

AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 15 February 2022

PRESENT: Members of the Anglesey SACRE

Councillor Dylan Rees (Chair)

Councillors Gwilym Jones, Alun Roberts

Mrs Elaine Green (The Presbyterian Church of Wales)

Rev Deborah Stammers (The Baptist Union of Wales)

Mr Christopher Thomas (The Catholic Church)

Mrs Mefys Jones-Edwards (Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones, Amlwch)

Mrs Heledd Hearn (Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern)

Mrs Manon Morris-Williams (Ysgol Santes Dwynwen, Newborough)

Members of the Gwynedd SACRE

Councillor Judith Humphreys

Councillor Paul Rowlinson

Mr Garem Jackson

Mrs Gwawr Maelor

Ms Mair Huws

Mrs Miriam Amlyn (Teacher Representative)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Gwyneth M Hughes (Senior Welfare Manager, Education)
(RE Advisor to the Anglesey SACRE)

Mr Owen Davies (Senior Primary Manager, Education, ACC)

Mr Phil Lord (GwE)

Mrs Shirley Cooke (Committee Officer)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Menna Baines (Gwynedd SACRE)
Councillor Cemlyn Williams (Gwynedd SACRE)

Mrs Cathryn Davey (Teacher Representative)

Mrs Eirian Bradley-Roberts (Teacher Representative)

Ms Naomi Wood (The Church in Wales)

The Chair welcomed members of the Anglesey and Gwynedd SACREs to the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

The RE Advisor for the Anglesey SACRE reported that the purpose of the Conference is to determine the Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics. It was noted that the potential Agreed Syllabus is the RVE Guidance from Welsh Government, which will be decided locally, and will establish what should be taught in RVE in schools in Wales. It was noted that each Conference has a legal duty to

review the Agreed Syllabus every 5 years, and recommend an appropriate syllabus to the local authority for adoption.

The new curriculum will be implemented for pupils up to Year 7 in September 2022, and will be extended on a yearly basis up to Year 11 in 2026.

The RE Advisor gave an in depth PowerPoint presentation on RVE in the Curriculum for Wales, and gave a summary of the following:-

- Legislation and Guidance for the Agreed Syllabus;
- 5 Statements of Humanities Area of Learning and Experience – What Matters.
- The 4 purposes of every school’s curriculum.

It was noted that before an agreement can be reached, the SACRE members from Anglesey and Gwynedd will each need to form the following three groups to consider the syllabus, and reach a conclusion:-

- Group A - a group to represent religious and non-religious denominations;
- Group B - a group to represent teachers;
- Group C - a group to represent the local authority.

Mr Phil Lord (GwE) reported that only one person from each group will be allowed to vote, and agreement must be reached unanimously by all three groups before the new Agreed Syllabus can be presented for adoption by the local authority. Should a decision not be reached, then each individual authority will have to decide its own syllabus, as Welsh Government has authority to intervene and make that decision for the local Education Authority.

Members of the Anglesey SACRE’s group A, B and C left the meeting to deliberate in private session. It was concluded that an unanimous decision had been reached by the three groups from Anglesey to accept the Agreed Syllabus for the local authority to adopt.

It was later confirmed that following deliberation, the Gwynedd SACRE members also agreed to adopt the Agreed Syllabus for schools in Gwynedd.

The meeting concluded at 14.50 pm

**COUNCILLOR DYLAN REES
(Chair of the Anglesey SACRE)**