

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2024

PRESENT: Councillor Dylan Rees (Chair - for this meeting only)
Councillor Gwilym Jones (Vice-Chair - for this meeting only)

The Religious Denominations

Mrs Elaine Green (Presbyterian Church in Wales)
Mr Edward Morus Jones (Union of Welsh Independents)
Mrs Collette Owens (The Catholic Church)
Rev Deborah Stammers (The Baptist Union of Wales)

Teacher Representatives

Mrs Mefys Jones-Edwards (Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones, Amlwch)
Mr Owain Roberts (Ysgol Cybi)

Co-opted Member

Mr Rheinallt Thomas

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Owen T Davies (Primary Senior Manager, Education) (Clerk to the SACRE)
Mr Phil Lord (Independent RE Advisor)
Mrs Shirley Cooke (Committee Officer)

OTHER MEMBERS: Sarah Kingman (Humanists Society)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Non Dafydd (Chair)
Councillor Arfon Wyn (Vice-Chair)
Director of Education, Skills and Young People

ALSO PRESENT: Mr Christopher Owens (WJEC) (for Item 8)
Dr Gareth Evans-Jones (Welsh National Centre for Religious Education) (for Item 5)
Nia Elain Roberts (Engagement Officer for Schools - Diocese of Bangor) (for Item 6)

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Councillor Dylan Rees was elected Chair for today's meeting and Councillor Gwilym Jones was elected Vice-Chair.

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

2 MINUTES

The draft minutes of the previous SAC meeting held on 21 February 2024 were presented and confirmed as correct.

Matters arising from the minutes: -

- A correction was noted in Item 5 of the minutes, which should have read 'Friend of Friendless Churches'.
- It was confirmed that the SAC's next learning walk to Ysgol Gyfun, Llangefni, will take place in the New Year.
- With reference to the SAC's project on religious and spiritual settings on Anglesey, it was confirmed that the Archives Team have commenced work on collating resources for schools.
- It was confirmed that the SAC's draft Annual Report will be presented to the SAC's next meeting.

3 WALES ASSOCIATION OF SACRES (WASACRE)

The draft minutes of the WASACRE meeting held virtually on 5 March 2024 were submitted for information and noted.

The SAC's co-opted member reported that he attended the WASACRE's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 13 June 2024 and gave an update on agenda items discussed at the meeting.

It was noted that the WASACRE's annual subscription fee is due for payment, which remains at £495.00.

The Independent RE Advisor reported that as the Anglesey SAC subscribes to WASACRE, Anglesey schools are entitled to access resources on the WASACRE website via specific passwords, which will be rolled out to schools.

RESOLVED that the Senior Primary Manager agrees to pay WASACRE's annual subscription fee of £495.00 for this year's membership.

4 RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL SETTINGS ON ANGLESEY

The Senior Primary Manager reported that resources prepared by the Archives Team on religious and spiritual settings will be available in digital format for schools. Schools will be able to select information according to their subject areas within their curriculum.

Next term, the Archives Team will be presenting information and artefacts relating to St Seiriol, with links to specific historical locations and churches within the Southeast area of Anglesey, which will also be shared with the SAC.

RESOLVED to note the information presented.

5 WELSH NATIONAL CENTRE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Due to technical issues encountered during the meeting, this item will be re-scheduled.

RESOLVED that Dr Gareth Evans-Jones be invited to attend the SAC's next meeting to provide an overview of the RE Centre's work.

6 DIOCESE OF BANGOR

A presentation was given by Nia Edwards from the Diocese of Bangor on the Llan Project, which is part of the Church in Wales's Pererin Pilgrimage Project. She reported that pilgrimages, Welsh language resources and community initiatives are being developed, e.g. walking spiritual routes, and exploring churches. She stated that the Church will be launching two new websites soon, i.e. www.pererin.com, and a new website for schools, www.pererinyngolion.cymru.

It was noted that the Cadfan pilgrimage path in Gwynedd is nearing completion and will be launched in September. The Diocese will commence work on the St Cybi and St Seiriol walks on Anglesey from Spring 2025. The scheme will benefit all schools on Anglesey through school visits, workshops, and information packs to promote the Church's work and the importance of Christianity in the context of local history. A film is also being produced, which will be launched in schools.

Planning support will be provided to teachers and schools to look at themes and the big questions to ensure that tasks fit in with the new Curriculum for Wales. It was noted that progress steps include developing local pilgrimages for schools and further visits to secondary schools.

RESOLVED: -

- **To note the information presented.**
- **That the Primary Senior Manager distributes copies of the Pilgrimage Project presentation to the SAC.**

7 ANALYSIS OF ANGLESEY ESTYN REPORTS

The Independent RVE Advisor provided a synopsis of Anglesey Estyn reports published between April 2023 and May 2024, and analysed spiritual, moral, social, and cultural principles in his report.

It was noted that comments on collective worship, spiritual development and even RVE are limited in Estyn reports. However, Estyn is obliged to report on schools who do not meet the requirements, and in such cases will comment on spiritual development, often in terms of collective worship provision.

The Independent RVE Advisor reported that Estyn will use a new Inspection Framework from September 2024. Under the new system, schools will be chosen at random, and may be inspected more than once a year, or not at all.

The 5 current headings for inspections with change to the following 3 headings under the new Framework: -

- Wellbeing and attitudes to learning;
- Teaching and learning experiences;
- Care, support and guidance.

It was noted that one school has been inspected as a pilot under the new Inspection Framework, and a summary of comments has been included in the report.

No concerns were raised in respect of the schools inspected.

RESOLVED to note the information presented.

8 UPDATE BY WJEC ON GCSES AND A LEVELS

Mr Christopher Owen, WJEC reported that the criteria for the new Religious Studies qualification has been received from Qualification Wales, and is currently in its development stage.

The new qualification will consist of two examination papers and two non-exam assessments (NEAs). The NEAs is being rolled out across all Humanities subjects, and it is expected that the final specifications for History, Geography and Religious Studies will be published in late September. Specimen Assessment Materials (SAMs) will follow, which will include support materials for the two new NEAs.

In January/February 2025, a detailed guidance for teachers will be produced alongside the specification, which will be released in September 2024, a year before the first teaching in September 2025.

A rollout of resources will be available on the WJEC website to support the teaching of the new qualification. There will be some aspects of the GCSE course that teachers will be familiar with, as well as new material.

From February to March 2025, 12 events will be held across Wales, where specialist teachers will attend in person to support RS teachers and provide guidance on the new specification, early in the preparation stages.

RESOLVED to note the information presented.

9 UPDATE BY THE DIRECTOR

This item was not discussed.

10 ANY OTHER MATTERS

- The Primary Senior Manager reported that he is currently working on the SAC's draft Annual Report, which will be presented to the next SAC meeting.

RESOLVED to present the SAC's draft Annual Report to the next SAC meeting on 17 October 2024.

- The Chair highlighted that currently there are 2 vacant seats on the SAC for members of the County Council.

RESOLVED that the Primary Senior Manager contacts the Head of Democracy to request that 2 new members be appointed to fill the vacant seats on the SAC.

11 NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the SAC's next meeting will be held on Thursday, 17 October 2024 at 2:00 pm.

The meeting concluded at 3:15 pm

**COUNCILLOR DYLAN REES
CHAIR**