



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT RISCA SALVATION ARMY CITADEL,
COMMERCIAL STREET, RISCA CAERPHILLY ON THURSDAY, 12TH JUNE 2014
AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Taylor - Vice Chair

Representing Teaching Organisations: Miss H. Bartley (ATL) N. Boardman (NUT) and Mrs. B. Davies (UCAC).

Representing Religious Organisations: Mrs. J. Jones (Church in Wales), Mr. M. Western (Roman Catholic Archdiocese) and Lieutenant C. Di Palma (Salvation Army).

Together with:

V. Thomas (RE Consultant), K. Cole (Manager, Learning, Education and Inclusion) and E. Sullivan (Democratic Services Officer).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D.G. Carter, D.M. Gray, Mrs. G.D. Oliver, Mrs. M.E. Sargent and Mrs. E. Hawthorn (United Reform Church).

In the absence of Councillor D.M. Gray (Chair), Councillor J. Taylor (Vice Chair) took the Chair for the meeting.

WELCOME

The Chair thanked Lieutenant Carlo Di Palma for giving SACRE such a warm welcome and for providing Members with an interesting and informative introduction to the Salvation Army.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the meeting.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 5th March 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Members were advised that all the actions arising from the last meeting had been completed. It was noted that letters had been sent to schools in relation to the Examination Results Data and the Religious Education Quality Mark programme.

Teaching Representatives expressed concern that information was not reaching the appropriate person. The Clerk to SACRE confirmed that she had contacted all schools requesting contact details for their Head of RE or RE Co-ordinator and had compiled a comprehensive distribution list as a result of their responses.

SACRE agreed that the information circulated on Examination Results Data, REQM and RE Quest be resent using this list in order to ensure that information from SACRE reached the appropriate person. Teaching Representatives were asked to monitor this process and feedback any further issues.

4. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2014-15

The report presented Members with provisional dates for forthcoming SACRE meeting and sought nominations for suitable venues.

Members fully discussed the dates and venues offered and agreed the following: -

The Autumn Term meeting would be held on Thursday 6th November 2014 at Ysgol-y-Lawnt, Rhymney.

The Spring Term meeting would be held on Monday 9th March 2014 at Newbridge School, Newbridge.

The Summer Term meeting would be held on Wednesday 10th June 2014 at the Penallta House Offices, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach.

5. SACRE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The report updated Members on the current membership of Caerphilly SACRE and highlighted the present position in terms of vacant places.

The efforts made to secure nominations from Teaching Trade Unions and Free Church Representation were noted. Members were referred to an email received from Rheinallt Thomas with regard to Church representation and during discussion Councillor J. Taylor confirmed that he would be able to provide a contact from the East Glamorgan Baptist Association should Cytun be unable to secure a nomination.

The Chair thanked the Officer and the RE Advisor for the update and full discussion ensued.

SACRE agreed that Cytun should be given a further two weeks to secure a nomination, in the event that this was unsuccessful that Councillor Taylor provide details of his contact in the East Glamorgan Baptist Association and a suitable nomination be sought from there.

In relation to Teacher representation SACRE agreed that Keri Cole, Manager for Learning, Education and Inclusion be contacted and asked to circulate a letter to Caerphilly Primary Schools seeking nominations.

SACRE agreed that no further action was required in relation to the current Co-opted vacancies.

SACRE noted the report.

6. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL OF ENGLAND AND WALES ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The report updated Members on the Religious Education Council of England and Wales Annual Conference on the 7th May 2014 and highlighted an excerpt from the speech given by Huw Lewis, Minister for Education as it related specifically to RE.

The key messages were detailed for Members information and noted the statements relating to the teaching of Religious Education and how this fits in to the changing educational landscape in Wales. It acknowledged that RE Teachers were already introducing and implementing the Literacy and Numeracy Framework in their lessons and confirmed the seriousness with which Welsh Government takes religion and the teaching of RE in society.

Reference was made to the positive nature of the Estyn report but acknowledged that more needed to be done to ensure good quality RE provision and highlighted areas for improvement. The statements regarding the value of professional development and sharing good practice were noted however Members felt that the current lack of any real opportunities to facilitate this required further discussion with the Minister. Although the role taken up by WASACRE in providing training was recognised there remained a huge training gap. As to engaging with key partners in assessing the quality of support provided by local authorities it was noted that SACRE achieved this through its annual report and further evidenced through Welsh Governments Review of SACRE Annual Reports. The review was discussed and the 4-year timeframe under which it was conducted was acknowledged as too long a time period. Members were also mindful that during this review period full-time RE Advisors were in place and this was no longer the case.

The speech also referred to Professor Graham Donaldson review of the Curriculum for Wales and the remit and scope of the review was confirmed for information. Members were pleased to note that part of that remit included the implications for the capacity of the workforce. The implications for Agreed Syllabus should the National Curriculum order be revised were discussed and SACRE emphasised the importance of providing appropriate training to teachers in relation to any change.

Mrs Thomas (RE Consultant) confirmed that WASACRE had requested an interview with Professor Donaldson as part of the call for evidence process and confirmed that she would be in attendance and hoped to be able to raise CPD and funding for training as a result of changes to the curriculum at this time.

The Chair thanked the RE Advisor for her report and full discussion ensued.

SACRE felt that the given the positive nature of the statements made within the speech and the implications for RE Teachers that the excerpt in the report be shared with schools.

SACRE agreed that a letter be sent to all schools sharing the relevant section of the speech with schools.

Having fully discussed its content SACRE noted the report.

7. RE QUEST RESOURCE FOR TEACHING CHRISTIANITY IN SCHOOLS

The report informed Members of the updated RE Quest website that provided resources for teaching Christianity in schools.

RE Quest is one of the largest on line resources for teaching Christianity in schools in the UK. This free resource provides films, images, interactive features, lesson plans and

downloadable materials.

Members viewed a selection of introductory video clips that illustrated how to navigate the site and the different options available.

The Chair thanked the RE Advisor for the report and full discussion ensued.

SACRE agreed that a letter be sent to all schools informing them of the RE Quest resource and its updated website.

8. WASACRE - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 27TH MARCH 2014 IN CAERPHILLY

The report informed Members of the discussion and deliberations of WASACRE at its last meeting on the 27th March 2014.

The RE Advisor confirmed that the minutes noted within the report were in draft and provided a verbal update on any matters arising. Members were referred to the discussion in relation to the RE News e-Magazine and it was confirmed that this resource would now be made available to all schools free of charge.

A presentation given by Tudor Thomas on WJEC Developments was highlighted along with feedback from the training provided by Gavin Graigen on using levels in RE. Updates to WASACRE and RE Quest websites were also noted.

SACRE noted the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE.

9. WASACRE - REPRESENTATION AT THE NEXT MEETING ON 22ND JULY 2014 AT LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS

The report advised Members of the date and time of the next WASACRE meeting and sought nominations for representation from Caerphilly SACRE.

It was noted that the votes for the Executive Committee would be cast at this meeting and the RE Advisor requested that Members if possible make every effort to attend.

Councillor J. Taylor advised that he would try and rearrange his work schedule to allow him to attend but could not give a firm commitment at this time. It was noted that Councillor D.M. Gray and Mrs V. Thomas (RE Advisor) would be in attendance.

10. EXECUTIVE VOTING FOR THE PERIOD 2014-2015

The report provided Members with profiles of the seven nominees for the two vacant position on the WASACRE Executive Committee.

Having fully considered the list of nominees it was moved and seconded that Councillor D.M. Gray and Mrs V. Thomas be put forward as Caerphilly SACREs nominations to the WASACRE Executive Committee and that WASACRE be informed of the voting preference of Caerphilly SACRE and by a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

The meeting closed at 3.00 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 Thursday, 6th November 2014, they were signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN