

NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

DATE: 7TH NOVEMBER 2019

**REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION**

SUBJECT: CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To update members on the development of the Curriculum for Wales 2022 in relation to RE
- To consider the Welsh Government consultation on the right to withdraw from RE and a proposed name change for Religious Education

B BACKGROUND

Welsh Government produced the draft Curriculum for Wales 2022 for consultation on 30th April 2019. Newport SACRE worked collaboratively with other SACREs throughout the South East Wales region to provide feedback on the draft Curriculum for Wales 2022. This was response was agreed by the Chair and submitted to Welsh Government by the RE Adviser.

Curriculum pioneers are currently considering feedback from the public and are making amendments to the curriculum.

The work of the group writing the RE Framework is ongoing. Paula Webber (EAS Professional Learning Adviser RE and SACREs) and Libby Jones (RE Adviser Wrexham) continue to lead its development. The Framework will provide further detail about the relationship between Religious Education, the Agreed Syllabus, and the Areas of Learning and Experience. The writing group consists of religious education practitioners, curriculum pioneers, academics, and representatives from Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACREs) and the National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (NAPFRE).

The Framework will be published in draft for consultation in January 2020. This will coincide with the publication of the final version of the Curriculum for Wales 2022. The delay in publishing a final draft at the same time as the curriculum occurs because the RE Framework writing group need to consider changes made to the Curriculum following the redrafting process and because Welsh Government will consult with SACREs prior to its publication. The RE writing group and Curriculum pioneers will hold meetings together during the Autumn Term in order to consult together and to coordinate the process.

Welsh Government recently consulted on the white paper *Our National Mission: A Transformational Curriculum* set out the legislative proposals for the new curriculum. Newport SACRE provided feedback following discussion in the Spring Term SACRE meeting held on 6th March 2019. In this paper Welsh Government asked questions

about whether the right of parents to withdraw from RE and RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education) should be retained. As a result of feedback received Welsh Government are now consulting on proposals to ensure access to the full curriculum for all learners. In this proposal Welsh Government are seeking views on

- **the right to withdraw from RE (and RSE)**
- **a change of name for RE**

The Minister is 'minded' to remove the parental right to withdraw from RE and RSE and to change the name of RE to Religions and Worldviews.

SACRE will need to respond to this consultation by the closing date of 28th November 2019.

C RECOMMENDATIONS

1. For SACRE to receive an update on the progress made in the writing of the Curriculum for Wales 2022 with a focus on Religious Education in the Humanities AoLE.
2. For SACRE to receive an update on the progress being made with regards to the RE supporting framework.
3. For SACRE to consider and respond to the Welsh Government consultation on proposals to ensure access to the full curriculum for all learners, removing the parental right to withdraw from RE (and RSE) and the proposed change of name of RE to Religions and Worldviews. The deadline for feedback is 28th November 2019.

D SUPPORTING INFORMATION

SACREs Collaborative response to the Welsh Government Consultation on the draft Curriculum for Wales 2022

Consultation on proposals to ensure access to the full curriculum for all learners - <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-10/consultation-document-ensuring-access-to-the-full-curriculum.pdf>

WELSH GOVERNMENT INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT CURRICULUM FOR WALES 2022 – ENSURING ACCESS TO THE FULL CURRICULUM - <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-10/integrated-impact-assessment-ensuring-access-to-the-full-curriculum.pdf>

ENSURING ACCESS TO THE FULL CURRICULUM FOR ALL LEARNERS – SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS -

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-10/summary-of-proposals-ensuring-access-to-the-full-curriculum.pdf>

Online response form: <https://gov.wales/node/25971/respond-online>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Response from the REC to WG proposals for RE

<https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/news/welsh-government-proposal-to-change-the-name-of-re-and-remove-the-right-of-withdrawal/>