

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH JANUARY 1999 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 Association:

Mrs. C. Anthony - (NAHT)

Mr. T.H. Mathias - (SHA)

Representing Religious Bodies:

Rev. A.D. Ireland - Baptist Church

Together with:

Head of Professional Services, ESIS Religious Education Adviser (TG) and Committee Services Officer (KW)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor W.H. Coleman and Mrs. S. John (UCAC), Miss P.R. Brown (ATL), Ms. N. Thomas, Mr. P. Sass and the Reverend D.J. Carpenter.

S1 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 1998 were noted.

S2 Caerphilly Survey of Religious Education

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the results of the primary and secondary survey of Religious Education conducted during the Autumn Term 1998. The results included figures in respect of curriculum organisation, staffing, accommodation and departmental finance and resourcing and the ESIS Religious Education Adviser reported in more detail thereon.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the schools be informed of the results of the survey.

S3 SACRE Guidance on Religious Education at Key Stage 4

SACRE members were reminded that Religious Education must be taught in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus at all five key stages and should receive sufficient time allocation to fulfil the programmes of study in the locally agreed syllabus and also be adequately staffed and resourced. Consideration was then given to the report which outlined proposed guidance to be issued to schools on Religious Education at Key Stage 4. During discussion, the feasibility of

extending the guidelines to Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 was also discussed.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the guidance outlined in the Officer's report on Religious Education at Key Stage 4 be approved and issued to schools;
- (ii) the extension of this guidance to include Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 be put in hand and presented to the next meeting of SACRE.

S4 **WASACRE Meeting**

Consideration was given to an executive summary and minutes of the WASACRE meeting held on 20th November. During discussion, reference was made to the following issues:-

(a) Report on the Symposium on Collective Worship

Caerphilly SACRE members had been circulated with copies of WASACRE's Report on the Symposium on Collective Worship and felt that this matter should be included on the agenda for the next meeting so that it could be fully discussed. It was also reported that the results of the survey on Collective Worship would be available for discussion at the next meeting.

The teacher representative present from the primary sector was asked about collective worship in her school and she outlined current practices and agreed to give a short presentation and bring sample materials to the next meeting. It was also felt important to include the secondary schools representative and it was agreed that the Clerk to SACRE would write to Mr. P. Sass and invite him to give a short presentation on the practices at his school.

(b) ACCAC Questionnaire: Evaluation of the Effectiveness of ACCAC's 1996 Guidance

The questionnaire had been circulated to SACRE members to receive views on ACCAC's 1996 guidance on the revision of the Religious Education syllabuses. It was also felt appropriate to raise the following three issues and return the questionnaire by the closing date of 29th January.

(i) Exemplification of Standards

SACRE members were informed that a document on exemplification of standards in Religious Education had already been produced in England by QCA and it was felt that ACCAC should be asked as a matter of urgency to produce a similar document for teachers in Wales.

(ii) Religious Education and PSE

It was reported that ACCAC would be emphasising the importance of PSE in the curriculum and the contributions that other subjects could make to PSE. However, Caerphilly SACRE felt it important to impress upon ACCAC that although religious education has an important contribution to make and can provide complementary approaches to the same topics and moral issues, it is essential that religious education keeps its identity and does not lose its distinctive character.

It was also agreed that this issue could be included in the SACRE Guidance on Religious Education at Key Stage 4, and in guidance extended to Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 if it proved feasible.

(iii) Time Allocation

It was felt that if ACCAC intend to issue guidance to schools regarding time allocation then it should be reminded that the agreed syllabuses of Wales recommended a minimum of 5% curriculum time to be given to religious education at each key stage.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Report on the Symposium on Collective Worship and the Survey of Collective Worship be discussed at the next meeting;
- (ii) teachers from the primary and secondary sectors be invited to give short presentations on the collective worship practices in their schools;
- (iii) the comments outlined above in respect of exemplification of standards, Religious Education and PSE and time allocation be made to ACCAC through its questionnaire.

S5 Funding for the Welsh National Centre for Religious Education

It was reported that the Welsh National Centre for Religious Education had written to the LEA requesting a financial contribution of £1,000 for the academic year 1999/2000. Consideration was given to this request and to the fact that Caerphilly SACRE did not have its own specific budget.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) agreement in principle be given to making a grant to the WNCRE and the application be referred to the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Sub-Committee for determination;
- (ii) the Education Committee be requested to consider allocating a budget to Caerphilly SACRE.

S6 Agreed Syllabus Review Working Party - Update

The Agreed Syllabus Review Working Party had been reconvened and had held its first meeting on 25th January. Two further dates had been arranged for March and further reports on the outcome of the Working Party would be submitted to Caerphilly SACRE, as appropriate.

S7 Date of Meeting in May

It was reported that the SACRE meeting scheduled for 14th May would need to be changed because of the district elections on 6th May and the Annual Council meeting on 20th May. Consideration was given to an alternative date and 22nd March was provisionally agreed.

S8 Millennium Celebrations - Update

The suggestions for millennium celebrations discussed at the last meeting had been forwarded to Officers in the Policy Unit and would be reported to the Council's Millennium Sub-Committee.

Reverend Ireland gave details for the celebrations planned by his church in Caerphilly and it was agreed that these proposals would also be referred to the Millennium Sub-Committee.