Ces briefing for sacre members

July 2022

A briefing for SACRE members to close the academic year 2021-22.



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## 1.Introduction

I would like to begin by thanking you all for being so generous with your time over the last few months and for the dedication you have shown in ensuring that the Agreed Syllabus in your area is accessible for Catholic schools. Your efforts will have a positive impact on the ability of our schools to stay true to their Catholic identity whilst meeting their statutory obligations.

Over the last couple of weeks, I have debated whether to hold an online briefing as discussed previously or send out a written briefing. In the end, considering the large number of teacher representatives and the weather forecast I made the judgement call to send out a written update. I have included my contact details at the end and if anyone wants to chat things through just email and I can set up a teams meeting.

This short document will update you on the following:

* Curriculum for Wales non-statutory supporting guidance for Catholic schools
* Professional learning programme for Catholic schools
* Progress on the RECD Wales edition
* Suggestions for next steps.

Our first briefing meeting of the new term will be held on Thursday 15th September 2022 at 5pm.

## 2.Curriculum for Wales- supporting non-statutory guidance for Catholic schools

Over the course of the last 2 academic years a group of practitioners supported by diocesan officers, the CES with advice from Welsh government officials have undertaken the task of writing supporting guidance for Catholic schools in Wales.

The final document is high level and non-statutory. It is an outward facing document which is designed to support governing bodies and Headteachers to meet their statutory obligations whilst maintaining the integrity of the requirements of their trust deeds. As such, the document is not intended to discuss the day-to-day mechanics related to the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales.

The guidance has been distributed as a PDF in English until Welsh translation is completed. When translated, the English and Welsh versions will be available on Hwb as part of the suite of guidance documents on the Curriculum for Wales. I have attached a copy of the guidance in the accompanying email.

The supporting guidance covers key aspects such as mission, curriculum design and has specific sections on the significant changes regarding RVE and RSE. It illustrates how Catholic schools can use virtues education to realise the four purposes.

The final document has gone through a rigorous editorial process including input from the members of the writing group, the Director of the CES and Welsh government officials.

## 3.Professional learning programme for Catholic schools

Members of the writing group were mindful that some Catholic schools would welcome a more detailed discussion of operational issues. As part of their brief therefore, they developed materials and a training programme to provide additional support for schools during this critical time.

The training programme is designed to supplement key areas of the guidance document. It is envisaged that the sessions will facilitate dialogue between Catholic schools and may evolve to meet specific needs of our schools as we progress to 2025.

I have attached a copy of the programme outline that has been sent out to schools. A list of dates for training will be issued at the start of the new academic year in September and I will let you have these in our briefing session. There may be some sessions that would be of use to SACRE members, and I am happy to send out links to the meetings if you let me know which ones you would like to attend.

## 4.The RECD Wales edition

Work will continue with this document over the summer break. The aim is to complete the mapping of the new RECD to demonstrate how it pays regard to the RVE statutory guidance. Many thanks to the SACRE teacher representatives who have volunteered to help quality assure this work before it is distributed widely to Catholic schools.

## 5.Agenda for September briefing session

* Update from SACRE members on the agreed syllabus in their area.
* RECD Wales update
* Section 50 inspection update
* Feedback on the early implementation stages of the Curriculum for Wales.

# Contact Information

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