STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2009/2010
# Contents

Letter from Vice Chair of SACRE  
Table of Contents ......................................................................................................... 1

## 1. BACKGROUND

- a) Composition of SACRE ..................................................................................... 2
- b) Functions of SACRE ......................................................................................... 2
- c) Meetings of SACRE ......................................................................................... 2
- d) SACRE Development Plans ........................................................................... 3
- e) Circulation of the Report ................................................................................ 3

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- a) Locally Agreed Syllabus .................................................................................. 4
- b) Standards in Religious Education ..................................................................... 4
- c) Methods of Teaching, choice of Teaching Materials and Teacher Training ..................................................................................... 4
- d) Collective Worship ............................................................................................ 4
- e) Local Issues ....................................................................................................... 4
- f) National Issues ................................................................................................... 5

## 3. ADVICE TO THE LA – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- a) The Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education .................................... 6
- b) Standards in Religious Education ..................................................................... 7
- c) Methods of Teaching, choice of Teaching Materials and Teacher Training ..................................................................................... 8

## 4. ADVICE TO THE LA – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- a) Monitoring and Advice on Collective Worship ............................................. 10
- b) Determinations .................................................................................................. 10

## 5. ADVICE TO THE LA ON OTHER ISSUES

- a) Local Issues ....................................................................................................... 11
- b) National Issues .................................................................................................. 12
- c) Complaints .......................................................................................................... 13

## ANNEXES

- A. General information regarding the composition of the Powys SACRE
- B. SACRE meetings held during the 2009/2010 academic year
- C. List of organisations to which the SACRE report has been sent
- D. Evidence
1. BACKGROUND

All Local Authorities are required to constitute a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education within their local area. All SACREs are required by the 1996 Education Act to produce an annual report, a copy of which must be sent to the Welsh Assembly Government Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DCELLS). This report has been prepared by the Powys SACRE in accordance with the guidance issued by the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales (ACCAC), the predecessor of DCELLS, and, in accordance with the established practice of the Powys SACRE, this report relates to the period 1 September, 2008, to 31 August, 2010.

a) Composition of SACRE

The following representation is required on the Powys SACRE:-

- such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the LA, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area;
- associations representing teachers;
- the Local Authority.

In addition, the SACRE is free to co-opt additional members on to the SACRE but these members are non-voting.

The membership of the Powys SACRE is attached as Annexe A to this annual report.

b) The Functions of SACRE

- to advise the LA on Collective Worship and the Religious Education to be provided in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus, including methods of teaching, advice on teaching materials and the provision of training for teachers;
- to consider whether to recommend to the LA that its current Agreed Syllabus should be reviewed by convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference;
- to consider whether the requirement that Religious Worship in a Community School should be ‘broadly Christian in nature’ should be varied (Determinations);
- to report to the LA and DCELLS on its activities on an annual basis.

c) Meetings of SACRE

During the 2009/2010 academic year, the Powys SACRE has met on the following occasions:-

Thursday, 26 November, 2009
Thursday, 11 March, 2010
Monday, 14 June, 2010

All meetings were held in the Llandrindod Wells area in a number of local venues, and details of the issues discussed in the above meetings are included in Annexe B.
d) **SACRE Development Plans**

The Powys SACRE adopts annual development plans in order to co-ordinate its activities and the development plans for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 are attached as Annexe E to this report.

e) **Circulation of the Report**

Details of the circulation of this report are included in Annexe C.
2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A brief summary of the advice that Powys SACRE has given to the LEA is as follows:-

a) Religious Education

i) Locally Agreed Syllabus

- Advice that the Carmarthenshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education would be suitable for Powys as it was based on the National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education for 3-19 year olds in Wales (2008);
- Advice that the Powys Agreed Syllabus Conference had decided to adopt the Revised Carmarthenshire Syllabus as the Powys Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

ii) Standards in Religious Education

- Advice in relation to aspects of good practice and areas of concern in respect of Religious Education arising from recent inspection reports of Powys schools;
- Advice in respect of examination results;
- Concerns regarding the impact of the change to the inspection arrangements, with effect from the end of the summer term, 2010, on the ability of SACRE to monitor Religious Education.

iii) Methods of Teaching, choice of Teaching Materials and Teacher Training

- Advice in relation to the reasons for lack of In-Service training in Religious Education during the academic year;
- Advice in relation to the availability of opportunities for consultation meetings for Heads of Religious Education in secondary schools;
- Advice in relation to Partnered Evaluation;
- Advice in relation to support for teaching and learning in RE;
- Advice in relation to catchment liaison between secondary RE heads of department and their feeder primary schools;

b) Collective Worship

i) Monitoring and Advice

- Advice in relation to the monitoring of Collective Worship through a consideration of extracts from inspection reports of recently inspected Powys schools;
- Advice in relation to the availability of resources on external websites;
- Advice on the availability of SACRE members to attend Collective Worship in schools, via invitation, in order to allow them to experience, first-hand in schools, examples of Collective Worship.

c) Local Issues

- Advice on the availability of the training opportunities in relation to Collective Worship and Religious Education;
- Advice that governors should receive reports, on an annual basis, from headteachers, on the Collective Worship delivered in schools;
- Advice on training opportunities for SACRE members.
d) National Issues

- Advice in relation to the activities of the Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE);
- Advice with regards to the Powys SACRE’s involvement with Religious Education Movement Wales (REMW).
3. **ADVICE TO THE LA – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The Powys SACRE advises the LA via three avenues: -

County Level, School Level and RE Co-ordinator Level.

A Powys SACRE Development Plan 2008/2009 has been agreed. It guides the work and lists the following priorities:

- **Priority 1** – to monitor standards in Religious Education and Religious Studies in order to raise standards;
- **Priority 2** – to provide support for Religious Education;
- **Priority 3** – to give guidance and support for the implementation of Collective Worship;
- **Priority 4** – to provide support for governors and SACRE members.

a) **Locally Agreed Syllabus**

The Welsh Assembly Government issued its National Exemplar Framework on Religious Education for 3 – 19 year olds in Wales during 2008 and SACRE agreed that the Authority’s School Improvement Officer with the responsibility for Religious Education would work with the Religious Education Adviser of other authorities, under the umbrella of SWAMWAC (the South West and Mid Wales Consortium), in order to prepare a Revised Agreed Syllabus for Powys. The Adviser for Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion kept the Authority’s School Improvement Officer advised of developments in relation to the revision of the Agreed Syllabus in those authorities and made available to Powys SACRE, initially, the draft Revised Agreed Syllabus that was prepared and, in due course, the finalised Revised Agreed Syllabus. Powys SACRE appreciated the opportunity of working with other authorities in the revision of its Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and has already acknowledged its gratitude to Mrs Mary Parry, Religious Education Adviser in Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion, for the assistance provided.

The Carmarthenshire Revised Agreed Syllabus was based on the National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education for 3 – 19 year olds in Wales (2008) and an Agreed Syllabus Conference met on 25 June, 2009, in order to consider adopting the Carmarthenshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education to be used in Powys. The Agreed Syllabus Conference resolved to recommend to the Authority that the Carmarthenshire Agreed Syllabus be adopted as the Powys Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education for the ensuing 5 years and the syllabus was referred to the Authority for a decision. The change in the Authority’s structure meant that it took a little longer than anticipated to obtain approval for the introduction of the Carmarthenshire syllabus but agreement was reached and the syllabus has been approved. At the end of the academic year the Authority was in the process of adapting the syllabus for use in Powys with a view to it being issued to schools during the Autumn Term, 2010.

b) **Standards in Religious Education**

The Powys SACRE has continued taking its responsibility to monitor standards in Religious Education very seriously.
An important aspect of business of each SACRE meeting is for members to receive reports which comprise extracts from the published reports of recently inspected Powys schools. The report provides members with the following information:

- Name, Category of School and date of inspection;
- School Address;
- Number of pupils on roll (January statistics);
- Number of teachers (full-time equivalent) in primary and special schools and number of teachers of Religious Education in secondary schools;
- The name of the registered inspector;
- The school’s priorities and targets;
- The grade given to Key Question 3: How well did the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?, together with the section from this part of the report that relates to Collective Worship;
- The section on Religious Education, if it is inspected;
- Recommendations for improvement.

It is the SACRE’s practice to contact individual schools by letter following the consideration of extracts from their inspection reports. This is to extend congratulations where high standards have been attained and to request copies of inspection action plans where shortcomings have been identified. The action plans are shared with SACRE and any comments made by members are fed back to the schools. The Authority’s School Improvement Officer with responsibility for Religious Education was, initially, on secondment to Estyn and then appointed to a permanent post within that organisation, with the result that requests for support have been addressed through School Improvement Officers identifying a successful and experienced teaching colleague, in another school, to provide the advice and support required. When it was clear that the Authority’s officer on secondment would not be returning, consideration was given to identifying another member of the Authority’s School Improvement Service to take responsibility for providing curricular advice in relation to Religious Education.

During the Spring and Summer Terms, 2010, the Authority has been undertaking a re-structuring of its Schools Service, through the bringing together of its Inclusion Officers and School Improvement Officers and re-designating them as School Effectiveness Officers. The school effectiveness officers are divided into four area teams, comprising three school effectiveness officers, and, of that three, one focuses on Leadership and Management, one on Standards, Teaching and Learning, and one on Working with Others. This is to reflect the key elements of the School Effectiveness Framework. Although school effectiveness officers have area responsibilities, they also have cross-cutting responsibilities and one of the school effectiveness officers has been identified to provide curriculum advice in relation to Religious Education.

The Powys SACRE has expressed concern that, because under the inspection arrangements in place until the end of the Summer Term, 2010, Religious Education was not always inspected, one of their main opportunities for monitoring standards had been removed. When, under the previous inspection regime, Religious Education was part of every inspection, members were able to consider findings of those inspections on every school and form a picture of the standards within the subject across the county. This became more difficult with the introduction of the regime that was in place until the end of the Summer Term, 2010. The new regime, introduced with effect from September, 2010, does not include subject inspections at all and this has created further concern for the Powys SACRE. They received extracts from the report of a pilot inspection, carried out under the new arrangements, and were disappointed that little information was supplied that would assist in the monitoring of either Religious Education or Collective Worship.
Requests have been made for schools to provide copies of self-evaluation reports in relation to Religious Education when these are carried out, but, to date, no self-evaluation reports have been received. It is possible that arrangements for moderation of Religious Education at Key Stage 3 will assist in information being provided to SACRE but members remain concerned at the reduction in sources of information available to them to assist in their monitoring of Religious Education. It is understood that the provision of training regarding compiling portfolios for levelling RE at the end of Key Stage 3, within Powys, has been deferred to the 2010/2011 school year and will be linked to the introduction of the new RE syllabus.

Examination results are scrutinised annually by SACRE and a report is received on GCE Advanced Level, GCE AS Level and GCSE examination results in Religious Studies and the results of the GCSE (Short Course) examination in Religious Education. Trends are noted, thoroughly discussed by members, and a full report shared within the LA and with schools. The report on the 2009 examination results is included in Annexe D of this report.

c) **Methods of Teaching, Choice of Teaching Materials and Teacher Training**

The Authority has identified a number of schools in all sectors and phases that can be used as ‘good practice’ schools in respect of implementing any new methodologies in the teaching of RE.

At county level, no formal in-service training courses were offered during 2009/2010. The Authority took the view that, rather than arrange courses that reflected the current RE Syllabus, it would be better to wait until the Revised RE Syllabus was in place and focus attention on supporting staff in implementing the new syllabus. As indicated above, it has taken longer than anticipated for the syllabus to be approved and, therefore, no formal training in respect of RE has been provided.

In the past, secondary heads of Religious Education have preferred to take part in consultation meetings as part of an ongoing programme of in-service training but, unfortunately, because of lack of take-up, these meetings have been cancelled. This should not be seen as a reflection on the commitment of heads of Religious Education in Powys secondary schools to attend training, but more their need to remain in school as much as possible in order to ensure that teaching programmes are appropriately covered. Clearly, heads of Religious Education in secondary schools are able to access training provided by the examination boards, linked to the syllabuses.

A special section has been created on the LA website to support the teaching and learning of RE and it has links to approximately 100 RE sites.

The Authority practices a Partnered Evaluation process for schools at the mid point between inspections, which gives the school and the Authority the opportunity of, in partnership, reviewing their practice. The review is based on the key questions included within the inspection structure and, if this process raises issues in respect of Religious Education or if concerns arise at school level about Religious Education through self-evaluation, schools are able to access support through the Authority. In the past, this was provided through a School Improvement Officer with responsibility for Religious Education, amongst other responsibilities, but during the 2009/2010 academic year, it was facilitated by the Authority but involved an experienced practitioner from another school. The position in the 2010/2011 academic year will be that one of the school effectiveness officers has been designated as the lead for Religious Education and will be able to advise schools or arrange the necessary advice as appropriate. The Partnered Evaluation process has involved the consideration of pupils’ work, the consideration of teaching plans in order to ensure
breadth, balance and progression throughout the school, lesson observations in order to monitor teaching and learning, and assessment procedures.

During the year, Powys SACRE has sought to foster catchment liaison between secondary heads of RE departments and their feeder primary schools. This action arose from concerns being expressed in the past at difficulties that have arisen in terms of progression of subjects when pupils transferred from the primary to the secondary phase. Correspondence has been sent to the Authority’s secondary schools and primary schools encouraging liaison between heads of RE departments and catchment primary schools in order to agree which 2 religions, in addition to Christianity, will be taught in Key Stage 2. Success in achieving this liaison was achieved in the Machynlleth area, between Ysgol Bro Ddyfi and its catchment primary schools, in the 2008/2009 academic year and it was planned that similar liaison would take place between Crickhowell High School and Crickhowell C P School during the 2009/2010 academic year. As it happened, a whole cluster networking meeting took place focusing on thinking skills on a whole-school basis, rather than concentrating on Religious Education.
4. **ADVICE TO THE LA – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

a) **Monitoring and Advising on Collective Worship**

SACRE has monitored the Collective Worship in schools through considering the information included in extracts from reports of recently inspected schools covering the grade for Key Question 3: *How well did the learning experiences meet the interests of learners and the wider community?*, together with the extract from the section addressing Key Question 3 that relates to Collective Worship. Unlike Religious Education, Collective Worship is reported on in each inspection and, therefore, SACRE has been able to comment on this aspect of each inspection that has been carried out. In respect of Collective Worship, feedback is provided to individual schools and, in the majority of cases, the comments made by inspectors have been positive. All letters sent to headteachers, as a result of SACRE monitoring, were copied to the School Link Officer and the Senior Manager, School Improvement. Following re-structuring, they will be copied to the School Effectiveness Officer who is the contact adviser for the school in question together with the Senior Education Officer for either North or Mid/South Powys, as appropriate. The views of SACRE are, therefore, fed back into the Authority’s School Effectiveness Teams.

The Authority has, for a number of years, offered training on the need to develop ‘Awe and Wonder’ in Collective Worship but, in 2008/2009, it proved necessary to cancel this course because of lack of take-up. No training in respect of Collective Worship was, therefore, offered during the 2009/2010 academic year. However, resources that were included as part of the course, are still available and it is planned that these will be adapted and circulated to schools in due course, as a resource to support Collective Worship.

A special section is maintained on the LA website to support Collective Worship and information in relation to other websites, which are a helpful resource in relation to Collective Worship, has been circulated to schools.

In the past, SACRE members have offered to join in Collective Worship in schools, via invitation, and, where this has happened, both members and schools have found this to be beneficial. However, no invitations to attend Collective Worship opportunities were received by SACRE members during 2009/2010.

b) **Determinations**

No requests for exemption from Christian Collective Worship (‘Determinations’) were received from Powys schools during 2009/2010.
5. **ADVICE TO THE LA ON OTHER ISSUES**

a) **Local Issues**

Advice in relation to the following local issues has been provided during the 2009/2010 school year:

(i) **Governor Training**

The Authority offers governing bodies a range of courses and training to support them in undertaking their tasks. These can be accessed, by governing bodies, on an individual basis, in accordance with their priorities. The Powys SACRE considers that it is important for governor training in relation to Collective Worship and Religious Education to be available to governing bodies. Collective Worship is included in the list of training topics available for individual governing bodies to access, and this training provides clarification in respect of the legal framework in which Collective Worship is offered, as well as what constitutes an effective opportunity for Collective Worship to take place.

For a number of years, the Powys SACRE has recommended that governors should receive reports, on an annual basis, from headteachers on the Collective Worship delivered and this has remained a recommendation of the Powys SACRE during 2009/2010.

In addition to specific training on Collective Worship, training on Religious Education, in particular relating to the Revised Powys Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, can be provided to governing bodies if required.

(ii) **SACRE Members visiting Schools**

Members of the Powys SACRE would be very happy to visit schools in order to observe Collective Worship and to discuss Religious Education with the RE co-ordinator. This practice has happened very successfully on a previous occasion and, if schools would like a member of SACRE to observe Collective Worship and to engage in discussions regarding Religious Education, SACRE members would be pleased to respond to an appropriate invitation.

(iii) **Training for SACRE Members**

SACRE members have discussed, on a number of occasions, ways in which they could receive training in order to enhance their understanding of Religious Education and Collective Worship and it has been agreed that training would be most effectively offered as part of the termly SACRE meetings. Training that has been received during 2009/2010 has included the following:

- An update in relation to the new inspection arrangements;
- A presentation on the School Effectiveness Framework.
Members have identified the following aspects as possible topics for training during 2010/2011:

- The Legal Framework for the delivery of Religious Education and Collective Worship and the ways in which the provision of this aspect can be addressed;
- The Authority’s newly-adopted Revised Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education;
- Information on minority faiths in Powys.

b) National Issues

(i) Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE)

The Powys SACRE has continued its involvement in the activities of the Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE) and is regularly represented at meetings of WASACRE. During 2009/2010, the Powys SACRE has been represented at meetings of WASACRE by the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk and, in addition, the Clerk to the Powys SACRE has remained a member of the WASACRE Executive Committee. At the termly meetings of SACRE, minutes of the most recent meetings of WASACRE and notes of the meetings of the Executive Committee are drawn to the attention of SACRE members, together with any papers produced and WASACRE remains a standard item on the agenda of SACRE. Involvement in WASACRE enables the Powys SACRE to be aware of All Wales aspects in relation to Religious Education and Collective Worship and to benefit from excellent presentations that take place at the WASACRE meetings. These presentations are summarised in the pull-out sections of RE News entitled ‘REflections’ and, therefore, as all Powys schools receive copies of RE News, they also benefit from these presentations. The Authority has maintained its subscription to RE News for a further year and, therefore, all schools have received this valuable resource. RE News provides an opportunity for SACREs to provide an update in relation to their activity, and an update on Powys SACRE is provided in each edition. In addition, there is the opportunity of reporting on activity, within the Authority, in relation to Religious Education and, during a recent edition, an article, written by pupils of Crickhowell High School, covering a visit by the Year 10 Religious Studies group of pupils to the Hindu Temple at Skanda Vale was included, supported by excellent photographs of the visit.

Through WASACRE, SACRE became aware of the RE Festival arranged for March, 2011, and SACRE will be encouraging all the Authority’s schools to engage with this festival in order to raise the profile of Religious Education across Powys. A further benefit being received through involvement with WASACRE was early notification of the RESilience Project which is managed by the RE Council of England and Wales and is a project for teachers of RE and maintained secondary schools in order to help increase their confidence in addressing contentious issues, particularly when such issues are sometimes used to justify violent extremism. The project has operated as a pilot in the first half of 2010 and will be offered to schools during September, 2010, to March, 2011.
WASACRE has the opportunity of an annual meeting with the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Education and this is valued by both the Minister and WASACRE itself. It offers an opportunity to raise issues of significance, in relation to Religious Education and Collective Worship, and also to respond to points raised by the Minister.

(ii) Religious Education Movement Wales (REMW)

The Authority has continued to pay its subscription to Religious Education Movement Wales (‘REMW’) in order to assist in the provision of RE resources. These resources can be purchased by Powys schools because of the Authority’s support for REMW. In addition, the Authority is able to use part of its subscription to support developments in Religious Education and Collective Worship within the Authority.

c) Complaints

The Authority’s Complaints Procedure provides a role for SACRE in resolving complaints in relation to Religious Education and Collective Worship. During 2009/2010, one complaint was received in relation to Religious Education at a school and SACRE assisted in addressing this matter.
ANNEXE A

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

STRUCTURE

At the commencement of 2009/2010, the membership of the Powys SACRE consisted of the following:-

a) **Representatives of the Local Authority**

Councillor M D Hodges - representative of the Radnorshire Committee
Councillor J Steadman - representative of the Brecknockshire Committee
Councillor J M Williams - representative of the Montgomeryshire Committee
Mr M Pryse – Adviser (School Improvement Officer) with Responsibility for Religious Education
Mr J Mitson - Clerk

b) **Representatives of Religious Denominations**

Mrs K Boyce, Diocesan Director of Education – Church in Wales (Diocese of Swansea and Brecon Council for Education)
Mrs C Robinson – Representative of the Church in Wales (Diocese of St Asaph)
Father R Patterson, Brecon – Roman Catholic
Reverend W O Meredith-Powell (Baptist), Llanidloes - Free Church Representative
Reverend J Garrard (Presbyterian Church of Wales), Llanidloes - Free Church Representative
Vacancy – Free Church Representative

c) **Representatives of Teacher Associations**

Vacancy – Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)
Mrs M Evitts, Headteacher, Gungrog C in W (Controlled) Infants School - National Association of Headteachers (NAHT)
Vacancy - National Union of Teachers (NUT)
Mr C Canton - Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)
Ms A E Thomas, Teacher at Machynlleth C P School - Undeb Cenedlaethol Athrawon Cymru, National Association of Teachers of Wales (UCAC)
Vacancy – VOICE
Mrs P Watts - National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (NAS/UWT)

d) **Co-opted Members (non-voting)**

Reverend Professor L J Francis (St Mary’s Centre)
Mr C Canton (Religious Education Movement Wales)
Reverend R W Thomas (Evangelical Movement of Wales)
Mrs J Pugh, Head of RE, Crickhowell High School – Co-opted Secondary School Teacher

During the year, the following changes have taken place to the membership of SACRE:-

Mr M Pryse, School Improvement Officer with responsibility for Religious Education, was seconded to Estyn and then appointed to a permanent post within that organisation. He, therefore, ceased to be a member of the Powys SACRE and he has been replaced by Mr W Williams, School Effectiveness Officer. Mrs Rhian Linecar, Faith, Order and Witness Officer, CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales) provided assistance in the identification of a Free Church representative to fill the vacancy within the representatives of Religious Denominations section and, following her intervention, Reverend S Lawler, Methodist Minister in Llanfyllin and Welshpool area, has joined the Powys SACRE. In addition, the Clerk has written to the County Secretary for the Association of School and College Leaders, National Union of Teachers and VOICE in order to request them to appoint
representatives to fill the vacancies in the section covering representatives of teacher associations.

e) **Officers of SACRE**

During 2009/2010, the following have served as officers of the Powys SACRE:

(i) Chairman – Mrs C Robinson  
(ii) Vice Chairman – Mrs J Pugh
The Powys SACRE has met on the following occasions during 2009/2010:-

25 November, 2009
11 March, 2010
14 June, 2010

The following issues were discussed in the meetings:-

a) **25 November, 2009**

This was the Autumn, 2009, termly meeting of the Powys SACRE and the issues addressed included:

- the appointment of the Chairman and Vice Chairman;
- consideration of the draft SACRE Annual Report for 2008/2009;
- consideration of Collective Worship and Religious Education in inspection reports of schools inspected during the Summer Term, 2009;
- the Powys SACRE Development Plan 2009/2010;
- representation of the Powys SACRE at meetings of the Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE);
- feedback from the recent meeting of WASACRE, held on 13 November, 2009;
- minutes of the previous meeting of WASACRE held on 24 June, 2009;
- notes of the Executive Committee meeting of WASACRE;

b) **11 March, 2010**

This was the Spring, 2010, termly meeting of the Powys SACRE and the issues addressed included:

- Farmington Fellowships for teachers of Religious Education 2010/2011;
- membership of the Powys SACRE;
- Collective Worship and Religious Education in the inspection reports of Powys schools inspected during the Summer and Autumn Terms, 2009;
- the Powys SACRE Development Plan 2009/2010;
- the new Estyn inspection arrangements;
- the National Assembly for Wales School Effectiveness Framework;
- minutes of the last meeting of WASACRE, held on 13 November, 2009.

c) **14 June, 2010**

This was the Summer, 2010, termly meeting of the Powys SACRE and the issues addressed included:

- membership;
- Collective Worship and Religious Education in the inspection reports of Powys schools inspected during the Autumn Term, 2009, and Spring Term, 2010;
- a review of the 2009/2010 Powys SACRE Development Plan;
- consideration of a draft Powys SACRE Development Plan 2010/2011;
- a report on the 2009 examination results in Religious Studies and Religious Education in Powys;
- a questionnaire survey, prepared by the Wales Association of SACREs, on Committee A (Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations), co-opted representation, SACRE relations with Christian denominations and other
religions and their denominations, and SACRE involvement with local Inter-Faith organisations and other local Faith initiatives;

• information regarding the RE Festival arranged for March, 2011;
• the REsilience Project;
• the minutes of the last meeting of the Wales Association of SACREs, held on 18 March, 2010;
• consideration of nominations for the Executive Committee of WASACRE, in order to determine how the Powys SACRE votes will be cast;
• documentation considered at the meeting of the WASACRE Executive Committee held on 20 May, 2010.
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CIRCULATION OF THE REPORT

It is intended that the 2009/2010 Annual Report of the Powys SACRE will be circulated to the following, in accordance with SACRE’s usual practice:

a) All Members of Powys County Council
b) all Powys schools
c) Directors of Education of all Welsh LEAs
d) the Secretary, Religious Education Movement Wales
e) DCELLS
f) members of the Powys SACRE
g) appropriate officers of Powys LEA
h) Estyn
i) National Library of Wales
j) Diocesan Directors of Education with responsibility for schools in Powys
k) Wales Association of SACREs
l) Evangelical Alliance
m) The Free Church Council - Education
1. INTRODUCTION

Members will be aware that it has been the established practice of the Powys SACRE to receive reports on GCE Advanced Level, GCE AS Level and GCSE Examination results in Religious Studies and the results of the GCSE (Short Course) Examination in Religious Education on an annual basis. Originally, the report was considered during the Autumn Term meeting of the Powys SACRE but recently it has proved impossible to receive the results of all examination boards in time for that meeting. Therefore, consideration of the examination results has been deferred to the Summer, 2010, meeting of the Powys SACRE. The following information is provided for members in relation to the 2009 examination results and, in order to assist comparison, comparable information is supplied from the 2007 and 2008 examinations as well.

2. GCE ADVANCED LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES

During 2009, a total of 54 students from 8 schools sat the GCE Advanced Level examination in Religious Studies. This is very similar to the number who sat the examination in 2008 (53) and it is encouraging to note that the growth in numbers that took place in 2008 has been maintained. In relation to distribution of pupils between the schools, four schools entered the majority of the candidates i.e. 16, 10, 9 and 7, with the remaining four schools entering 4, 4, 3 and 1 candidates respectively. A summary of the results for the years 2007 to 2009 is included below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A-B %</th>
<th>A-C %</th>
<th>A-E %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009 Powys (All Boards) Religious Studies</td>
<td>88.9</td>
<td>98.1</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Powys (All Boards) Religious Studies</td>
<td>47.2</td>
<td>73.6</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 Powys (All Boards) Religious Studies</td>
<td>53.8</td>
<td>76.9</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNEXE D

Members will note that the percentage of pupils gaining A-B grades has significantly improved on previous years, as is the case with A-C. It is pleasing to note that, in the last 3 years, 100% of pupils have gained at least a Grade E in their A Level course.

Although these results are pleasing, it should be noted that the number of pupils is small and, therefore, it is difficult to draw firm conclusions from the information.

3. GCE AS LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES

During 2009 a total of 56 pupils entered the GCE AS Level Religious Studies examination, from a total of 5 schools. The number of pupils taking the examination was very similar to the number in 2008 (58) but the number of schools presenting pupils for the examination has dropped from 7 to 5. A summary of the results is provided below:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>A-B %</th>
<th>A-C %</th>
<th>A-E %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009 Powys (All Boards) Religious Studies</td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Powys (All Boards) Religious Studies</td>
<td>43.1</td>
<td>81.0</td>
<td>94.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 Powys (All Boards) Religious Studies</td>
<td>28.8</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>91.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results in 2009 show a very pleasing improvement on the performance of pupils taking the examination in 2008. In each of the groups A-B%, A-C%, and A-E%, the 2009 results were better than those relating to 2008, which, in turn, were better than the results in 2007. In 2009, 80.4% of the pupils sitting the examination achieved Grade A-B compared with 43.1% in 2008, and 28.8% in 2007. This is a very encouraging development and it is pleasing to note that the uptake of the subject at this level has been maintained. Members will, however, appreciate that, with the small numbers involved, it is difficult to draw firm conclusions from this information.

4. GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES (FULL COURSE)

In relation to the GCSE Religious Studies Full Course, a total of 8 schools entered pupils for this examination with a total number of 237 pupils sitting the examination. This is exactly the same number as sat the examination in 2008 and it is encouraging to note that the subject has retained its popularity at this level following the drop in numbers sitting the examination in 2008. A summary of the results achieved is provided below:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>A*-C %</th>
<th>A*-G %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009 Powys Religious Studies (All Boards)</td>
<td>77.6</td>
<td>99.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Powys Religious Studies (All Boards)</td>
<td>81.9</td>
<td>99.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 Powys Religious Studies (All Boards)</td>
<td>75.8</td>
<td>98.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The percentage of pupils gaining A*-C has dropped in comparison with the number achieving this grade in 2008 although the percentage gaining Grades A*-G has remained the same. The majority of schools have entered a reasonable cohort of pupils for the
GCSE Religious Studies (Full Course), ranging from 37 to 20 students but one school has entered a cohort of 93. It is important for the full course to maintain numbers as this can impact on the future of the subject at GCE AS and A Level.

5. GCSE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SHORT COURSE)

In relation to the GCSE Religious Education (Short Course), a total of 1152 pupils sat this examination and all 13 Powys secondary schools entered students for this examination. This has maintained the pleasing growth in the popularity of the course. Year on year, the Authority has seen increased numbers of pupils taking the examination and increasing numbers of schools engaging with the subject. A total of 991 pupils from 12 schools entered the examination in 2008, while the number taking the examination in 2007 was 840 pupils from 10 schools. The following results were achieved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>A*-C %</th>
<th>A*-G %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>70.6</td>
<td>99.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powys GCSE Religious Education (Short Course) All Boards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>A*-C %</td>
<td>A*-G %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powys GCSE Religious Education (Short Course) All Boards</td>
<td>62.6</td>
<td>95.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>A*-C %</td>
<td>A*-G %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powys GCSE Religious Education (Short Course) All Boards</td>
<td>71.9</td>
<td>95.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The percentage of students receiving grades A*-C in this examination has improved on the results in 2008 (70.6% compared with 62.6%) and this is particularly encouraging in the light of the significant increase in the number of pupils sitting the examination. A number of Powys schools are continuing to use this course as a means of accreditation for the statutory Religious Education delivered in Key Stage 4 and it is encouraging to note the good results, achieved in the examination, have been maintained at the same time as the number of students taking the examination have grown. It is pleasing to note the continued growth in uptake of this course within Powys schools which reflects the continuing popularity of the course across England and Wales.

6. CONCLUSION

Members will note that again in 2009, some very pleasing results have been achieved in Religious Studies / Religious Education in Powys and it is particularly encouraging to note the continued growth in popularity of the GCSE Short Course. This has resulted in the total number of pupils taking an examination in Religious Education or Religious Studies at GCSE level rising from 1228 in 2008, to 1389 in 2009, a growth of 161 pupils. This compares very favourably with the previous experience in the subject where, in 2007, 1137 took the subject, 939 in 2006, 842 in 2005 and 701 in 2004. Clearly, the increased popularity of the GCSE Short Course in Religious Education is the reason for the growth but it means that there has been a steady growth of pupils achieving accreditation at GCSE year on year since 2004. The uptake of examination courses in Religious Studies at AS and A Level has been maintained which is important for the future of the subject. Although the main growth in the popularity of the subject has occurred at GCSE Level in 2009, it is hoped that its ongoing popularity will be reflected in both further growth at GCSE level and further interest in the subject at GCE AS Level and GCE A Level in 2010.
**POWYS SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009 – 2010**

**Priority 1: to monitor standards in Religious Education and Religious Studies in order to raise standards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Monitoring of progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Monitor standards through regular review of inspection reports; recommend where necessary action by LEA</td>
<td>Autumn Term 2009&lt;br&gt;Spring Term 2010&lt;br&gt;Summer term 2010</td>
<td>Collation by Clerk to SACRE for consideration by full SACRE; Monitoring by SACRE</td>
<td>Officer time for collation of data and agenda time for the meeting</td>
<td>Feedback to individual schools via letter re individual extracts and seeking where appropriate copies of Action Plans; annual circulation to all schools of examples of good practice and areas of concern.</td>
<td>It was noted that this action was in place on a termly basis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Analyse examination entries and results for religious studies and religious education</td>
<td>Spring term 2010</td>
<td>Collation and initial analysis by LEA statistician; presentation of further analysis by Clerk. Monitoring by SACRE</td>
<td>Officer time for collation of data and agenda time for the meeting</td>
<td>Analysis of results in GCE A Level RS, GCSE RS, GCSE short course RE will form advice to LEA and schools re trends.</td>
<td>Action in respect of this matter planned for Spring or Summer Term, 2010. Analysis of examination entries and results carried out and reported to SACRE at the Summer Term, 2010, meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Discuss with SMT the way forward re collating KS3 TA for RE</td>
<td>Autumn 09</td>
<td>Clerk of SACRE and SIO with responsibly for RE and SMT</td>
<td>Officer time</td>
<td>All Powys secondary schools report RE end of KS3 results in a common format enabling us to create an LA benchmark.</td>
<td>Provision of training regarding compiling portfolios for levelling RE at the end of Key Stage 3 deferred to 2010/2011 school year depending on the introduction of the new RE Syllabus. New syllabus now approved and will be circulated to all schools during Autumn Term, 2010.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Updated 7 June, 2010
### POWYS SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009 – 2010

**Priority 2: to provide support for religious education**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Monitoring of progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 identifying resources to support the Powys RE Agreed Syllabus that can be shared via the internet</td>
<td>On-going</td>
<td>SIO with responsibly for RE Monitoring by SACRE</td>
<td>Officer time for identifying, verifying and uploading links to relevant websites and materials</td>
<td>Availability of an enhanced online library of relevant RE websites</td>
<td>Action is ongoing in relation to this matter and will be influenced by the introduction of the new Agreed Syllabus. Availability of resources to support the introduction of the new Agreed Syllabus to be followed up for circulation to schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 foster catchment liaison between Secondary RE Heads of Dept and feeder Primary</td>
<td>Summer, 2010, review by SACRE, RE Secondary Heads of Depts. meeting</td>
<td>SIO with responsibly for RE Monitoring by SACRE</td>
<td>Officer time</td>
<td>Planned progression of topics studied in RE between phases ensuring breadth, progression and balance</td>
<td>Liaison planned between Crickhowell High School and Crickhowell CP School. Whole cluster networking meeting has taken place focusing on thinking skills on a whole-school basis rather than concentrating on RE.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 support the arranging of INSET</td>
<td>Autumn 2009 Spring 2010</td>
<td>SIO with responsibly for RE and Clerk Monitoring by SACRE</td>
<td>Officer time</td>
<td>Provision of an appropriate Training Programme</td>
<td>Inset to be arranged in support of the new Agreed Syllabus for RE. Availability of INSET to be followed up.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.4 Develop cross LA cooperation via SWAMWAC with regards drafting revised RE agreed syllabus, schemes of work and training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Monitoring of progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 3.1    | Autumn, 2010| SIO with responsibly for RE and Clerk Monitoring by SACRE | Officer time REM Wales | Booklet published electronically | Clarification to be provided in relation to current situation in respect of Collective Worship resources, and produced through training on Awe and Wonder in Collective Worship delivered by Mr Ian Elliot, Headteacher, Ysgol Penmaes.
ANNEXE E

Arrange for materials to be finalised for circulation to schools in hard copy and by email. Mrs K Boyce, Diocesan Director of Education, Diocese of Swansea and Brecon, agreed to supply a list of resources for circulation to school.

3.2 revise guidelines to support the implementation of statutory Collective Worship.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Monitoring of progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Offer training to governors on the new Powys RE Agreed Syllabus</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>SIO with responsibly for RE Monitoring by SACRE</td>
<td>Officer time</td>
<td>Governing Bodies informed of the new Powys RE Agreed Syllabus</td>
<td>No action to date.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2 Provide training for SACRE members during meetings</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>SIO with responsibly for RE and Clerk Monitoring by SACRE</td>
<td>Officer time and agenda time</td>
<td>SACRE members becoming more informed via input by</td>
<td>Areas of training identified:-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POWYS SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009 – 2010

Priority 4: to provide support for governors and SACRE members

Updated 7 June, 2010
| Advisers, LEA officers, SACRE members and other invited contributors | a) Legal framework for the delivery of Religious Education and Collective Worship and the ways in which the provision of this aspect can be addressed; b) the Authority’s newly adopted Revised Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education; c) Minority Faiths in Powys. Information on minority faiths in Powys to be followed up. |
**POWYS SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010-2011**

**Priority 1: to monitor standards in Religious Education and Religious Studies in order to raise standards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Monitoring of progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Monitor standards through regular review of inspection reports; recommend where necessary action by LEA</td>
<td>Autumn Term 2010</td>
<td>Collation by Clerk to SACRE for consideration by full SACRE; Monitoring by SACRE</td>
<td>Officer time for collation of data and agenda time for the meeting</td>
<td>Feedback to individual schools via letter re individual extracts and seeking where appropriate copies of Action Plans; annual circulation to all schools of examples of good practice and areas of concern.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring Term 2011</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer term 2011</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Analyse examination entries and results for religious studies and religious education</td>
<td>Spring Term 2011</td>
<td>Collation and initial analysis by LEA statistician; presentation of further analysis by Clerk. Monitoring by SACRE</td>
<td>Officer time for collation of data and agenda time for the meeting</td>
<td>Analysis of results in GCE A Level RS, GCSE RS, GCSE short course RE will form advice to LEA and schools re trends.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Discuss with SMT the way forward re collating KS3 TA for RE</td>
<td>Spring 2011</td>
<td>Clerk of SACRE and SET Officers</td>
<td>Officer time</td>
<td>All Powys secondary schools report RE end of KS3 results in a common format enabling creation of an LA benchmark.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Priority 2: to provide support for religious education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Monitoring of progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 identifying resources to support the Powys RE Agreed Syllabus that can be shared via the internet</td>
<td>On-going</td>
<td>SET Officers Monitoring by SACRE</td>
<td>Officer time for identifying, verifying and uploading links to relevant websites and materials</td>
<td>Availability of an enhanced online library of relevant RE websites</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 foster catchment liaison between Secondary RE Heads of Dept and feeder Primary</td>
<td>Summer, 2011, review by SACRE, RE Secondary Heads of Depts. meeting</td>
<td>SET Officers Monitoring by SACRE</td>
<td>Officer time</td>
<td>Planned progression of topics studied in RE between phases ensuring breadth, progression and balance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 support the arranging of INSET</td>
<td>Autumn 2010 Spring 2011</td>
<td>SET Officer and Clerk Monitoring by SACRE</td>
<td>Officer time Course delivery costs</td>
<td>Provision of an appropriate Training Programme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Cross LA cooperation via SWAWAC with regards to provision of scheme of work and training to support Revised Agreed Syllabus</td>
<td>Autumn, 2010 Spring 2011</td>
<td>SET Officer and Clerk Monitoring by SACRE</td>
<td>Officer time</td>
<td>Greater cooperation between LAs possibly resulting in common Schemes of Work for consideration for schools to adapt.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
POWYS SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010 – 2011

**Priority 3: to give guidance and support for the implementation of Collective Worship**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Monitoring of progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1 publish materials to support the implementation of statutory Collective Worship</td>
<td>Autumn, 2010</td>
<td>SET Officer and Clerk</td>
<td>Officer time</td>
<td>Booklet published electronically</td>
<td>Arrange for materials to be finalised for circulation to schools in hard copy and by email.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 revise guidelines to support the implementation of statutory Collective Worship</td>
<td>Autumn, 2010</td>
<td>SET Officers and Clerk</td>
<td>Officer time</td>
<td>Publication of revised guidelines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POWYS SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010 – 2011

**Priority 4: to provide support for governors and SACRE members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Monitoring of progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Offer training to governors on the new Powys RE Agreed Syllabus</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>SET Officer with monitoring by SACRE</td>
<td>Officer time</td>
<td>Governing Bodies informed of the new Powys RE Agreed Syllabus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2 Provide training for SACRE members during meetings</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>SET Officer and Clerk</td>
<td>Officer time and agenda time</td>
<td>SACRE members becoming more informed via input by Advisers, LEA officers, SACRE members and other invited contributors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>