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Dear Teacher of Religious Education and other practitioners,

The Executive Committee of the Wales Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education would like to express our gratitude to you for all you are doing during the difficult and unprecedented times brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. We have had the opportunity to speak with many practitioners over the past six months and understand that what you are doing is more difficult and exhausting than ever. We are grateful for the commitment and dedication you are showing in ensuring that learner wellbeing is a priority, and that learners in Wales have access to the best possible Religious Education. We understand that many issues discussed within our subject can be challenging at the best of times. However, the last six months have seen all practitioners engaged in a massive learning curve in terms of distance and blended learning, as well as having to deal with big questions from learners who are finding their lives have been turned upside down. You have had to work in ways we could never have imagined. We encourage you to ensure you are looking after your own wellbeing, as well as the wellbeing of your pupils. You matter, and we thank you for all you are doing.

In addition to the challenges being brought to us by the Covid-19 pandemic there are so many changes taking place within Religious Education as we move toward the Curriculum for Wales 2022. The Executive Committee and WASACRE members would like you to know that we and your local SACREs are available to support you. You can find our contact details on the WASARE Website at <http://www.wasacre.org.uk/>. We welcome correspondence from you. WASACRE works closely with specialist RE Advisors who sit on the National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (NAPfRE). If you need help from an Adviser, or from your local SACRE, we can put you in touch with someone to support you.

We encourage you to follow us on our Twitter page <https://twitter.com/WASACRE> where we will share up to date advice and guidance on RE and the activities of WASACRE. We encourage you to engage with us and to let us know how we can best help you. WASACRE are currently updating our Website and are also in the process of setting up a Facebook page. Please look out for this as we will be posting surveys to ascertain the needs of RE teachers in Wales on our social media from time to time.

Thank you once again for all the work that you do within your schools. We hope that you and your families stay well and keep safe.

Kind Regards
Rachel Samuel
Chair of WASACRE