

THE CITY OF NEWPORT

ITEM 14

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: MARCH 8TH 2017

**SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENCE - Letters sent to schools on statutory requirements for RE/RS
On 6 January 2017**



To: The Headteachers of all community maintained Infant, Junior, Primary and Special schools

Dear Headteacher

Statutory Requirements for Religious Education

Newport Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) has asked me to bring to your attention the statutory requirements for Religious Education in state maintained schools. As the curriculum review is getting under way it seems that some schools are confused as to the status of agreed syllabuses in schools.

Religious Education is part of the basic curriculum and therefore sits outside the National Curriculum. The RE curriculum is locally determined by the local authority and its SACRE. This means that there is a statutory requirement for LA's to provide Religious Education according to an agreed syllabus. With regard to the position of the Newport agreed syllabus it was re adopted in 2013 and therefore the current syllabus stays in place with an understanding that the syllabus will be reviewed once the shape of the new Donaldson curriculum is defined. There would need to be a change in legislation for the delivery of RE according to an agreed syllabus to be rescinded.

Professor Donaldson report *Successful Futures - Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales* recommended that *Religious education should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience, and should remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception.*

SACRE is aware that the Pioneer schools are now meeting in order to shape the new curriculum. The projected time line for Strand 3, where the *defining and elaborating* of each Area of Learning and Experience (AOLE) and the in-depth subject specific details will be shaped, is from January 2017. Until such time as the detail of the AOLE are shaped and a review of the agreed syllabus takes place then SACRE wish to ensure that schools understand that **coverage of the programmes of study of the locally agreed syllabus is the main statutory requirement.**

I attach a copy of the current Newport agreed syllabus for RE and the programmes of study for KS2 can be found on pages 20-21.

As regards the **Foundation Phase** three broad areas of People, Beliefs and Questions are studied. The detail of that is worked out in Annex 2 pp 34ff under the topic titles of Themselves, Other People and Living Things. This provides a good base for RE in the Foundation Phase

SACRE would like schools to confirm receipt of this information by completing the attached pro forma below and returning to the Clerk to SACRE.

I hope that this information is useful to you.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Powles (Assistant Head of Education, Engagement & Learning)
LA representative on Newport SACRE

Statutory Requirements for Religious Education

Name of School _____

Name of staff member completing pro forma _____

Position in school _____

I have read and understood the statutory requirements for RE at Foundation Phase and KS2

YES/ NO (please circle)

Please return to:

Joy Howells,
Democratic Administration,
Newport City Council
Civic Centre
Newport
NP20 4UR
Tel 01633 210733
joy.howells@newport.gov.uk

To: The Head Teachers of all community maintained Secondary and Special schools

Dear Headteacher

Statutory Requirements for Religious Education

Newport Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) has requested that I bring to your attention the statutory requirements for Religious Education in state maintained schools. As the curriculum review is getting under way it seems that some schools are confused as to the status of agreed syllabuses in schools.

Religious Education is part of the basic curriculum and therefore sits outside the National Curriculum. The RE curriculum is locally determined by the local authority and its SACRE. This means that there is a statutory requirement for LAs to provide Religious Education according to an agreed syllabus and monitor that statutory requirements are being adhered to by schools. With regard to the position of the Newport Agreed Syllabus for RE it was re-adopted in 2013 and therefore the current syllabus stays in place with an understanding that the syllabus will be reviewed once the shape of the new Donaldson curriculum is defined. There would need to be a change in legislation for the delivery of RE according to an agreed syllabus to be rescinded.

Professor Donaldson report *Successful Futures - Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales* recommended that *Religious education should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience, and should remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception.*

SACRE is aware that the Pioneer schools are now meeting in order to shape the new curriculum. The projected time line for Strand 3, where the *defining and elaborating* of each Area of Learning and Experience (AOLE) and the in-depth subject specific details will be shaped, is from January 2017. Until such time as the detail of the AOLE are shaped and a review of the agreed syllabus takes place then SACRE wish to ensure that schools understand that **coverage of the programmes of study of the locally agreed syllabus is the main statutory requirement.**

I attach a copy of the current Newport agreed syllabus for RE where you can see the programmes of study for all key stages in the secondary school on pages 22-31.

SACRE is particularly interested in the delivery of **Religious Education at KS4** where there appears to be some confusion regarding statutory requirements. SACRE would like to draw your attention to the statutory programme of study which can be found on pages 30-31. Many schools in Wales are providing statutory RE by following either a GCSE Short Course or a GCSE Full Course or a combination of the two courses. SACRE wish to inform you that **this would fulfil statutory requirements** as long as **all** pupils are receiving religious education whether or not they are entered for accreditation.

In 2016, the Wales Association of SACREs conducted a survey of the impact of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (WBQ) on Religious Education in schools across Wales. SACRE understands that some schools are delivering RE at KS4 within the (WBQ) and believe that coverage of the Global Citizenship element of WBQ is sufficient to cover the RE requirements. Newport SACRE would like to ensure that schools understand that the Global Citizenship unit alone would not be sufficient to cover all aspects of the agreed syllabus KS4 programme of study.

SACRE would like schools to confirm receipt of this information by completing the attached pro forma below and returning to the Clerk to SACRE so that the LA and its SACRE can fulfil its monitoring role of RE in the curriculum and be assured that statutory requirements according to the agreed syllabus for RE are being met.

SACRE hope that this information is useful to you.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Powles (Assistant Head of Education, Engagement & Learning)
LA representative on Newport SACRE

Statutory Requirements for Religious Education

Name of School _____

Name of staff member completing pro forma _____

Position in school _____

I have read and understood the statutory requirements for RE at all key stages

YES/ NO (please circle)

Please return to:

Joy Howells,
Democratic Administration,
Newport City Council
Civic Centre
Newport
NP20 4UR
Tel 01633 210733
joy.howells@newport.gov.uk

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	SLIP RETURNED	YES/NO
Bassaleg	17/1/17	Yes
Caerleon Comp	16/1/17	Yes
John Frost	11/1/17	Yes
Llanwern High		
Liswerry High	18/1/17	Yes
Newport High	27/1/17	Yes
St Josephs High	16/1/17	Yes
St Julians	11/1/17	Yes
Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed	6/1/17	Rwyf wedi darllen ac yr wyf yn deall y gofynion statudol ar gyfer Addysg Grefyddol - I have read and understand the statutory requirements for RE
Total	9 schools	Replied 8

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	SLIP RETURNED	YES/NO
Alway		
Caerleon Lodge Hill	16/1/17	Yes
Charles Williams		
Clytha	6/1/17	Yes
Crindau	16/1/17	Yes
Duffryn Infants	16/1/17	Yes
Duffryn Jnr	10/1/17	Yes
Eveswell	16/1/17	Yes
Fairoak	16/1/17	Yes
Gaer		
GlanUsk	10/1/17	Yes
Glasllwch		
High Cross	16/1/17	Yes
Kimberley	16/1/17	Yes
Langstone	18/1/17	Yes
Llanmartin	16/1/17	Yes
Liswerry	16/1/17	Yes
Maes Ebbw		
Maesglas	16/1/17	Yes
Maindee	27/2/17	Yes
Malpas Court	27/2/17	Yes
Malpas Park		
Marshfield		
Millbrook	9/1/17	Yes
Milton Primary	17/2/17	Yes
Monnow		
Mt Pleasant		
Pentrepoeth		
Pillgwenlly	18/1/17	Yes
Ringland	27/2/17	Yes
Rogerstone	19/1/17	Yes
Somerton	17/1/17	Yes
St Andrews		
St Julians		
St Woolos	6/1/17	Yes
Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd	27/1/17	Yes
Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael	16/1/17	Yes
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnnon		
Total schools	38	Replied 25

Malpas CiW Inf	16/1/17	Yes
Malpas CiW Jnr	16/1/17	Yes
St Davids RC	Catholic	
St Gabriels RC	Catholic	
St Josephs RC	Catholic	
Charles Williams school		
St Marys RC	Catholic	
St Michaels RC	Catholic	
St Patricks RC	Catholic	Yes