

Meeting of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	14 MAY 2024
Report Title:	TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)/STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL (ON RELIGION VALUE AND ETHICS) (SAC)
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	LINDSAY HARVEY CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE
Responsible Officer:	SUE ROBERTS GROUP MANAGER SCHOOL SUPPORT
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules
Executive Summary:	This report contains information about the revised terms of reference for the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) to become Standing Advisory Council (on Religion Value and Ethics) (SAC)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet that ratification is needed for the revised terms of reference for Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)/Standing Advisory Council (on Religion Value and Ethics) (SAC) ((refer to Appendix 1).

2. Background

- 2.1 The introduction of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 ('the Act') established the Curriculum for Wales in law and replaced the previous curriculum (which includes, for example, the national and local curricula set out in Part 7 of the Education Act 2002).
- 2.2 The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 Act sets out 'Religion, Values and Ethics' (RVE) as one of the mandatory subjects which spans the 3 to 16 learning continuum.
- 2.3 The subject of RVE forms part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience within the new Curriculum for Wales. Subject specific guidance on RVE contained within the Humanities Area of the Curriculum for Wales, is statutory and is

published under section 71 of the Act. The guidance is designed to assist those responsible under the Act for designing the RVE syllabus as part of the school curriculum.

- 2.4 The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 [legislation](#) states some legislative changes for the roles and responsibilities of local authority SACs for RVE.
- 2.5 Until the roll-out of the Curriculum for Wales is completed in all schools and settings, there is a need to have both SACRE and SAC. SACRE will completely cease to exist once the Curriculum for Wales has completed its roll-out. The wording within the terms of reference has been amended to include both the roles and responsibilities for SACRE and SAC.
- 2.6 The inclusion in the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 (the Act), of the appointment of persons to the committee who represent holders of non-religious philosophical beliefs in the same way as they permit the appointment of persons who represent holders of religious beliefs has meant required amendments to the existing SACRE terms of reference wording. It now includes the following:

‘Such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the local authority will appropriately reflect the religious traditions in the area and also such persons who represent holders of non-religious beliefs in the same way as they permit the appointment of persons who represent holders of religious beliefs’ (section 390(4)(a) of, and paragraph 4(2)(1) of Schedule 31 to, the 1996 Act and in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021).’

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 SACRE and SAC members are recommending that the local authority accept the changes, so they are in line with the legislative changes in the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 (the Act).
- 3.2 SACRE and SAC members are recommending that the local authority agrees the terms of reference (as at Appendix 1).

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

- 4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-Economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services, and functions.
It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts because of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment provides a comprehensive summary of the outcomes expected from the implementation of the service.

Long-term Supports the improvement of standards and outcomes in schools.

Prevention Development of the terms of reference for SAC will allow refinement of the delivery of RVE across all schools within the Humanities Area of Learning within the Curriculum for Wales.

Integration The local authority will attend SAC meetings to support and advise where necessary.

Collaboration The local authority works closely with schools and with Central South Consortium to support the implementation of RVE within the Curriculum for Wales.

Involvement Stakeholders included within SAC include religious/non-religious representatives; school leaders; local authority and Central South Consortium representatives along with leaders of RVE in schools.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no climate change implications about this information report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding or corporate parent implications about this information report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet notes the content of this report and ratifies the revised terms of reference.

Background documents

There are no background documents.