

TRANSLATION

Dear Mr Rhun ap Iorwerth,

I write to you in my capacity as the Chair of the Isle of Anglesey Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education. It is the Council's role to ensure the highest standards in Religious Education and collective worship within the Authority's schools, and as you know I'm sure, the Minister for Education and Skills launched a plan on 22 October for implementing the recommendations of the Successful Future document by Professor Graham Donaldson by 2021.

In this context, there was much discussion over the summer on the future of Religious Education within the new curriculum following the Minister's comments. The impression was given that Religious Education as an individual subject would be merged within the new syllabus of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics. Many were concerned as a result – concerns which have been alleviated following the Minister's correspondence with WASACRE on 7 September. The Minister says that Religious Education will not be deleted from the curriculum in Wales.

The matter was discussed in detail at our meeting on 6 October and the purpose of my letter is to make you fully aware of the SACRE's view on this, namely that the subject must be retained as a standalone subject within the developments on the curriculum and as a statutory requirement on schools. Please could you bear this in mind in any discussions on the new curriculum at the Senate during the next few years. The loss of focus on Religious Education as a specific study area would be a disservice to our children and young people's education. You are most welcome to contact me for a further discussion on this matter.

Yours sincerely,