

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 1998 AT 2.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mrs. M.J. Ellis, R.W. Gough, D.M. Gray, Mrs. J. Summers, M.W. Thomas

Representing Teachers Associations

Mrs. S. John - (UCAC)
Mrs. C. Anthony - (NAHT)
Miss P. Brown - (ATL)

Representing Religious Bodies

Mrs. B. Donovan - R.C. Church
Rev. A.D. Ireland - Baptist Church
Rev. D.J. Carpenter - Church in Wales

Together with:

Head of Professional Services, ESIS Religious Education Advisor (VT), Committee Services Officer (KW).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor W.H. Coleman and Ms. N. Thomas and Mr. P. Sass.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 1998 were noted.

S11 Proposed Schedule of Meetings

Consideration was given to a proposed schedule of dates for future meetings of Caerphilly SACRE.

RESOLVED that the following schedule of meetings be approved for the academic year 1998/99:-

Monday 21st September 1998 at 2.30 p.m.
Thursday 19th November 1998 at 2.30 p.m.
Wednesday 27th January 1999 at 2.30 p.m.
Friday 14th May 1999 at 2.30 p.m.
Friday 9th July 1999 at 2.30 p.m.

S12 Caerphilly Early Years Partnership

The Advisory Council was informed that under new legislation, Caerphilly LEA had established an Early Years Partnership (EYP) which had nominees from the local Church-in-Wales Diocesan and RC Archdiocesan bodies and Council Members.

The EYP felt that automatic denominational representation to the Church-in-Wales and Catholic Church was unfair unless balanced by the opportunity for other denominations to have representation and asked SACRE to consider making a nomination.

The Advisory Council discussed the matter and Reverend A.D. Ireland was asked to consider serving on this body.

RESOLVED that Reverend Ireland be given time to consider this appointment and contact the Head of Professional Services if he wishes to accept the nomination.

S13 Update on Current Issues

(i) RE and Collective Worship Surveys

It was noted that surveys on these topics had been circulated to schools for completion by the end of September and that the results would be reported to a future SACRE meeting.

(ii) Agreed RE Syllabus Structure and Exemplification

It was reported that work on the structure had been completed but that the exemplification materials were incomplete. Following additional work by teachers, a full report would be made to SACRE.

(iii) Collective Workshop Guidelines

It was deemed appropriate to wait for the results of the Collective Worship Survey.

It was reported that neighbouring authorities had worked with the Advisory Service to produce guidelines for collective worship and it was suggested that it would be useful for Caerphilly SACRE to consider this information. It was also reported that a joint LEA working party had been set up to consider exemplification and it was felt appropriate that Caerphilly SACRE if they wished to adopt the above guidelines of neighbouring authorities should become a member of the working party.

S14 Synopsis of OHMCI Subject Review for Religious Education : Standards and Quality in Primary and Secondary Schools

The Advisory Council considered a report based on the OHMCI Chief Inspector's annual Reports for religious education for 1996-1998 and on surveys of religious education conducted during the Autumn Term 1996 and Spring Term 1997 in twenty one non-denominational secondary schools across Wales. Information was also drawn from inspection reports on schools over the same period and evidence from a large number of inspections undertaken by independent inspection

teams contracted by OHMCI or HMI teams from Autumn 1993 to Summer 1995.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be noted;
- (ii) regular reports on standards of religious education in Caerphilly schools based on OHMCI reports be made.

S15 Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report 1997-98

The Chairman referred to the work undertaken by Mr. Paul Morgan formerly of ESIS in preparing this document and it was agreed that he be sent a letter thanking him for his hard work and wishing him well in his new job.

It was noted that the spokesperson for the Education Authority under the Introduction Section should read 'Councillor D.M. Gray' and not 'Councillor M.W. Thomas'.

Members also raised queries about the attendance records indicated in Appendix A to the report and it was agreed that these would be verified and amended if necessary.

RESOLVED that subject to the above amendments, the Annual Report 1997-1998 be approved, published bi-lingually and sent to ACCAC by 30th December 1998.

S16 Synopsis of ACCAC's Review of SACRE Reports 1995-1997

The Advisory Council considered the synopsis of ACCAC's review of SACRE reports which covered the period September 1995 - August 1997 and highlighted the main issues arising from the annual reports.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

S17 Report of WASACRE Meeting

Consideration was given to a report which outlined the matters discussed at the WASACRE meeting held at Aberavon on 22nd June 1998. It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 20th November 1998 and Councillor D.M. Gray and Mrs. B. Donovan were nominated to attend.
