference (Revised Constitution of SACRE/SAC for RVE, October 2022) have been revised considering the current changes to the legislation within the Curriculum for Wales.
29. The legislation itself is clear that RVE includes non-religious philosophical views, including beliefs such as humanism, atheism and secularism, although not an exhaustive list. These changes make explicit what the law already requires in respect of pluralistic RVE.
30. Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACRE) will be renamed Standing Advisory Councils (SAC) for RVE for the Curriculum for Wales 2021. They will advise on matters relating to religion, values and ethics. 'SACRE' will be required to continue to advise on matters relating to Religious Education, until the Curriculum for Wales 2021 rolls out in its entirety to all learners. Both SACRE and SAC will run concurrently until the full roll out of the new curriculum occurs.

Local Member consultation

31. Local members were involved within the ASC and the working group discussions in line with the legislation for RVE

Reason for Recommendations

32. The current (soon to be legacy) Cardiff Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education needs to be readopted so schools can continue to deliver Religious Education in accordance with this agreed syllabus for those learners not in receipt of the Curriculum for Wales RVE curriculum, due to the phased roll out.
33. The Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics needs to be agreed by cabinet so that schools can move forward with delivery.
34. The Terms of Reference (Revised Constitution of SACRE/SAC for RVE, October 2022) be agreed.

Financial Implications

35. There are no financial implications for this report

Legal Implications

36. Section 375A Education Act 1996 requires each local authority to adopt an agreed syllabus for Religious Education for use in the schools maintained by them, until the Curriculum for Wales roll-out is completed for all learners. This report recommends the re-adoption of the current Cardiff agreed syllabus, for these learners, as set out in Appendix 1. Schedule 31 of the Education Act 1996 requires this syllabus to be reconsidered at least every five years.

37. Section 375A Education Act 1996 (as inserted by the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 now requires each local authority to adopt a syllabus of Religion, Value and Ethics for use in the schools maintained by them. This report recommends the adoption of the syllabus as set out in Appendix 2.
38. Under section 375A the syllabus -
- (a) must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Wales are in the main Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Wales,
 - (b) must also reflect the fact that a range of non-religious philosophical convictions are held in Wales.
39. The recommended adoption of these syllabi seeks to comply with these statutory duties. All schools within the Local Authority must have regard to the Local Agreed Syllabus for RE or RVE adopted by the Council when designing their school curriculum.
40. Members will note the provisions introduced by the Curriculum and Assessment Act 2021 re-title SACRE to SAC and change the composition requirements. The revised Terms of Reference presented for adoption reflect the updated legislation requirements.

HR Implications

41. There are no HR Implications for this report

Property Implications

42. There are no Property implications for this report

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Agree and support the readoption of the current Cardiff Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education attached at Appendix 1
2. Agree and support the new Cardiff Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics attached at Appendix 2
3. Agree the revised Terms of Reference (Revised Constitution of SACRE/SAC for RVE, October 2022) attached at Appendix 3

SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Melanie Godfrey Director of Education & Lifelong Learning
	9 December 2022

The following appendices are attached:

Appendix 1 – Religious Education Agreed Syllabus 2008

Appendix 2 – Agreed Syllabus for Religion Values and Ethics

Appendix 3 – Revised Terms of Reference

Appendix 4 – Impact assessment