



**CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

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**2018-2019**

**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**2018 - 2019**

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# THE ANNUAL REPORT OF CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2018- 2019

## SECTION 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE

### 1.1 Duty to Establish SACRE

All Local Authorities are required to constitute Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) within their local area.

### 1.2 Composition of SACRE

Representation on SACRE is required as follows: -

- Such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the Local Authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area
- Associations representing teachers
- The Local Authority

The Local Authority determined that the SACRE should comprise of six elected members, seven bodies representative of religion and belief and seven representatives of teachers' associations. In addition, the Authority allowed for two other individuals to be co-opted. Both co-opted places are currently vacant (see 1.3 regarding actions to fill vacant positions).

### 1.3 Membership of SACRE

The current membership list showing the position as of August 2019 is attached at Appendix 1.

Whilst every effort has been made to seek representation from religious organisations other than Christianity, SACRE has experienced difficulties in finding such representation. With regards to Committee A, advice has been sought from Cytun (Churches Together in Wales), the Onyx Link Foundation and the Inter Faith Council for Wales in order to seek representation. A new representative from Wales Humanists has been recruited to a new position on Committee A. There are 4 vacancies on Committee B and SACRE is awaiting the NASUWT's endorsement of two individuals who have expressed an interest in sitting on SACRE. SACRE has contacted the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) on several occasions regarding the vacancy on Committee B but is yet to receive a response.

Caerphilly SACRE are in the process of co-opting youth representatives to SACRE in order to give learners a voice. Nominations could be sought from the Youth Forum. The Chair will attend a Youth Forum in Autumn Term 2019 to speak to its members about the work of SACRE.

### 1.4 Functions of SACRE

- To advise the Local Authority on worship and the religious education to be given in accordance with the agreed syllabus including methods of teaching, advice on materials and the provision of training for teachers

- To consider whether to recommend to the local authority that its current agreed syllabus should be reviewed by convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference.
- To consider whether the requirement that religious worship in a county school should be 'broadly Christian in nature' should be varied (determinations)
- To report to the Local Authority and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) on its activities on an annual basis.

## **1.5 Meetings**

SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2018 -2019.

14th November 2018

6th March 2019

20th May 2019

SACRE has resolved that, where possible, meetings will be held at alternative venues such as schools or places of worship. During the academic year 2018/19 SACRE held a meeting at a school in the county borough and two at the council offices.

## **1.6 Circulation of Report**

Copies of this report are circulated electronically to those organisations and establishments listed in Appendix 4. It is also available on the Local Authority and the WASACRE website.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ADVICE GIVEN BY SACRE**

Summary of the advice given to the local authority by SACRE

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

#### **Issue**

To monitor provision and standards in RE

#### **Action**

1. SACRE considers and analyses school inspection reports. If there are any issues regarding RE, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up. During 2018-2019 there was one issue of non-fulfilment of statutory requirements for RE identified in the reports and follow up action was necessary. SACRE wrote to the school concerned to request a copy of the development plan and to offer advisory support.
2. SACRE visit schools on an annual basis and receive a presentation on RE at the school so that strengths and weaknesses can be identified, and issues can be addressed directly. One secondary school was visited in 2018/19.
3. SACRE analyses examination results over a three-year period and identifies trends in performance benchmarked against all Wales data. Schools are informed of the outcomes of this analysis and SACRE raises any issues schools should be addressing as a result of this analysis.

#### **Issue**

To fulfil the legal requirement to review the agreed syllabus for RE on a five yearly basis and ensure the agreed syllabus is being implemented in schools

#### **Action**

1. In 2008 Standing Conference endorsed and adopted a new agreed syllabus for the Authority's schools, which was implemented from September 2008.
2. In June 2013 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education with an understanding that the syllabus would be reviewed once further information is received in relation to the assessment and national curriculum review.
3. In May 2019 an Agreed Syllabus Conference was constituted and the 2008 agreed syllabus was readopted.
4. SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments with the Curriculum review and the development of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience. SACRE have responded to Welsh Government consultations on the white paper and the draft Curriculum for Wales 2022. SACRE are awaiting the publication of the Curriculum for Wales 2022 in January 2020 and further details from Welsh Government on the national RE Framework.

### **TEACHING MATERIALS**

#### **Issue**

To ensure that schools are informed of suitable resources

## **Action**

1. All schools were informed of the 2019 Holocaust Memorial Day theme of 'Torn from home' and that free Holocaust resources can be found on their website [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk) – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.
2. SACRE distributed copies of RE Ideas to all schools which were kindly provided by REMW free of charge.
3. A SACRE RE News Bulletin was produced during the Summer Term for distribution to all schools and interested parties, which included information on the new Curriculum for Wales 2022, the RE Framework, the Estyn Thematic Review, WJEC updates, Interfaith Week and places of worship as well as articles submitted by teachers and SACRE members from several Local Authorities.
4. Schools were notified of the Farmington Scholarships available to teachers of RE.
5. Inter Faith News Bulletins were shared with schools <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/ifn-e-bulletin>
6. Information on visits and visitors in South Wales is available to schools upon request.
7. Information about the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Diversity of Religion and Belief: A guidance resource pack for primary schools in England and Wales published by Cardiff University School of Social Science was made available to schools.

## **TRAINING FOR TEACHERS**

### **Issue**

To ensure that teachers can access appropriate CPD.

### **Action**

The EAS has provided RE specific training to secondary school practitioners via Learning Network School leads and the Professional Learning Adviser for RE and SACREs. The focus of the training was improving standards in GCSE Religious Studies. However, the practitioners attending also received training on the new curriculum and updates on the work of SACREs, WASACRE and other relevant bodies. There was also a focus on moderation of marking, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources for Religious Studies.

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **Issue**

To ensure that schools fulfil statutory requirements for collective worship and provide a worthwhile experience for pupils.

## **Action**

1. SACRE monitors the sections of inspection reports that are concerned with collective worship and SMSC and the LA follows up on any non-fulfilment of statutory requirements by requesting their action plan. The provision for collective worship had positive comments stating that schools were promoting pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development well. Estyn made a recommendation with regards to collective worship in one inspection report. SACRE has written to the schools to offer support and guidance with regards to collective worship. All other schools inspected meet statutory requirements in relation to collective worship. Members were presented with a summary of findings from these inspections.
2. Schools have been informed by SACRE of appropriate resources and websites that support collective worship in schools e.g. HMD 2019.
3. SACRE resolved to hold meetings at schools in the county borough and observe an act of collective worship where possible to monitor fulfilment of statutory requirements, provision and quality of collective worship. One secondary school was visited but an act of collective worship was not observed by members.

## **OTHER ISSUES:**

**Aim:** To ensure a more informed SACRE through providing regular updates on local and national issues.

1. SACRE has maintained its membership of WASACRE and receives termly feedback from the meetings of the Association.
2. The RE Adviser to SACRE is a member of NAPfRE and regularly attends meetings on SACRE's behalf.
3. SACRE has received regular updates on the development of the new curriculum and the implications for religious education.
4. Members have received presentations this year from their professional adviser Ms. P. Webber, who gave updates on the review of the Curriculum for Wales and its implications for RE, including the development of the national RE Framework, and from Ms Kathy Riddick who presented to SACRE on 'What is Humanism?' During the Summer term SACRE meeting members received a presentation from the Head of Department at Newbridge School on Religious Education at the School.
5. SACRE, where possible, hold meetings at schools in Caerphilly for members to familiarise themselves with RE and collective worship in schools. One SACRE meeting was held at Newbridge School, where members were informed on the delivery of RE at the school by the Head of RE and two pupils.
6. SACRE considered the issues surrounding the new A Level and GCSE Specifications for RS and updated schools accordingly.

## **SECTION 2: ADVICE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **2.1 The Locally Agreed Syllabus**

In 2008 the Standing Conference endorsed and adopted a new agreed syllabus for the Authority's schools to be implemented from September 2008. The agreed syllabus closely relates to the National Exemplar Framework for RE. Support materials, including schemes of work and electronic *Progress in Learning* files for secondary schools, were issued to schools.

During the 2012/13 academic year SACRE was made aware of the announcement by the Minister of a pending review of assessment and the National Curriculum in Wales. During the Summer Term 2013 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the current syllabus with an understanding that the syllabus would undergo review once the outcomes of the review of assessment, the National Curriculum and the Foundation Phase are made available.

During 2018-19, SACRE has been updated on a termly basis of developments with the new curriculum for Wales. In the Autumn Term SACRE representatives attended consultations with Welsh Government to receive an update on progress being made with the Curriculum for Wales 2022 and the RE Framework.

SACRE are awaiting further details from Welsh Government on the RE Framework that will support the Curriculum for Wales 2022.

On 20th May 2019, a Standing Conference was held to review the 2008 Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. At the meeting, it was agreed to re-adopt the existing Agreed Syllabus until the implementation of the new curriculum in 2022.

A copy of the current Agreed Syllabus was sent to schools. Schools were advised to that they should continue to follow this syllabus until further notice.

### **2.2 Standards In RE**

SACRE has adopted several strategies for monitoring standards being achieved in religious education in the Authority's schools that include the following.

#### **2.2a School Inspection Reports**

During SACRE meetings throughout the year the local authority and its SACRE scrutinised relevant sections of Estyn school inspection reports for July 2017-March 2019. Nineteen Caerphilly schools were inspected consisting of two infant schools, thirteen primary schools, one junior school and three secondary schools. If any issues emerge regarding religious education, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up requesting their action plan. RE subject specific issues were identified in one of the reports and SACRE has followed this up with a letter to the school offering advice, guidance and support. In all other schools no follow up action was necessary.

Positive comments in relation to visits and visitors were present in the reports including and rich educational visits to places of worship provided enriching experiences for learners whilst also contributing successfully to pupils' understanding of religion and belief and of their social responsibilities. The curriculum in one infant school was found to provide suitable opportunities for pupils to learn about different cultures and faiths.



For example, during multicultural week pupils produce fact files about different countries, create artefacts and taste food from around the world. Appreciation of the importance of the celebration of religious festivals to religious believers was also evident in reports with one school developing an understanding of Hindu culture through a whole school celebration on the festival of Diwali. The range of charity projects that learners within Caerphilly was seen to contribute well to the development of their empathy and understanding of social and ethical issues. There was good provision for global citizenship and education for sustainable development.

## **2.2b Examination Results 2018**

Examination results for GCSE and GCE AS /Advanced Level achieved by pupils at secondary schools within the Authority have been analysed and were considered during the Spring Term SACRE meeting. A three-year analysis was conducted so that a comparison could be made, and trends identified. Cohort entry numbers were also analysed, and a comparison made to Consortia and All -Wales figures (where available).

SACRE noted that there is a noticeable drop in results across several grade bandings at both GCSE and GCE 'A' Level when compared to both the 2017 results for Caerphilly schools and based on a three-year trend (2015-2018). A detailed table of examination results can be found in Appendix 4.

### **GCSE Full Course Religious Studies**

Based on a Three-Year Trend 2015 – 2018

The percentage of entries in Caerphilly increased by 8.4pp from 34.3% to 42.7%. An increase of 132 entries.

However, the results for A\* - A grades decreased by 13.1pp from 29.3% to 16.2%.

This is a greater decrease than that seen at regional and national level which is 5.3pp to 22.9% and 4.6pp to 26.1% respectively. Results in Caerphilly were below the regional and national level.

The results for A\* - C grades decreased by 13.2pp from 71.4% to 58.2%.

This is greater than the decrease seen at regional level and national level, which is 7.5pp to 64.6% and 6.9pp to 68% respectively. With results in the local authority being below the regional and national level.

The results for A\* - G grades decreased by 2.6pp from 98.4% to 95.8%.

Whereas at regional and national level results have declined by 2.5pp to 95.1% and 0.8pp to 97.4% respectively. Results in Caerphilly were above the regional level but below the national level.

### **GCSE Short Course Religious Studies**

Based on a Three-Year Trend 2015 – 2018

The percentage of entries in Caerphilly decreased by 25.3pp from 32.7% to 7.4%. A decrease of 506 entries.

The results for A\* - A grades decreased by 17.1pp from 18.5% to 1.4%.

There is a declining picture regionally and nationally by 9.6pp to 4.6% and 6pp to 8.1% respectively. Results in Caerphilly are below the regional and national level.

The results for A\* - C grades decreased by 30.4pp from 60.9% to 30.5%.

There is a declining picture regionally and nationally by 17.3pp to 32.8% and 13.1pp to 39.2% respectively. With results in Caerphilly below the regional and national level.

The results for A\* - G grades decreased by 10.6pp from 91.5% to 80.9%. There is a declining picture regionally and nationally by 5.6pp to 84.7% and 5.3pp to 87.8% respectively. With results in the local authority being below the regional level and national level.

### **A Level Religious Studies**

Based on a Three-Year Trend 2015 – 2018

The percentage of entries within Caerphilly decreased by 4.6pp from 16.2% to 11.6%. A decrease of 48 entries.

However, the results for A\* - A grades increased by 1.6pp from 12.1% to 13.7%. Whereas the results at regional and national level have declined by 0.9pp to 21.6% and 0.6pp to 22% respectively. Results are below the regional and national level.

The results for A\* - C grades decreased by 8pp from 72.7% to 64.7%. The results at regional level remain stable at 77.5%. Whereas the results at national level have declined by 3.9pp to 77.1%. Results in Caerphilly are below the regional and national level.

The results for A\* - E grades in Caerphilly remain stable at 100%. Which is above the regional and national results of 99.6%.

### **AS Level Religious Studies**

Based on a Three-Year Trend 2015 – 2018

The percentage of entries within Caerphilly increased by 7.4pp from 3.6% to 11%. An increase of 26 entries.

The results for A grades increased by 3.8pp from 4.5% to 8.3%.

There is a declining picture regionally, where results decreased by 1.6pp to 8.8%. Whereas nationally results increased by 1.6pp to 18.3%. Results in Caerphilly are below the regional and national level.

The results for A - C grades decreased by 23.9pp from 36.4% to 12.5%. There is a declining picture regionally and nationally by 3.1pp to 35.3% and 6.2pp to 58% respectively. Results in Caerphilly are below the regional and national level.

The results for A - E grades decreased by 6pp from 72.7% to 66.7%.

There is an improving picture regionally and nationally by 4.2pp to 79.4% and 1.3pp to 91.6% respectively. With results in the local authority being below the regional level and national level.

SACRE considered a range of reasons for the decline in examination results across several the grade bandings. It was evident that at GCSE level some schools were now entering learners for Full Course rather than Short Course, and that the significant drop in Short Course results is reflective of the regional and national picture. SACRE members were pleased however to see that there is an increase in the number of A\* grades being achieved at A Level and A grades being achieved at AS Level.

SACRE resolved to write to schools informing them of the examination analysis.

## **2.3 Methods of Teaching, Teaching Materials and Teacher Training**

### **Continuing Professional Development**

South East Wales Education Achievement Service (EAS) advertises their courses through CPD online. The Education Achievement Service appointed Ms. Paula Webber as a full time Professional Learning Adviser for RE and SACRE from September 2018.

The EAS has provided RE specific training to secondary school practitioners via Learning Network School leads and the Professional Learning Adviser for RE and SACREs.

During 2018-2019 the following Professional Learning relevant to RE was offered within the region:

The EAS had appointed two Learning Network Schools leads for RE during 2018-2019. Three Learning Network meetings for secondary HODs of RE were held during the academic year. The focus of the network meetings was improving standards in GCSE Religious Studies. However, the practitioners attending also received training on the new curriculum and updates on the work of SACREs, WASACRE and other relevant bodies. There was also a focus on moderation of marking, sharing good practice and collaboration in the development of resources for Religious Studies.

### **Teaching Materials**

A wide range of teaching materials have been made known to schools by SACRE as follows:

#### **Holocaust Memorial Day 2019 Resources**

A letter was sent from SACRE to all schools were informed of the 2019 Holocaust Memorial Day and that Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27 January each year and is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Schools were reminded that Holocaust Memorial Day is a time to learn the lessons of the past and recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own – it is a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented. Caerphilly schools were informed that the theme for 2019 was 'Torn from home' which encouraged audiences to reflect on how the enforced loss of a safe place to call 'home' is part of the trauma faced by anyone experiencing persecution and genocide.

Schools were informed by SACRE that further information about the theme and free educational Holocaust resources can be found on their website [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk) – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.

#### **LNS Schools for RE**

Practitioners involved in the LNS meetings worked collaboratively to produce and share resources for GCSE Religious Studies.

### **Managing the Right to Withdraw from Religious Education**

The Adviser to SACRE continues to advise schools to use the WASACRE publication on Managing the Right to Withdraw from Religious Education. A copy of this was provided to every school in Wales during 2018-2019. The document is available bilingually is available in hard copy form. The document is subject to copyright and for sale so therefore a PDF copy is not available for download or distribution.

**SACRE RE News Bulletin:** a SACRE RE News Bulletin was produced for distribution to all schools during the Summer Term. The Bulletin contained information in the following:

- Curriculum for Wales 2022: An Update
- The Humanities Area of Learning and Experience
- A new framework for Religious Education
- Learning Network Schools - Religious Education
- The Inter Faith Network for the UK
- WASACRE Update
- Estyn Thematic Report on Religious Education
- RE: ONLINE Email a believer
- KS3 Challenging Extremism Erasmus+ Project being undertaken by the Religious Studies department at Caldicot School
- Church in Wales Schools News: Prayer and reflection spaces
- Newport SACRE visit to The Onyx Link Foundation: Wales Interfaith Conference
- Invitation from the Inter Faith Council for Wales: Faith and Sacrifice
- WJEC Religious Studies Update
- AREIAC Summer Conference 2019
- EfTRE Conference 2019

### **Farmington Scholarships**

SACRE provided schools with information about Farmington Scholarships which are free to Teachers of Religious Education in the UK. They are able to study any aspect of Religious Education they wish but preference will be given to applicants whose work can be seen to be of direct value to the teaching of RE in schools. The Scholarship will cover the cost of tuition, board and lodging where appropriate, essential local travel and, by negotiation with the school, the salary of a replacement teacher up to point 6 of the main pay scale. School/home-based Scholarships may be taken in the form of day release, for instance for one day a week over a term or over the year or for continuous periods up to a maximum of 30 days. University-based Scholarships may be taken as a block of up to eight weeks or in the form of day release up to 30 days.

For more information schools can visit [www.farmington.ac.uk](http://www.farmington.ac.uk) or E-mail: [farmington@hmc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:farmington@hmc.ox.ac.uk)

A list of **free resources** for schools is available to schools upon request. This includes suggested useful websites and information on **visits and visitors**.

## **SECTION 3: ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **3.1 School Inspection Reports**

During the Autumn Term SACRE meeting the local authority and its SACRE scrutinised relevant sections of Estyn school inspection reports for July 2017-March 2019. Nineteen Caerphilly schools were inspected consisting of two infant schools, thirteen primary schools, one junior school and three secondary schools. If any issues emerge regarding collective worship, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up requesting their action plan. Estyn made a recommendation with regards to collective worship in one inspection report. It was found that in two schools some children did not receive their entitlement to collective worship. No recommendations were made in those schools. SACRE has written to the schools to offer support and guidance with regards to collective worship.

All other schools inspected meet statutory requirements in relation to collective worship. Members were presented with a summary of findings from these inspections.

The provision for collective worship had positive comments stating that schools were promoting pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development well. Comments in relation to spiritual development are evident in eight out of thirteen inspection reports. SACRE have been advised that NAPfRE and WASACRE had been in communication with Estyn and that in future all inspection reports should contain reference to spiritual development.

#### **Good features**

There is reference to the quality of collective worship in seven inspection report and good features are highlighted. Acts of collective worship:

- are of good quality
- provide beneficial opportunities for pupils to reflect on values such as courage, friendship and kindness, thereby promoting their spiritual and moral development effectively
- are pupil led
- support pupils to reflect on how to be kind and understanding, and to develop a suitable awareness of issues around bullying
- enable develop their confidence and resilience
- promotes pupils' understanding of values such as honesty, tolerance and co-operation effectively
- promote and contribute strongly to pupils' moral and social development effectively
- supports its anti-bullying strategies and the importance of friendship very well
- enable pupils to participate actively, listen carefully to the messages and act upon them
- provide valuable opportunities for pupils to reflect on how they should treat others and to think of others less fortunate than themselves
- ensure older pupils can reflect on religious beliefs and how people should be treated
- promote a good understanding of right and wrong and as a result nearly all pupils treat each other with mutual care and respect
- contributes to pupils' understanding of Welsh culture and language successfully.

SACRE resolved to continue to use inspection reports to monitor that statutory requirements are being met and to use whatever comments are applicable.

During the Autumn Term meeting SACRE resolved to consider inspection reports on a termly basis at each SACRE meeting in order to be able to be more proactive in supporting schools and for timely action to be taken in respect of any schools not meeting statutory requirements.

### **3.2 Applications for Determinations**

No applications were received from schools for determinations to be made on the lifting of the requirements for collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

### **3.3 School Visits**

SACRE appreciates the opportunities accorded to members to observe acts of collective worship in schools. Members had the opportunity to host their SACRE meeting at one secondary school this year. They did not attend an act of collective worship at the school.

## **SECTION 4: OTHER ISSUES**

### **4.1 WASACRE**

SACRE has continued to affiliate to WASACRE and representatives have attended its meetings. During the 2018-19 academic year issues considered at WASACRE meetings have been fully reported back to SACRE and full discussions have taken place. SACRE welcomes the pro-active work of WASACRE in taking up issues that have implications for RE and keeping member SACRE's fully informed. SACRE is represented on the WASACRE Executive committee by their professional adviser Ms Paula Webber who holds the position of Secretary to WASACRE. Caerphilly SACRE has received regular feedback from Ms Webber and those representing SACRE at WASACRE meetings.

### **4.2 HOLOCAUST EDUCATION**

Schools were informed by SACRE that the 2019 Holocaust Memorial Day and that Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27 January each year and is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Schools were reminded that Holocaust Memorial Day is a time to learn the lessons of the past and recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own – it is a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented. Caerphilly schools were informed that the theme for 2019 was 'Torn from home' which encouraged audiences to reflect on how the enforced loss of a safe place to call 'home' is part of the trauma faced by anyone experiencing persecution and genocide.

SACRE resolved to inform schools about the availability of these resources and encourage them to commemorate HMD in some way. Schools were informed that further information about the theme and free educational Holocaust resources can be found on their website [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk) – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.

Caerphilly SACRE were updated some of the commemorative events which took place within the county borough to mark this International Day of Remembrance.

### **4.3 WELSH GOVERNMENT NATIONAL CURRICULUM REVIEW**

SACRE has received termly updates on the developments being made with regards to Religious Education and the new Curriculum for Wales. SACRE participated in a consultation with Welsh Government during the Autumn Term. Representatives attended a presentation in Cardiff led by Manon Jones from Welsh Government, Paula Webber and Libby Jones who represented WASACRE. Representatives were provided with the opportunity to discuss the key approaches to the curriculum recommended by the Humanities group.

Welsh Government produced the draft Curriculum for Wales 2022 on 30th April. Caerphilly SACRE members participated in the consultation on the Curriculum in collaboration with the other Local Authorities within the South East Wales consortia. The Curriculum guidance contained information on the structure and components of Curriculum for Wales, the approach to progression, and how the curriculum must be inclusive for all learners. The Curriculum for Wales 2022 is part of Welsh Government's

national mission to raise standards, reduce the attainment gap, and deliver an education system that is a source of national pride and public confidence. At the heart of the Curriculum are the four purposes which set out the aspirations for all children and young people by the age of 16.

The Welsh Government consultation on The White Paper Our National Mission: A Transformational Curriculum set out the legislative proposals for the new curriculum. Caerphilly SACRE provided feedback following discussion in the Spring Term SACRE meeting held on 6th March 2019.

A new supporting framework is being developed to provide further detail about the relationship between religious education, the agreed syllabus, and the areas of learning and experience. This is being developed by a group 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 RE adviser to Caerphilly SACRE, Paula Webber, has acted as Regional Vice Chair of the Humanities AoLE working group in her role as Professional Learning Adviser at the Achievement Service (EAS). SACRE members have been updated on the progress in terms of Religious Education within the Humanities and the development of the RE Framework at termly SACRE meetings. Paula Webber and Libby Jones (RE Adviser Wrexham) continue to lead the development of the RE supporting framework.

SACRE collaborated with other SACREs throughout the South East Wales region to provide feedback to Welsh Government on the draft curriculum.

#### **4.4 ESTYN UPDATES**

During the Autumn Term SACRE received the Estyn Thematic Report – Religious Education at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 (June 2018) and considered the recommendations made within it.

The report is intended for the Welsh Government, headteachers and staff in schools, local authorities and regional consortia, and members of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (SACREs). The reports findings will also help to inform the development and implementation of the new Curriculum for Wales. SACRE will seek to implement the recommendations relevant to SACRE and to advise the Local Authority and its schools on the recommendations. The SACRE News Bulletin also informed schools of the recommendations.

#### **4.5 THE FINAL REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN ENGLAND**

SACRE received and considered the Executive Summary of the Final Report from the Commission on Religious Education in England and its relevance to Wales. Members were informed that the Final Report of the Commission on Religious Education, Religion and Worldviews: the way forward. A national plan for RE had been published. It sets out a National Plan for RE comprising of 11 recommendations and calls on the Government in England to consider and adopt it.



The report is the result of two years' work from Commissioners who listened to evidence from a wide range of concerned parties including pupils, teachers, lecturers, advisers, parents and faith and belief communities. The Commission received over three thousand submissions, all of which have been carefully considered. SACRE were informed that WASACRE had been considering the findings of the report and had sent copies of the report to Welsh Government and to the Education Secretary Kirsty Williams for consideration as some of the recommendations might equally apply to Wales. SACRE were informed that Rudi Lockhart CEO of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales gave a presentation on the CoRE report at the WASACRE meeting on 20th November 2018.

The RE Adviser to Caerphilly represents the Wales Association of SACREs on the Religious Education Council for England and Wales and attends its biannual meetings where she can represent SACREs across Wales to be kept informed of national developments across England and Wales. The REC for England and Wales have been working closely with WASACRE and Welsh Government during the curriculum development process.

#### **4.6 WASACRE WITHDRAWAL FROM RE QUESTIONNAIRE**

SACRE were provided with a verbal update on this the WASACRE withdrawal from RE questionnaire and reminded of the WASACRE guidance document "Managing the Right of Withdrawal from RE" which was circulated by to all schools across the county borough. A short questionnaire had been included with the document to help WASACRE gain an accurate awareness of the instances of withdrawal from Religious Education across schools in Wales. SACRE members were made aware that several trawls had been carried out by the Clerk to SACRE so that the responses could be collated and returned to WASACRE. As of November 2018, the response rate for Caerphilly was 47%, which was in line with other survey exercises and comparable with the rate of returns across other local authorities. Overall there were very few instances of full or partial withdrawal from RE as had been reported to SACRE during 2017-2018. WASACRE examined the results and forwarded the response findings to Welsh Government.

#### **4.7 TRAINING OF SACRE MEMBERS**

SACRE members receive training on the Roles and Responsibilities of SACRE at the beginning of each academic year.

As part of its training for members SACRE received the following training:

- Updates on developments in RE and collective worship through regular presentations to SACRE members. Ms. P. Webber gave updates on the review of the Curriculum for Wales 2022 and its implications for RE.
- SACRE, where possible, hold meetings at schools in the county borough for members to familiarise themselves with RE and collective worship in schools. Newbridge School was visited this year and the HOD gave an update on RE at the school.

SACRE is very appreciative of the opportunities offered through visits and presentations to become more informed on RE and Collective worship issues in schools and would like to extend their appreciation to all concerned. A special note of thanks is extended to the Clerk to SACRE (Rebecca Barrett) for all her hard work in making such arrangements this year.

#### **4.8 MEMBERSHIP OF SACRE**

At its Summer Term meeting 2018, SACRE were informed of vacant positions and changes of membership of the committee. SACRE discussed the request for membership of Committee A from Humanists UK and the letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams, regarding the right of Humanists to have a full Committee A status. Following discussion, the matter was voted upon by the three groups and the vote was carried to recommend to Council that a place on SACRE be allocated to a Humanist representative. SACRE recommended to Council and the LA that Committee A (faith groups) membership of SACRE be increased by two places (to comprise one place for a non-Christian faith group/religion and one place for a group who hold non-religious beliefs. Also, that Committee B (teaching unions) membership of SACRE be increased by one place and allocated to the NASUWT teaching union. The Council and the Local Authority confirmed the additional places on SACRE in October 2018.

The current membership list showing the position as of August 2019 is attached at Appendix 1.

Whilst every effort has been made to seek representation from religious organisations other than Christianity, SACRE has experienced difficulties in finding such representation. With regards to Committee A, advice has been sought from Cytun (Churches Together in Wales) who have been helpful in providing nominations, and the Free Church vacancy was filled in June 2019. During 2018-2019 the RE Adviser has established links with the Onyx Link Foundation and the Inter Faith Council for Wales in order to seek representation. The Local Authority invited Wales Humanists to provide a nomination for Caerphilly SACRE, and the vacancy was filled in August 2019. With regards to Committee B, the Clerk to SACRE has contacted NASUWT to advise of the two vacancies and two expressions of interest already on file on Committee B. SACRE is awaiting the union's endorsement of the two individuals on file before they can proceed. The NUT Branch Secretary took the vacancy to members of the Caerphilly division in May 2018 but there were no expressions of interest received at that time. The Clerk to SACRE has contacted the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) on several occasions regarding the vacancy on Committee B but is yet to receive a response.

During 2018-2019 Caerphilly SACRE decided to co-opt two places for youth representatives to SACRE in order to give learners a voice. SACRE discussed the logistics around enabling young people to attend SACRE meetings. The Senior Participation Officer for the Caerphilly Youth Forum was invited to the Summer Term meeting of SACRE, to give an overview of the safeguarding processes used by the Youth Service when facilitating visits and activities for its young members. SACRE agreed to forward details of the two co-opted vacancies to Youth Forum so that nominations could be sought from the Youth Forum. The Chair will attend a Youth Forum in Autumn Term 2019 to speak to its members about the work of SACRE.

#### **4.9 PROFESSIONAL ADVISER TO SACRE**

During the Autumn Term meeting the Chair to SACRE welcomed Ms. P. Webber who had recently been appointed through the EAS as the new RE Adviser to SACRE. Ms. Webber's position is as full time Professional Learning Adviser to SACREs within the EAS region. As such she is now able to support schools within the region as well as SACREs.

## **APPENDIX 1: CAERPHILLY SACRE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE 2018/19**

### **CHRISTIAN AND OTHER RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS - COMMITTEE A**

Mr Martyn Western (Roman Catholic Archdiocese)

Mrs Enfys Hawthorn (United Reformed Church)

Mrs Janet Jones (Church in Wales) (SACRE Vice-Chair)

Major Paula Hubbard (The Salvation Army) – replaced Captain Di-Palma June 2019

Mr Michael Gray (The Methodist Church) – replaced Rev Eryl Williams June 2019

Mr Ken Chamberlain (Wales Humanists) – appointed August 2019

Vacancy - non-Christian faith group/religion – approved by Council Oct 2018

### **TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS - COMMITTEE B**

#### **Primary Schools**

Mrs Tara Lloyd (NAHT)

Ms Meinir Jones (UCAC)

#### **Secondary Schools**

Miss Helen Bartley (ATL)

Vacancy - NUT Representative

Vacancy - ASCL Representative

Vacancy - Mrs Laura Strange (NASUWT Representative) resigned March 2019

Vacancy - Second NASUWT Representative - approved by Council Oct 2018

### **THE LOCAL AUTHORITY - COMMITTEE C**

Councillor Mrs E.M. Aldworth

Councillor J. Ridgewell

Councillor Mrs G.D. Oliver

Councillor Mrs T. Parry - replaced Councillor Mrs M.E. Sargent on SACRE May 2019

Councillor J. Simmonds

Councillor J. Taylor (SACRE Chair)

### **CO OPTED MEMBERS**

Two vacancies - held for youth representation on SACRE

### **OFFICERS**

Mr Paul Warren (CCBC Strategic Lead for School Improvement)

Ms Paula Webber (EAS - RE Advisor to Caerphilly SACRE)

### **CLERK TO SACRE**

Miss Rebecca Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

Email barrerm@caerphilly.gov.uk

## **APPENDIX 2: SCHEDULE AND AGENDA OF MEETINGS**

### **Wednesday, 14th November 2018 at Ty Penallta Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach**

#### **Main Agenda Items**

- Minutes of the meeting of Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) - 13th June 2018.
- SACRE Membership Update and Revised Terms of Reference
- Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report 2017-2018
- Curriculum Development Update
- Estyn Thematic Report - Religious Education at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 (June 2018)
- SACRE News Bulletin
- Monitoring Provision and Standards - Caerphilly School Inspection Reports
- Update on the Withdrawal from RE Survey (verbal update).
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2019
- The Final Report from the Commission on Religious Education in England. Correspondence
- WASACRE business including feedback from the WASACRE Meeting in Anglesey on 6th July 2018; the WASACRE Revised Constitution 2018 and representation at the forthcoming WASACRE Meeting in Llantwit Major, Vale of Glamorgan, on 20th November 2018

### **Wednesday, 6th March 2019 Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach**

#### **Main Agenda Items**

- Minutes of the Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) - 14th November 2018
- SACRE Membership Update
- Presentation - What is Humanism? - Kathy Riddick (Wales Humanists).
- Curriculum Development Update.
- Estyn Thematic Report - Religious Education at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 - June 2018 Monitoring of Religious Education - Analysis of GCSE and GCE Examination Results 2018
- Monitoring Provision and Standards - Caerphilly School Inspection Reports (Autumn 2018)
- The Effectiveness of SACRE.
- SACRE News Bulletin.
- WASACRE business including feedback from the WASACRE Meeting in Llantwit Major on 20th November 2018 and Executive Voting 2019 - Nominations to the WASACRE Executive Committee.

### **Monday, 20th May 2019 at Newbridge School, Bridge Street, Newbridge**

#### **Main Agenda Items**

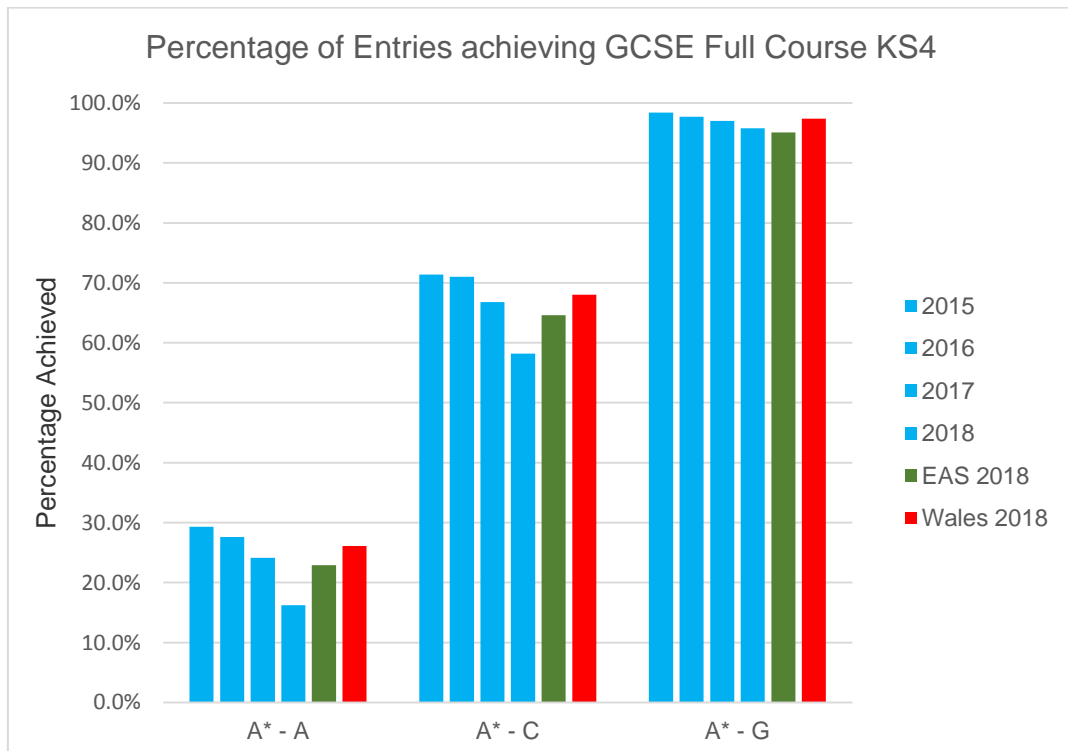
- Minutes of the Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) -6th March 2019
- SACRE Membership Update
- Presentation: Religious Education at Newbridge School
- SACRE News Bulletin

- Curriculum Development Update and Welsh Government Consultation on the draft Curriculum for Wales
- Monitoring Provision and Standards - Caerphilly School Inspection Reports
- WASACRE business including Feedback from the WASACRE Meeting in Cardiff on 26th March 2019; WASACRE Executive Committee Election and representation at the forthcoming WASACRE Meeting in Colwyn Bay, Conwy, on 28th June 2019

**APPENDIX 3: EXAMINATION RESULTS ANALYSIS 2018**

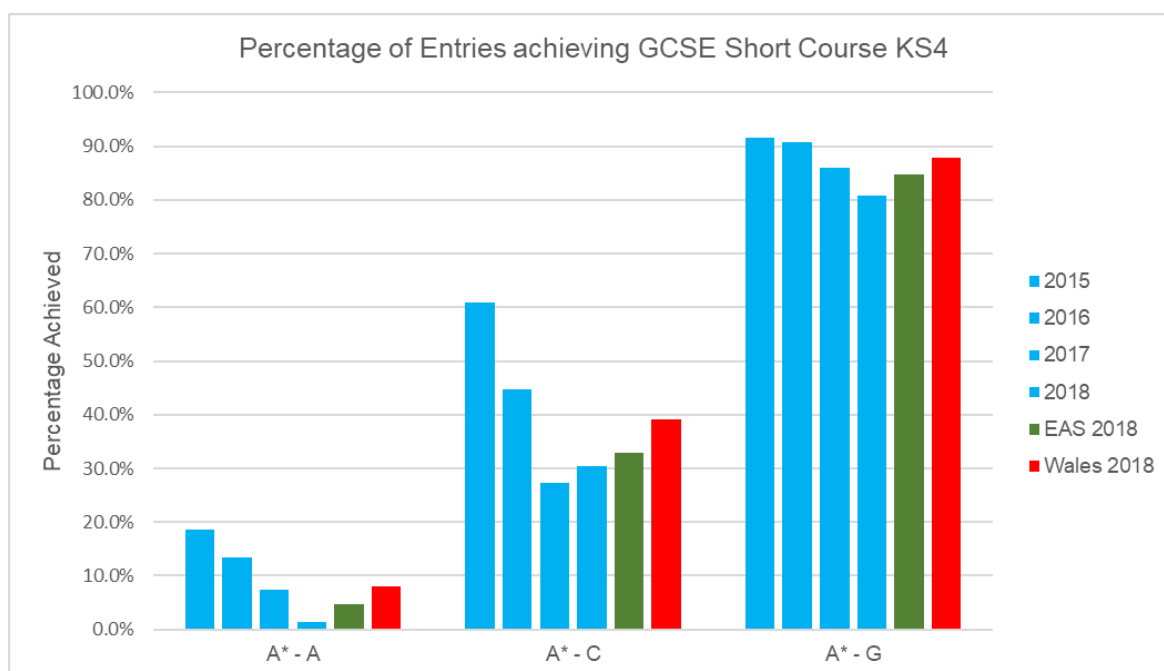
**GCSE Full Course Religious Studies 2018**

<b>Caerphilly - GCSE Full Course KS4</b>				
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Cohort Size</b>	1977	2048	1966	1898
<b>Number of Entries</b>	679	604	808	811
<b>Percentage of Entries</b>	34.3%	29.5%	41.1%	42.7%
<b>A* - A</b>	29.3%	27.6%	24.1%	16.2%
<b>A* - C</b>	71.4%	71.0%	66.8%	58.2%
<b>A* - G</b>	98.4%	97.7%	97.0%	95.8%



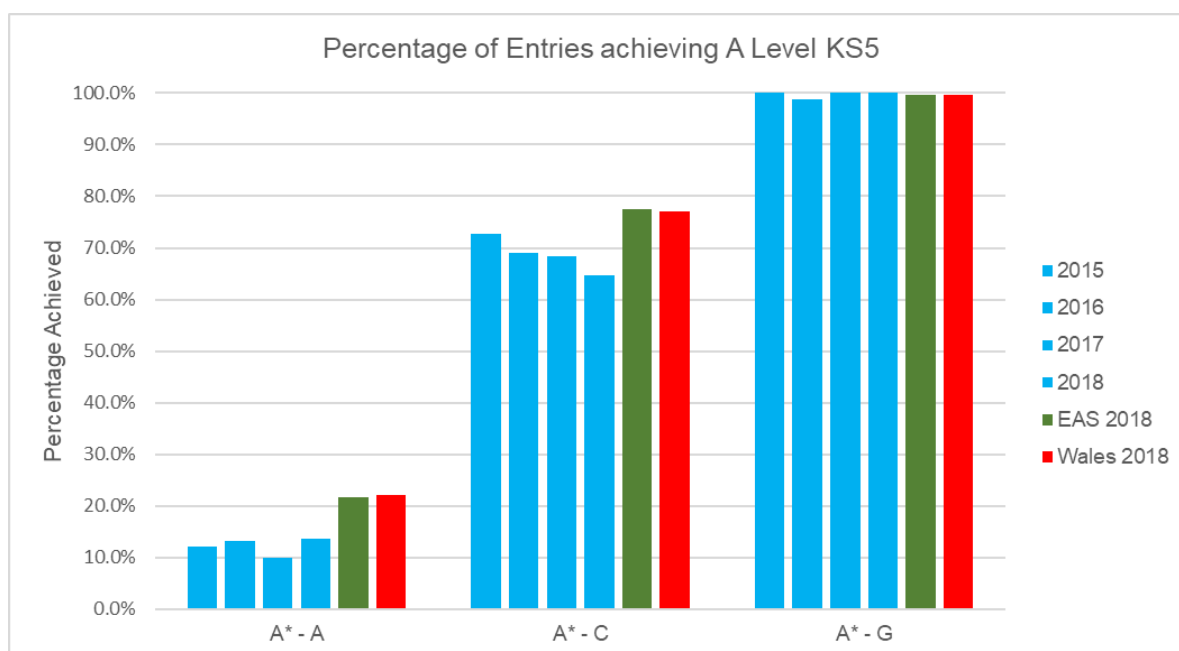
## GCSE Short Course Religious Studies 2018

Caerphilly - GCSE Short Course KS4				
	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Cohort Size</b>	1977	2048	1966	1898
<b>Number of Entries</b>	647	607	365	141
<b>Percentage of Entries</b>	32.7%	29.6%	18.6%	7.4%
<b>A* - A</b>	18.5%	13.5%	7.4%	1.4%
<b>A* - C</b>	60.9%	44.8%	27.4%	30.5%
<b>A* - G</b>	91.5%	90.8%	86.0%	80.9%



## GCE A Level Religious Studies 2018

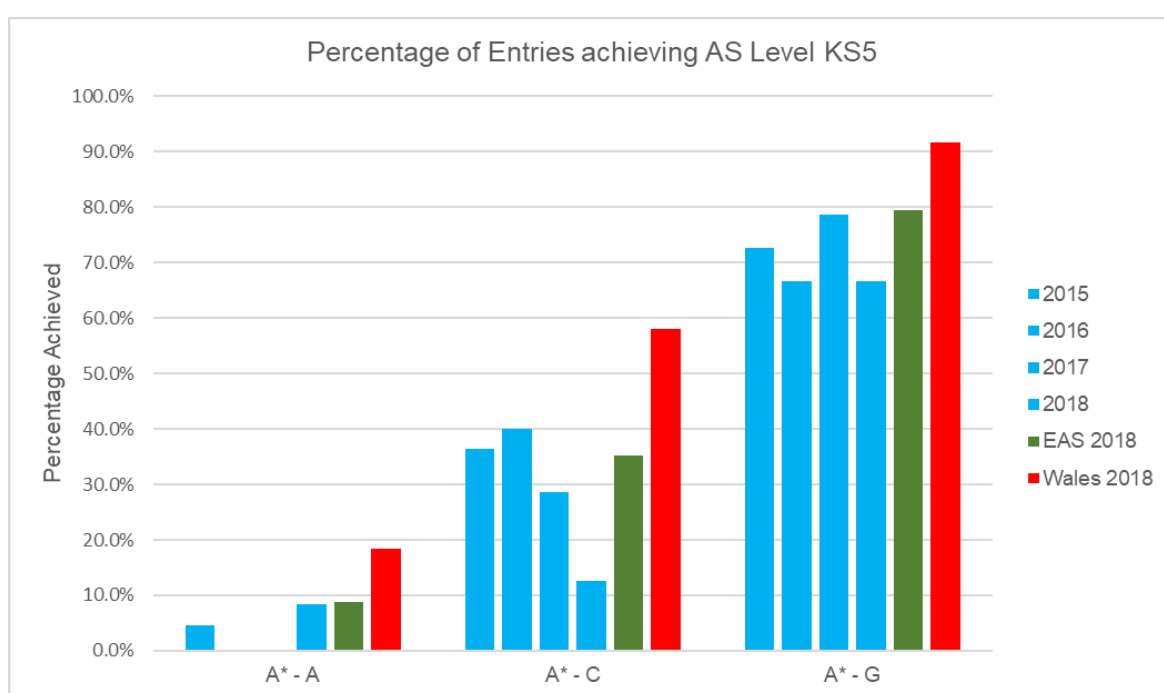
Caerphilly – A Level KS5				
	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Cohort Size</b>	613	593	448	438
<b>Number of Entries</b>	99	84	60	51
<b>Percentage of Entries</b>	16.2%	14.2%	13.4%	11.6%
<b>A* - A</b>	12.1%	13.1%	10.0%	13.7%
<b>A* - C</b>	72.7%	69.0%	68.3%	64.7%
<b>A* - E</b>	100.0%	98.8%	100.0%	100.0%





## GCE AS Level Religious Studies 2018

Caerphilly – AS Level KS5				
	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Cohort Size</b>	613	593	448	438
<b>Number of Entries</b>	22	30	14	48
<b>Percentage of Entries</b>	3.6%	5.1%	3.1%	11.0%
<b>A</b>	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%
<b>A - C</b>	36.4%	40.0%	28.6%	12.5%
<b>A - E</b>	72.7%	66.7%	78.6%	66.7%



#### **APPENDIX 4: CIRCULATION OF REPORT**

***Copies will be sent electronically to the relevant bodies. This report will be available on the Local Authority website and the WASACRE website for interested parties to download.***

Members of Caerphilly County Borough Council

Chair of Education Scrutiny

Regional Director of SEWC

Department for Education and Skills (DfES)

Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all County Borough Schools

All members of SACRE

Principals and Governing Bodies of all Tertiary Colleges within the County Borough

Wales Association of SACRE's (WASACRE)

Cabinet Secretary for Education, Welsh Assembly Government

ESTYN