



WASACRE Spring Meeting Minutes
Thursday, 19 March 2026
9.30 – 12:30
Hosted by Cardiff SAC, virtual via Zoom
Chaired by Edward Evans
27 participants including special guest, Mark Bryant, and SAC representatives across Wales

Attendance

<p>Ynys Môn / Anglesey Phil Lord (PL)</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent Kathy Riddick (KR)</p> <p>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend Edward Evans (EE)</p> <p>Caerffili/ Caerphilly Eifion ap Llwyd Dafydd (ELD)</p> <p>Caerdydd / Cardiff Matt O'Brian (MO) Paul Morgan (PM)</p> <p>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire Jennifer Harding-Richards (JHR)</p> <p>Ceredigion Anne Uruska (AU)</p> <p>Conwy Phil Lord (PL) Colette Owen (CO) Cllr Angie O'Grady (AOG)</p>	<p>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire Phil Lord (PL) Jennie Downes (JD)</p> <p>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire Lyn Oakes (LO) Cllr David Mackie (DM) Trevor Dobson (TD)</p> <p>Gwynedd / Eleri Moss(EM) Cyng Paul Rowlinson (PR)</p> <p>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil Donna Graves (DG)</p> <p>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire Louise Brown (LB) Rachel Buckler (RB)</p> <p>Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot Rachel Samuel (RS)</p> <p>Casnewydd / Newport</p> <p>Powys John Mitson (JM)</p>	<p>Rhondda Cynon Taf Donna Graves (DG)</p> <p>Torfaen Hayley Jones (HJ)</p> <p>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan Kathy Riddick (KR)</p> <p>Wrecsam / Wrexham Tania ap Siôn (TS) Libby Jones (LJ)</p> <p>CSC Donna Graves (DG)</p> <p>EAS Hayley Jones (HJ)</p> <p>NAPfRVE Phil Lord (PL) Donna Graves (DG)</p> <p>EFTRE Phil Lord (PL)</p> <p>REC Kathy Riddick (KR)</p>	<p>Observers</p> <p>WJEC</p> <p>ESTYN Linsey Watkins (LW)</p> <p>Church in Wales</p> <p>Catholic Education Service</p> <p>WLGA</p> <p>Qualification Wales (QW)</p> <p>Special guests: Mark Bryant (MB) – Cardiff University</p> <p>Translator: Rhiannon Elis-Williams (REW)</p>
--	---	---	--

Minutes of the meeting

1. Introduction and Welcome

The Chair, Edward Evans, opened the meeting and introduced Matthew O'Brien (Achievement Lead for Curriculum - Cardiff City Council) who welcomed attendees, outlining Cardiff's approach to Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) emphasizing inclusion, diversity, and professional learning opportunities for teachers.

2. Quiet Reflection

Edward Evans offered reflections on the importance of individual action in creating positive change and sharing a Universal Statement for Peace.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from Vicky Barlow, Amy Newton, Sam Clutton, Alice Parry, Councillor Merry, Mel Godfrey, Councillor Nia Jenkins, and Rhianydd James.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting (19 November 2025)

Minutes were reviewed and amended. Corrections to attendance, name spellings, and affiliations were made including:

- Mike Head (Powys SACRE)
- Alison Lee (RCT SACRE)
- Yvonne Roberts Ablett (correct spelling)
- Andrew Pearce (correct spelling)

Decision: Minutes approved following amendments.

ACTION: EE to sign minutes and AP to file

5. Matters Arising

No separate matters arising beyond those addressed within agenda items.

6. NAPfRVE Presentation

Presenter: Mark Bryant (Cardiff University)

Introduction to bilingual, freely available resources from the Islam UK Centre, including:

- "Ask a Muslim" interactive tool
- Virtual Mosque Tour (South Wales Islamic Centre)
- Arabic pronunciation guide aligned to WJEC glossaries
- Primary lesson packs
- History of Islam in Wales e-book and exhibition materials

Future developments:

- Expansion to other faiths
- Increased youth voice representation
- Environmental ethics materials

Key discussion:

Strong praise for accessibility, authenticity, and bilingual provision

ACTION:

- WASACRE to circulate presentation link to all SACREs
- Officers to explore hosting NAPfRVE presentations on WASACRE website

7. Welsh Government Matters

Update from WASACRE Officers RS and LJ on discussions at usual termly meetings with Welsh Government on 14-1-26 and 16-3-26.

Concerns regarding RVE provision in Years 10–11, particularly following removal of the short course GCSE. Welsh Government reiterated that not all curriculum areas require qualifications. Concerns raised about:

- Inconsistent guidance
- Teacher workload

Decisions included:

Co-development of additional guidance for schools on RVE in Years 10–11

WASACRE to support Welsh Government in defining:

- What should be assessed in RVE
- Purpose of assessment

Welsh Government shared the 14–16 Learner Entitlement Indicators Framework, noting that schools will be required to publish details of RVE provision in future

8. Teacher Voice Project (WASACRE-supported Research)

Tania ap Sion announced the WASACRE webinar (25 March 2026) presenting initial findings from the national Teacher Voice Survey. Final report scheduled for publication: May 2026.

9. Qualifications

Update shared via LJ (from Oliver Stacey, Qualifications Wales)

Update shared via RS from Chris Owens, WJEC)

- Religious Studies AS and A Level: Light-touch review underway

- Minor changes expected for teaching from September 2027 (proposed changes to be submitted by WJEC to QW after Easter and updated specifications published this summer (2026))
- Religious Studies GCSE: Practitioner Group to gather teacher feedback after Easter - summary of RS feedback from QW offered for the WASACRE summer meeting
- Skills Suite (Wave 3): Includes RVE units - Specifications due September 2026

Concerns raised:

- Heavy NEA workload for RS GCSE
- March submission deadline for Unit 1
- May submission deadline for Unit 4
- Heavy administration for teachers – questioned whether this is acceptable
- Lack of external reviewers for Wave 3 RVE skills units
- Suggestion to reintroduce synoptic assessment at A-level

ACTIONS:

- LJ to email Andrew Pearce and Chris Owens (WJEC) and Oliver Stacey (QW) with feedback from this meeting
- LJ to invite Oliver Stacey to the summer WASACRE meeting to update on RS teacher feedback

10. Executive Committee Nominations

EE announced that nominations for the Executive Committee should be submitted by to LJ by 27 March 2026. Reminders of processes outlined.

11. Report of Executive Committee (4 February 2026)

The meeting covered several updates and discussions. Most of the items on the agenda are on this agenda, including WG meetings, WASACRE website and usual updates. Correspondence shared in item 14.

12. Updates

- REC (Religious Education Council)

JD appointed as Welsh representative on REC Board. Ongoing work includes:

- Revision of English RE curriculum
- Update of resilience framework
- NAPfRVE
Discussion on:
 - Closer alignment with WASACRE and Estyn
 - Encouraging SACREs to engage local authority staff on School improvement frameworks
 - Role of RVE
- WJEC / CBAC (Covered under Qualifications)

- ESTYN

No representative present; WASACRE to arrange a separate meeting with Amy Newton to discuss the Estyn Annual Report's Humanities section

Action: Arrange meeting with Estyn (Amy Newton)

- EFTRE

Reflections on differing European interpretations of "religious education"

Implications for RVE terminology discussed

13. Local Matters / Enquiries

No additional items recorded.

14. Correspondence

FOI Request – Bangor University

Concerns raised over the recent FOI request sent to schools regarding RVE provision. Apparent lack of ethical approval and appropriateness of using FOI for research

Bangor response: Claimed data was "publicly available"

ACTION:

- WASACRE to formally respond emphasising need for ethical processes
- Suggesting Welsh Government consider filtering FOI requests through local education directors

15. Any Other Business

Collective Worship Review

- Welsh Government to undertake review following UK-wide developments
- WASACRE to act as a stakeholder
- Members cautioned careful interpretation of Northern Ireland case law

RCT SACRE Letter

- Concerns regarding RVE pressures in Years 10–11

Action: WASACRE to respond after further Welsh Government discussions

16. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 24 June 2026 – Conwy

Summary of Key Actions

Actions
EE to sign minutes and AP to file
Share Islam resource presentation with all SACREs
Officers to explore hosting NAPfRE presentations on WASACRE website
Arrange meeting with Estyn (Amy Newton)
Libby to contact WJEC and QW with qualifications feedback
Invite Oliver Stacey to next meeting
Respond formally to Bangor University FOI concerns
Suggest Welsh Government consider filtering FOI requests through local education directors
WASACRE to respond RCT SAC after further Welsh Government discussions