



Report of the activities of the Association 2024-2025

It has been another busy year for the Association, especially following on from 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 14 November 2024 was hosted by Monmouthshire SACRE/SAC through Zoom. Our spring meeting on 6 March 2025 was hosted by Bridgend SACRE /SAC through Zoom. Our Summer meeting on 2 July 2025 was hosted by Anglesey SACRE/SAC through Zoom. 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 2 October 2024, 5 February 2025 and 14 May 2025 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. Significant correspondence with the Cabinet Secretary for Education regarding support for Mandatory RVE. A letter was sent to the Vice Chancellor of Cardiff Metropolitan University to express WASACRE's concern of the impact of their proposed redundancies on the future of RVE teaching in Wales.

g. WASACRE has agreed again this year to fund two teachers to attend the EFTRE Conference in Budapest in August 2025. A report from these teachers will be received at a future WASACRE meeting.

h. Other significant discussions at the Executive meeting were (1) the future of WASACRE meetings – online or face-to-face? It was agreed that for the foreseeable future WASACRE would continue with online meetings; (2) Support for a research project “The Teacher Voice: RVE in the curriculum for Wales”. This project is being undertaken in conjunction with St Giles’ Centre, Wrexham and at no cost to WASACRE; (3) Celebrating 30 years of WASACRE; (4) receipt of SACRE Annual Reports; (5) Correspondence from Philip Blaker, Chief Executive Qualifications Wales, explaining the rationale for the delay in the final specification for GCSE Religious Studies in response to disquiet raised at the Autumn WASACRE meeting; (6) The Executive received information on the dissolution of REMW and paid tribute to the work that it had undertaken in Wales in promoting Religious Education. (7) Consideration of a request to hold the EFTRE Conference in Wales, with all its various implications; (8) A discussion on the practicalities of holding another WASACRE conference in the not-to-distant future; (9) Maintenance and updating of our Web Site; (10) reports on the usual meetings with Welsh Government, Qualifications Wales, Estyn and the shape of future RVE qualifications, e.g. Agored Cymru and WJEC; (11) Funding and supporting the making of an RVE film.

3. Accounts.

The Treasurer's report for 2023-2024 was shared at the summer AGM of 2024. A Statement of accounts and a report explaining the information was presented. It was noted that expenditure exceeded income for the year by £3,718.66 compared with an excess income of £8,989.44 in the previous year. The Treasurer explained in detail for reasons for this change. The cost to WASACRE for hosting the Conference in Wrexham totalled £17235 and the cost of the film made to promote RVE as a subject worth considering by pupils amounted to £10341. It has been agreed at subsequent WASACRE meetings when these figures have been reported that the money was well spent. There is enthusiasm for a future Conference to be held albeit in a different format.

All SACREs / SACs who are in membership of WASACRE have paid their subscriptions for the year, however it is sad to note that two SACREs/SACs (Swansea and Pembrokeshire) have withdrawn from membership of WASACRE. 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. It was recommended and agreed that the yearly subscription for 2024-2025 would remain the same in light of the current difficult financial circumstances.

4. New members of the Executive Committee

At the Summer AGM 2024 Rachel Samuel, representing Neath Port Talbot was elected to the position of Vice Chair and Kathy Riddick representing Blaenau Gwent was elected to the Executive Committee for the period of 2024-2027:

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 Monmouthshire meeting on 14 November 2024 included a presentation of the WASACRE RVE Film
- The Bridgend meeting on 6 March 2025 included a presentation by Phil Lord on SACRE Annual Reports
- The Anglesey meeting on 2 July 2025 included a presentation by Jamie Woodhouse on Sentientism

As 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. I have been grateful to the Vice Chair and Immediate Past Chair who have chaired meetings when I have been unable to be present through either illness or technology problems.