

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

ANGLESEY ANNUAL REPORT September 2024 - August 2025



**CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Director of Learning, Skills and Young People
Aaron Evans**

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SECTION 1: Introduction

SAC(RE)'s function in relation to Religious Education

The requirement for LAs as regards Standing Advisory Councils for Religion, Values and Ethics and Agreed Syllabus conferences are set out in the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2022, Part 3 Section 9 (3.1A) and Part 3 Section 7(7) and Section 390 of the Education Reform Act 1996.

SAC(RE) advises the Education Authority on matters relating to the provision of Religious Education, Religion, Values and Ethics and collective worship, and is responsible for the establishment of an ad hoc body, the Agreed Syllabus Conference, to produce or consider amendments to the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

1.1 SAC(RE) Chair's Summary

It is a privilege once again, as Chair of the Ynys Môn SACRE, to present the Annual Report for 2024/25.

This year has felt particularly energising and purposeful. While we continue to navigate the evolving landscape of the Curriculum for Wales, especially within the 'Religion, Values and Ethics' (RVE) area, I'm heartened by the growing confidence of schools in approaching this new era of teaching and learning. The questions being raised are meaningful, and the dialogue has been rich.

A significant and positive development for us this year has been the permanent appointment of Phil Lord as a consultant to our SACRE. Phil's contribution has been invaluable — his deep knowledge of the RVE curriculum, combined with his clarity and calm manner in explaining complex ideas, has made every meeting feel purposeful and engaging. His ability to guide discussions and respond to questions with both precision and thoughtfulness has lifted the quality of our work immeasurably.

The work of strengthening and broadening our membership has continued. Alongside Phil, I must also acknowledge the ongoing efforts of Owen Davies, who has worked tirelessly to ensure our committee reflects both the educational needs of the island and the diversity of voices we need around the table. We hope to welcome new members over the coming year, ensuring we remain as representative and informed as possible.

Reference was made to Mrs Elaine Green, who has retired from her role as a representative of the Presbyterian Church in Wales on the SAC for the past four years. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Green for her valuable contribution to the SAC over the years and best wished were conveyed to her for the future.

At our most recent meeting, we also marked the retirement of Edward Morus Jones from his long-standing role representing Ynys Môn at WASACRE. Edward has been a consistent and committed voice over many years, and his passion for religious education and the Welsh language has always shone through. He will be greatly missed, and we extend our heartfelt thanks and warmest wishes to him for the future. We also look forward to welcoming a new representative, who will no doubt bring fresh insight and enthusiasm to the role.

School visits have continued to be a real source of inspiration this year. I had the pleasure of joining Dylan Rees on a visit to Ysgol y Graig, Llangefni, where we saw first-hand how the school

has thoughtfully embedded RVE throughout the curriculum. One particularly moving moment was during assembly, where pupils performed a drama for their peers — a performance that truly brought a tear to my eye. It was a beautiful reminder of how children can explore and express big ideas — values, belief, community — through creativity and play. Moments like this reinforce just how meaningful and impactful this work is. I also sat in on a Humanities lesson at the Ysgol Gyfun, where pupils were questioning Ethics through everyday life situations, and listening to each pupil's reasoning as they reached their own personal conclusions was an incredibly interesting experience.

We hope to increase the number of school visits in the year ahead, giving more SACRE members the opportunity to witness the curriculum in action across the island.

And to finish, it was a real privilege for Ynys Môn to host the WASACRE meeting during the summer — an opportunity for us to showcase the commitment and passion for RVE across our island.

Thank you for taking the time to read this introduction. I remain proud of the work being done by the Ynys Môn SACRE and excited for the year ahead.

Non Dafydd – Chair

SECTION 2: ADVICE TO ANGLESEY'S EDUCATION AUTHORITY

2.1 SAC(RE)'s Function in relation to Religious Education

SAC(RE)'s function in relation to Religious Education

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2.2 The Agreed Syllabus

Gwynedd and Anglesey SAC(RE)s have adopted the 'National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education for 3 to 19 year old learners' as the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Gwynedd and Anglesey (2008).

A SAC(RE)'s main function is '*...to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in county schools and the Religious Education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit.*' (Education Reform Act 1988 s.11 (1) (a)).

Anglesey County Council held their Agreed Syllabus Conference 15th February 2022 to review the syllabus and to recommend an appropriate syllabus to the Local Authority to adopt.

The Agreed Syllabus on Religion, Values and Ethics was adopted to reflect guidance written by practitioners and Religious Education experts. The purpose of the syllabus is to provide additional

support on how Religion, Values and Ethics can be taught within the field of Humanities. Anglesey Agreed Syllabus for Religion Values and Ethics is based on Welsh Governments Guidance for Religion, Values and Ethics. The guidance emphasises that Religion, Values and Ethics are an integral part of the Humanities area or learning and experience. It also outlines the subject's unique and specific contribution to the Curriculum for Wales.

The Guidance can be accessed below:

- <https://hwb.gov.wales/cwricwlwm-i-gymru/y-dyniaethau/cynllunio-eich-cwricwlwm/#canllawiau-ar-grefydd,-gwerthoedd-a-moeseg>
- <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/humanities/designing-your-curriculum/#religion,-values-and-ethics-guidance>

During the academic year 2024-25, in accordance with the changes to the Curriculum for Wales 2022, Religion, Values and Ethics was taught to all primary school children and learners in year 7, 8 and 9. In the academic year 2024-25, secondary schools continued to teach the pre 2022 curriculum (called Curriculum for Wales 2008), including the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, to pupils in years 10 and 11.

The Agreed Syllabus, conforming to the requirements of the new Curriculum for Wales 2022, relates the subject titled 'Religion, Values and Ethics'. The previous Agreed Syllabus, still applicable for secondary schools for the reasons described above, relates to the subject titled 'Religious Education'. This is an important distinction.

Anglesey adopted the 'National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education for 3-19 year olds' as the Locally Agreed Syllabus for 'Religious Education' in 2008. To download a copy of the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education please go to:

- [National exemplar framework for religious education for 3 to 19-year-olds - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)
- [Fframwaith enghreifftiol cenedlaethol ar gyfer cyflwyno addysg grefyddol i ddysgwyr 3 i 19 oed yng Nghymru - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

2.3 How good are standards?

Anglesey SAC(RE) monitors Religious Education and collective worship by:

- receiving a summary of a school's self-evaluation report in response to the key questions of ESTYN's Inspection Framework;
- reviewing ESTYN inspection reports to identify good practice and to further support any references to 'Religious Education' or 'collective worship' that need to be strengthened;
- inviting teachers and headteachers to share their good practice with members in the termly meetings;
- visiting schools, through invitation, to attend a collective worship session;
- encouraging collaboration between schools to identify and support good practice.

SAC(RE) members received a presentation from 1 primary school exploring their emerging practice for RVE.

A presentation has been provided to all secondary Head Teachers as to the expectations regarding the mandatory aspect of RVE and RE.

One primary cluster received a presentation as to the mandatory aspects of the RVE curriculum and changes in the Anglesey Agreed Syllabus.

The chair and Councilor Dylan Rees reported back on their visit to Ysgol y Craig where they

observed a daily act of collective worship.

2.3.1 Schools' self-evaluation reports

No school self-evaluations were reviewed this year within the Religious Education area due to the acknowledgement of so many upcoming changes and that schools require time to prepare for those changes. Estyn re-started school inspections in the summer term 2022.

SAC(RE) Recommendations to Anglesey's Education Authority

Ensure that the resources and good practice presented to SAC(RE) members is distributed to schools across Anglesey

The LA will consider how it monitors Religion, Values and Ethics within Humanities.

2.3.2 School's Examination reports

Due to continued guidance from Welsh Government on the way data is presented and to avoid arbitrary comparison of schools, members were not presented with and were unable to discuss the comparative examination data for examinations awarded in 2024/25.

The table below gives an overview of trends in pupil numbers pursuing Religious Education in GCSE.

School	Number of GCSE Pupils Summer 2019	Number of GCSE Pupils Summer 2020	Number of GCSE Pupils Summer 2021	Number of GCSE Pupils Summer 2022	Number of GCSE Pupils Summer 2023	Number of GCSE Pupils Summer 2024	Number of GCSE Pupils Summer 2025
YSTJ	25	14	17	21	31	40	
YUC	0	1	16	0	0	0	
YGLI	14	20	4	9	3	30	
YDH	33	31	51	24	52	33	
YUB	22	17	15	10	6	14	
Total	94	83	103	64	92	117	

The table below provides an overview of the trends in pupil numbers pursuing RE at A Level.

School	Number of A Level Pupils 2019	Number of A Level Pupils 2020	Number of A Level Pupils 2021	Number of A Level Pupils 2022	Number of A Level Pupils 2023	Number of A Level Pupils 2024	
YSTJ	13	8	8	7	2	8	
YUC	0	0	1	0	0	0	
YGLI	6	0	3	2	2	0	
YDH	8	10	2	12	11	5	
YUB	2	7	6	3	4	3	
Total	29	25	20	24	19	16	

SAC(RE)'s recommendations to Anglesey Education Authority

Supporting Anglesey schools to design an exciting and relevant curriculum within Religion, Values and Ethics which in turn will encourage more pupils to study the subject further as an academic subject.

In collaboration with GwE, preparing Humanities coordinators who will have the most up to date knowledge for the new Curriculum for Wales requirements within the Religion, Values and Ethics area.

Ensuring that schools have access to guidelines and good practice that would improve Religion, Values and Ethics education outcomes.

2.3.3 ESTYN Inspection Reports

During the academic year, 6 schools' inspection reports were presented to SAC(RE) members. Schools were inspected between July '24 and March '25.

- Ysgol Gynradd Parc Y Bont
- Ysgol Gymuned Rhosybol
- Ysgol Gynradd Llanbedrgoch
- Ysgol David Hughes (Secondary)
- Ysgol Gymuned Bryngwran
- Ysgol Gynradd Bodedern

There are no subject judgments in the current Estyn inspection framework. Instead, members receive information from the reports relating to Estyn's comments of a schools' provision of SMSC.

There is no expectation for inspectors to report on whether a school meets the statutory duty to provide a daily act of collective worship, there would be an expectation of a comment in the report if a school were to be found in breach of its statutory duty.

As part of the process of monitoring, Estyn Inspection Reports are analysed for comments on collective worship and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC). These are compiled and noted by SAC(RE).

Two of the schools' inspection reports contain no reference to Religion, Values and Ethics, Collective Worship or their Spiritual and moral development. There were no areas of development included for RVE, RE or collective Worship.

2.4 Response of the Local Authority

- The 'Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021' makes it explicit that any agreed syllabus for RVE must reflect both religious beliefs and also non-religious beliefs which are philosophical convictions. The inclusion of 'Non-Religious Philosophical Convictions' had already been included in the Anglesey Agreed Syllabus. Anglesey SAC(RE) constitution has been amended to include membership of the British humanists (BHA) as part of Committee A. A member of the BHA sits on Committee A.
- Phil Lord continues to be commissioned by the LA as a professional consultant to support the work of Anglesey SAC(RE).
- SAC(RE) members received an presentation regarding the updated GCSE specifications for Religious Studies.
- SAC(RE) members were made aware of Welsh Government's RVE playlists which include support for Governors. These playlists were made in collaboration with WASACRE.
- Members received two presentations regarding the mandatory aspects of RVE and how they impact schools.
- Members received a presentation from Jennie Downs (Bangor University Masters Student) on the impact the 1588 translation of the Bible has had on the spirituality of Wales.
- Members received a presentation from Ysgol Rhyd y Llan exploring the emerging practice regarding the planning of RVE in the primary sector.

- A secondary school RVE network is being developed as a response to meeting with the secondary Head Teachers.
- Resources created as part of the WASACRE Conference (summer 2023) continue to be made available to all Anglesey's schools.

2.5 Religious Education and the Welsh Government

- SAC(RE) members were informed of Professional Learning resources supporting the roll out of the new curriculum, created by a Welsh Government and WASACRE collaboration. The latest resource, a playlist for governors was published Summer 2024: Playlist - Repository - Hwb (gov.wales)

SAC(RE)'s Recommendations to Anglesey's Education Authority

Continue to ensure that all teachers are aware of the new Agreed Syllabus September 2022.

Holding a review of the SAC(RE) Committee's constitution to respond to the requirements in the new Agreed Syllabus.

Ensuring that teachers are aware of 'what is important' in the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience and make full use of HWB resources.

Continuing to facilitate Anglesey's Religious Education and Religious, Values and Ethics teachers and members of the Anglesey SAC(RE) to fully contribute to any review of the curriculum and assessment arrangements.

2.6 SAC(RE)'s Function in relation to Collective Worship

Welsh Office Circular 10/94 notes that the LEA should work with SAC(RE) to keep an eye on the daily collective worship provision, and should consider with it any steps which may be taken to improve such provision.

The collective worship must be "of a broadly Christian character". The "determination" procedure permits the suspension of these requirements in relation to some or all of the pupils in a school where they are deemed inappropriate.

- SAC(RE) members and Anglesey schools have previously received collective worship guidance documents:
- Guidance on Collective Worship (WASACRE, June 2013)
- Supplementary guidance: collective worship in non-denominational schools' (ESTYN, October 2017);
- An 'Update for Inspectors (ESTYN, April 2018)'. The following extract was highlighted in the guidance:-
'A failure to meet the statutory duty might not affect the judgement for IA4. This is something for the team to consider. The team will need to weigh up a number of factors in each specific case, such as the number of pupils that it affects, and the team will have to decide whether this is significant or not and whether it should affect the overall judgement for IA4. Irrespective of whether or not inspectors decide to report on collective worship, they must always report on the spiritual, moral social and cultural development of pupils.'
- Anglesey SAC(RE) monitors the standard of collective worship in schools by reviewing schools' self-evaluation reports during the meetings.

- Prior to Covid-19, the SAC(RE) made use of pro-forma to record their observations during their visits.
- The chair and Councilor Dylan Rees reported back on their visit to Ysgol y Graig where they observed a daily act of collective worship.

SAC(RE)'s Recommendations to Anglesey's Education Authority

Continue visits by invitation to ensure that schools comply with the statutory requirements in regards to collective worship

SECTION 3: APPENDICES

3.1 Anglesey SAC(RE) Membership September 2024

Committee A

The Methodist Church	Rev. Sue Altree
Union of Welsh Baptists	Rev. Debra Stammers
Presbyterian Church of Wales	Elaine Green/Huw Owen
Church in Wales	Rev. Neil Ridings
Union of Independents	Edward Morus Jones
The Catholic Church	Collette Owens
Methodist	Vacancy
Islam representative	Vacancy
Jehovah's Witness	Vacancy
British Humanist Association	Sarah Kingman

Committee B (Teacher Associations)

Ysgol Santes Dwynwen	Manon Morris Williams
Ysgol Cybi	Owain Roberts
Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern	Heledd Heam
Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones	Mefys Jones-Edwards

Committee C (Councillors)

Non Dafydd, Gwilym O Jones, Dylan Rees, Arfon Wyn
(Sedd Wag/Vacant Seat x 2)

Councillor	Non Dafydd (Chair)
Councillor	Gwilym O Jones
Councillor	Dylan Rees
Councillor	Arfon Wyn
Councillor	Keith Robers (Spring and Summer)
Councillor	Alwen P Watkin (Spring only)

Co-opted Members (non voting)

Rheinallt Thomas	Free Church Council of Wales
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Officers

Mr Owen T Davies	Primary Senior Manager, Education
Mr Phil Lord	RVE Consultant
Shirley Cooke	Committee Officer

3.2 SAC(RE) meetings 2024-2025

A summary of SAC(RE) meeting discussions is provided in the Annual Report. During 2024 – 25 Anglesey SAC(RE) met virtually and in person on three occasions:

17 October 2024
13 February 2025
10 July 2025

All agendas and minutes can be accessed on the Anglesey’s County Council [Website](#):

3.3: A record sheet for Anglesey SAC(RE) members who attend a school's collective worship session

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education.

I attended a collective worship session in a:	special school	☐
	primary school	☐
	secondary school	☐
I observed a collective worship session attended by:	the whole school	☐
	a class	☐
	a key stage	☐
Contributing to the collective worship were the:	headteacher	☐
	pupils	☐
	teacher(s)	☐
	a local religious leader	☐
	parent(s)	☐
	governors	☐
The collective worship session lasted for:	less than 5 minutes	☐
	between 5-10 minutes	☐
	between 10-15 minutes	☐
	over 15 minutes.	☐

The theme of the collective worship session was: _____

I heard a:

Biblical story	☐	A presentation by an adult	☐
Story from another religion	☐	A presentation by pupils	☐
Suitable moral/contemporary/historical story	☐	Pupils reflecting quietly in response to a stimulus	☐
Pupils praying (individually/together)	☐		☐
Christian hymn/carol	☐		☐
A suitable song	☐		☐

Underline the three statements that best describe the collective worship session. Today, the collective worship session:

- developed learners' ability to reflect on their own feelings, values and attitudes;
- developed learners' awareness of inner life and the spiritual dimension of each person;
- discussed and encouraged responses to fundamental questions about the meaning of life, change and death;
- developed beliefs and values, both personal and communal;
- encouraged an understanding of the beliefs and values of others, either locally or globally;
- increased self-esteem and a sense of purpose in life;
- nurtured the human ability to make moral choices for good or evil,
- encouraged shared values, meaning and purpose;
- provided opportunities to share and reflect on the 'happy' and 'sad' events and experiences which impact the school community and the local community;
- supported shared understanding of how individual learners and a school may contribute positively to the wider community;
- developed an understanding of global diversity

and inequality; Any other comment