

## **THE CITY OF NEWPORT SACRE**

**DATE:** JUNE 8<sup>th</sup> 2016

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

**PURPOSE:** INCERTS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME.

### **INCERTS programme**

At the March 2016 meetings of the National Advisory Panel for RE and WASACRE concern was raised by members about the INCERTS software that tracks pupils' progress in National Curriculum subjects and Religious Education. The concerns are as follows:

1. There are two options for schools to choose from regarding level descriptions for RE and it is not made obvious which set of Levels are the correct Levels for use by maintained and voluntary controlled schools.
2. Incerts have been advising some schools in Wales that there are no statutory Level Descriptions for RE and that schools are free to choose which set of Level Descriptions they use in the Incerts programme. This is incorrect. There are statutory Level Descriptions for schools in Wales. Schools do not have a choice regarding which Level Descriptions they are to use.
3. Any schools that have started using the wrong Levels option will have to start the assessment process again when they switch to the correct option.

### ***Information from Incerts website***

Incerts is an independent, non-profit organisation working to transform assessment practices in schools on a local, national and international scale. With help from our support staff, teachers and school leaders use our online system to get more than they thought possible from assessment.

#### **Assessment for Learning**

As soon as teachers have recorded their assessments, Incerts highlights the skill-by-skill strengths and weaknesses of individual pupils. Incerts also identifies groups of pupils with common skill profiles to support planning and differentiation in the classroom.

#### **Assessment of Learning**

School leaders are able to access a live view of attainment across the school at any time. Our analysis tools facilitate the tracking of vulnerable groups in detail, helping to identify trends and anomalies within the academic year, or across a Key Stage.

#### **Reporting of Learning**

Incerts uses on-going teacher assessments to create personal and readable reports for parents in a fraction of the time usually spent. Our online Reportal also provides a practical outlet for sharing evidence with parents and teachers can share the media they have uploaded through our dedicated evidence capture app, Incerts Snap.

### **Recommendation**

That the LA and its SACRE writes to all schools in the Local Authority to reiterate the need to ensure that they are using the correct option for RE within the Incerts programme.

To Headteachers and Religious education co-ordinators  
All primary and special schools in Newport

June 2016

Dear Colleague

Many schools in Wales are now using the INCERTS software to track pupils' progress in the National Curriculum subjects and Religious Education.

Incerts are offering the option of two sets of level descriptions for Religious Education in KS2.

The first option, called RE 'original levels', consists of the levels from a programme of study used by Catholic schools in the UK, 'Here I am', (although this is now out of date and has been superseded). The second option, RE- 'exemplar framework', contains the statutory level descriptions for all maintained schools in Wales, as set out in all 22 Locally Agreed Syllabuses for RE in Wales. **This is the correct set of Levels in Incerts for use by maintained and voluntary controlled schools in Wales.**

It has come to the attention of Newport SACRE that some schools in Wales have been told by Incerts that schools are free to choose which assessment framework they wish to use as neither framework is statutory. This is totally incorrect as the level descriptions found in your locally agreed syllabus are statutory. Every Agreed Syllabus in Wales contains the Level Descriptions for RE as produced by Welsh Government in their *National Exemplar Framework for RE* and these form part of the statutory syllabus and aim to ensure consistency of expected standards across all maintained and voluntary controlled schools.

Schools are urged to ensure that the correct version is used if this programme is adopted by the school to track pupils' progress in RE.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter then please contact Vicky Thomas RE Consultant to SACRE by email [vickyathomas@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vickyathomas@hotmail.co.uk)