



## **Report of the activities of the Association 2023-2024**

It has been another busy year for the Association, especially with the WASACRE RVE Conference in the Summer term, which provided a major free professional learning package for SACs and practitioners in their local authorities.

### **1. This year the Association met on three occasions.**

Our Autumn meeting on 25 October 2023 was hosted by Rhondda Cynon Taf SACRE/SAC through Zoom. Our spring meeting on 5 March 2024 was hosted by Carmarthenshire SACRE /SAC through Zoom. Our Summer meeting was replaced by the WASACRE RVE Conference Day (in partnership with NAPfRE) and held in Wrexham. We are grateful for the continued support of SACREs / SACs with their hosting of these meetings.

### **2. The Executive Committee met on three occasions.**

The meetings took place on 4 October 2023, 7 February 2024 and 15 May 2024, all of which were held on-line through Zoom. The Executive Committee had a full agenda throughout the year that included the following items and activities.

- a. The continued consideration and response to developments relating directly to RVE and RE within the Curriculum for Wales.
- b. Advice and support given to advisors and SACREs / SACs in Wales in response to their enquires. This included the creation of a FAQs infographic and a 'How do we support our member SACs' infographic.
- c. Representatives from the WASACRE Executive Committee (with a NAPfRE representative) met with Welsh Government colleagues as part of WASACRE's established regular cycle of meetings. These meetings gave opportunity to raise issues of importance to local SACREs / SACs. In addition, agenda items included the recruitment crisis in RS GCSE and A-level and ITE, professional learning resources, aspects of the summary of legislation on Hwb, and the presentation of SAC annual reports among other topical issues. The recruitment crisis issue is being taken forward with Kevin Palmer from Welsh Government in conversation with WASACRE.
- d. The completion by WASACRE of the second phase of the major national professional learning partnership between the Welsh Government and WASACRE. The second batch of national professional learning resources is currently awaiting publication on the Welsh Government Hwb. All resources are rigorously quality assured before publication on the Welsh Government Hwb.

- e. Representatives from the WASACRE Executive Committee (often with a NAPfRE representative) met with various organisations both within and outside Wales on a number of occasions throughout the year. Within Wales this included a number of meetings with Qualifications Wales in relation to the 14-16 qualifications.
- f. Considerable work has been put into the preparations for the WASACRE RVE Conference 2024 in partnership with NAPfRE. The Conference has included a free series of pre- and post-Conference Day online seminars in the summer term as well as the in-person Conference Day in Wrexham on 13 June 2024.
- g. WASACRE funded a teacher to attend the EFTRE Conference in August 2023. The Conference was also attended by two WASACRE Officers who had alternative sources of funding.

### **3. Accounts.**

The Treasurer's report for 2022-2023 was shared at the summer AGM of 2023. A statement of accounts and a report explaining the information was presented. It was noted that income exceeded expenditure for the year by £8969.44. All SACREs / SACs paid their subscriptions for the year. It was noted that the financial position remained in a healthy condition and that the level of funds available to WASACRE to fund its planned activities was encouraging, especially with the planned WASACRE Conference. It was recommended and agreed that the yearly subscription for 2023-2024 would remain the same in light of the current difficult financial circumstances.

### **4. New members of the Executive Committee**

At the Summer AGM 2023 two members were elected to the Executive Committee for the period of 2023-2026: Jenny Downes (Denbighshire SACRE) and the joint nomination of Marged Williams and Tyler Saunders representing the Vale of Glamorgan.

### **5. NAPfRE and WASACRE presentations:**

As there were no 'physical meetings' NAPfRE presentations have been kept to a minimum and focused on the most immediate priority.

- The Rhondda Cynon Taf meeting on 25 October 2023 included a presentation by Alice Parry, Secretary to WASACRE: Through the eyes of a teacher: Report from the Conference of the European Forum for Teachers of Religious Education (EFTRE).
- The Carmarthenshire meeting on 5 March 2024 included presentations by Liz Thomas, Provincial Director of Education for the Church in Wales, on Objective, critical and pluralistic RVE in the primary classroom and Tania ap Sion, Chair of WASACRE, on What Covid-19 reveals to religious education specialists in Europe?
- The Conference Day on 13 June 2024 in Wrexham included a wide range of keynote presentations and workshops from around Wales. Pre- and post-conference online seminars extended the scope of presentations available to support RVE in the Curriculum for Wales.

As outgoing Chair of WASACRE, I would like to thank all our member SACREs / SACs for their commitment to the Association and their support. Also, my thanks go to all the hard work of our Executive Committee members without whom our activities would not be possible.