



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2020 AT 2.00 P.M

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Taylor - Chair
Mrs J. Jones (Church in Wales) - Vice Chair

Councillors:

E. Aldworth, A. Collis, T. Parry

Representing Teaching Organisations: Miss H. Bartley (ATL), Mrs T. Lloyd (NAHT – part of meeting), Mrs C. McLaughlan (NASUWT)

Representatives of Faith and Belief: Mr K. Chamberlain (Humanists Wales), Mr M. Gray (The Methodist Church)

Together with:

P. Webber (EAS Professional Learning Advisor SACRE & RE), C. Quinn (Healthy Schools Practitioner), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed and would be made available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here to View](#). It was noted that voting on decisions would take place by way of roll call.

WELCOME

The Chair welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made.

The Chair gave a warm welcome to Councillor Alan Collis and Mrs Claire McLaughlan (NASUWT teacher representative) who were attending their first meeting of Caerphilly SACRE. It was noted that Councillor Alan Collis had replaced Councillor John Ridgewell on the committee and the Chair expressed his thanks to Councillor Ridgewell for his service and contributions to SACRE over the past few years.

Carin Quinn (Healthy Schools Practitioner) was also welcomed to her first meeting of SACRE as the LA Education representative.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs G. Oliver and Councillor J. Simmonds, together with Mrs M. Jones (UCAC), Mrs K. McCullough (NASUWT), Mrs E. Hawthorn (United Reformed Church), Major P. Hubbard (The Salvation Army) and Mr M. Western (Roman Catholic Archdiocese).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF CAERPHILLY SACRE - 23RD OCTOBER 2019

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Caerphilly SACRE meeting held on 23rd October 2019 be approved and by a show of hands up this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Caerphilly SACRE meeting held on 23rd October 2019 be approved as a correct record.

4. ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Ms Paula Webber (RE Advisor to Caerphilly SACRE) confirmed that there were no matters arising, and all action points from the last meeting had been progressed and completed.

5. CAERPHILLY SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

Consideration was given to the draft Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report which outlined the activities of SACRE during the academic year 2019-20. SACRE were asked to consider, note, and approve the contents of the draft Annual Report and agree any final amendments for inclusion in the document.

SACRE were advised that several typographical errors regarding dates had been detected since the preparation of the draft Annual Report and would be updated before the final version of the document is translated and submitted to Welsh Government by the deadline of 30th December 2020.

Ms Webber provided an update on a number of matters contained within the Annual Report, including SACRE Membership, the Curriculum for Wales 2022, the Locally Agreed Syllabus and the RVE Framework, Monitoring RE and Estyn Inspections, Professional Learning for RE and Learning Network Schools, Collective Worship, Holocaust Education, GCE and GCSE Examination Arrangements, Training of SACRE Members, and correspondence circulated on behalf of Caerphilly SACRE. Members discussed and noted each of the items in turn.

During the course of Ms Webber's update, SACRE were reminded of the name change for Religious Education from 2022 under the new Curriculum, where it will become Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE). The scope of RE will also change in that it must be objective, critical and pluralistic, schools will be required to teach world views, and RE will sit under the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience in the new Curriculum.

SACRE acknowledged the huge raft of changes and the implications for RE arising from the new curriculum and expressed the need for sufficient training to support teachers through these changes. Ms Webber outlined the support mechanisms in place, with it noted that WASACRE have advocated a national approach to professional learning and are seeking to hold a conference in this regard. Guidance and support will be cascaded to teachers of RE through the work being undertaken between colleagues across SACREs and NAPfRE and via the work of the Learning Network Schools (LNS) in each consortia.

It was noted that during the Covid-19 pandemic, WASACRE have prepared guidance in relation to matters such as collective worship which have been gratefully received by schools. Reference was made to the disruption caused by the pandemic, particularly around the suspension of Estyn inspections and the cancellation of exams. Ms Webber explained that no GCSE or A-Level exams will be held in Summer 2021 and grades will be allocated through teacher assessment instead. The current advice to RE teachers is to continue with their current arrangements until guidance on the assessments has been issued.

Ms Webber explained that she is intending to produce a newsletter for schools to bring them up to date with the curriculum changes in respect of RE and the many changes around the pandemic. She also advised SACRE that if they required any refresher or informal training regarding the changes, she would be happy to facilitate the arrangements.

Following consideration of its contents, it was moved and seconded that subject to the inclusion of the aforementioned minor amendments, the SACRE Annual Report for 2019-2020 be approved. By way of roll call and in noting there were 9 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to the inclusion of minor typographical amendments as set out at the meeting the Annual Report for 2019-2020 be approved and circulated accordingly following its submission to Welsh Government by 30th December 2020.

6. CAERPHILLY SACRE RESPONSES TO RECENT CONSULTATIONS ON THE CURRICULUM FOR WALES 2022

The report outlined the consultation responses submitted by the Chair of Caerphilly SACRE arising from two recent consultations on the Curriculum for Wales 2022. These consultations were carried out by the Welsh Government and Welsh Parliament's Children, Young People and Education Committee respectively. It was noted that a draft response for each consultation had been circulated to SACRE Members via email for their comments and the final responses were submitted ahead of the consultation deadlines.

Caerphilly SACRE noted the details of the consultation responses attached to the report.

7. FEEDBACK FROM THE WASACRE MEETING IN ABERAERON ON 21ST NOVEMBER 2019

SACRE noted the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE at its meeting in Aberaeron on 21st November 2019. It was explained that WASACRE had since met on 7th October 2020 and the draft minutes would be circulated to Caerphilly SACRE in due course

8. WASACRE'S REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2019-2020.

Ms Webber provided an overview of WASACRE's activities during the last year. She emphasised that WASACRE are acutely aware of the pressures faced by teachers as a

result of the Covid-19 pandemic and wished to remind teachers of the support available to them at this very difficult time.

9. REPRESENTATION AT FORTHCOMING WASACRE MEETINGS

Members were advised that the next meeting of WASACRE had been provisionally scheduled for Spring Term 2021 and that under normal circumstances, it would have been the turn of Caerphilly SACRE to host the meeting. WASACRE have written to the local authority to request that Caerphilly SACRE host the meeting and have also proposed some provisional meeting dates. Given the uncertainty around the pandemic and potential meeting restrictions, this will in all likelihood be a virtual meeting which WASACRE will organise, but they would still like Caerphilly SACRE to attend as the “virtual host” in order for their accomplishments to be recognised by WASACRE.

It was noted that the local authority are currently considering the request, and subject to their agreement, the date of the Spring Term meeting will be circulated in due course with all Members of Caerphilly SACRE invited to attend.

In closing, the Chair thanked all attendees for their participation and advised that the date of the next SACRE meeting will be circulated when available.

The meeting closed at 2.55 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2021.

CHAIR