

Translation

Gareth Pierce
Chief Executive
WJEC
CARDIFF
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20 January 2016

Dear Sir,

The Isle of Anglesey SACRE wishes to endorse the concerns expressed at the meeting of WASACRE on 25 November, i.e. the changes in the work programmes of Education/Religious Studies examinations of students of schools in Wales. From our understanding, the specifications of the proposed courses will not be distributed until the New Year although some of our young people in Anglesey's secondary schools will be starting their GCSE courses in May, 2016. This is not a reasonable or fair requirement on our teachers for a number of reasons.

Firstly, there is not enough time for teachers to plan purposefully bearing in mind they will also be following the current courses until the summer. In our secondary schools one teacher is responsible for all the work in each school. There is no team of teachers to share the burden within individual schools. Schools can work together of course but the time to allow them to do so needs to be planned. There is a risk here that the system will overload work on teachers leading to a crude and hurried introduction of the changes to pupils. This will lead to lower standards and to pupils turning their backs on the subject over time.

Secondly there is a need to make sure that all the necessary resources are in place as teachers plan. Ensuring resources through the medium of Welsh is key and integral to the work of the schools. Everything must be to hand to plan effectively to ensure lessons of standard and excellent learning by all our schools' pupils.

To close, we ask for full consideration to be given to deferring the introduction until May, 2017 so that teachers can prepare thoroughly and respond positively to the challenge of introducing the changes thereby ensuring the highest level of teaching and learning.

Yours sincerely,