

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER 1996 AT 2.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

REPRESENTING CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL:

Councillors: W.H. Coleman, Mrs. M.J. Ellis, D.M. Gray, R. Gough, Mrs. J. Summers and M.W. Thomas

REPRESENTING TEACHING ORGANISATIONS:

Mrs. G. Jenkins - UCAC
Mr. T.H. Mathias - SHA
Mrs. C. Anthony -

REPRESENTING RELIGIOUS BODIES:

Mrs. B. Donovan - Roman Catholic
Rev. N. Hodge - Church In Wales

Together with:

Head of Professional Services, ESIS Religious Education Advisers (TG & PM), Senior Solicitor (GR), Committee Services Officer (JCM).

1. **CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

Councillor D.M. Gray was elected Chairman and Councillor M.W. Thomas was elected Vice Chairman.

2. **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

The Director of Education's representative outlined the role, responsibilities and composition of SACRE and it was agreed that a seminar be held, as soon as possible, in order that all are aware of their individual and collective responsibilities in relation to SACRE.

3. **VACANCIES AND CO-OPTIONS**

In accordance with statutory requirements the constitution of SACRE should consist of representatives from the LEA, various religious bodies and teaching staff. The Director informed the meeting that the Education Committee agreed that the composition of the Caerphilly SACRE should be as follows:-

GROUP	NUMBER OF MEMBERS
Caerphilly County Borough Council	6
Church In Wales	1
Roman Catholic Church	1
Free Church Federal Council (representing the non established churches)	3
Teachers Associations	6
Grant Maintained School	1
Total Membership of SACRE	18 (all having voting rights)

SACRE may also nominate up to two non voting members in addition to the above. Two of the teacher associations had not yet submitted nominations and the Free Church Federal Council had given only one nominee. Two organisations had requested places on SACRE.

It was agreed that the Director of Education and Leisure be asked to report to the next meeting with proposals for membership and co-options, and regard should be had for organisations whose interests were not specifically represented in the original composition of SACRE.

4. **ANNUAL REPORTS**

Members were informed that the Annual Reports of the former Gwent and Mid Glamorgan County Councils were not available for circulation.

5. **AGREED SYLLABUSES FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The Religious Education Advisers, being the Advisers of former Authorities, introduced the Agreed Syllabuses for Religious Education of both Gwent and Mid Glamorgan.

Members were informed that the Agreed Syllabus is a statutory document which is locally determined and sets out the religious education to be taught in schools. The Agreed Syllabus is subject to review every five years. As both syllabuses are currently taught in Caerphilly's schools, and neither is subject to review for sometime, an Agreed Syllabus for the Caerphilly County Borough need not be produced and implemented for sometime. However the Authority's general principle of adopting common policies in a reasonable timescale needed to be recognised. A report on this matter should be brought to the next meeting.

6. **PROCEDURE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Members were reminded that each group represented on SACRE is entitled to one vote. In order that each group has the opportunity to discuss particular matters on which a vote may need to be taken it was agreed that each group should meet before the SACRE meeting and a spokesperson for each group be nominated to represent the views of their group. The spokesperson will also represent the Caerphilly SACRE at meetings of outside organisations. A constitution would be drafted by the Authority's Legal Department to aid this process and other aspects of the SACRE operation and will be considered at the next meeting.

7. **CALENDAR OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

It was agreed to meet every half-term until Summer 1997 at dates to be determined.

The Religious Education Advisers outlined items that will need to be considered at future meetings which included:-

- (i) Assessment of Religious Education;
- (ii) Increasing the profile of Religious Education in the 6th Form;
- (iii) Membership of WASACRE;
- (iv) Membership of the Christian and Education Movement Wales.

Further consideration will be given at a future meeting to affiliating to the Bodies, from which requests for representation have been received. In the meantime it was agreed that the Chairman should represent Caerphilly SACRE at meetings of outside organisations.

It was further agreed that visits to schools be arranged in order that members observe Religious Education lessons.