

## **CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

#### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON 16TH JULY 1999 AT 2.00 P.M.**

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PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mrs. K.R. Baker, R.W. Gough, D.M. Gray, J. Taylor.

Representing Teachers Associations/Religious Bodies:

Mrs. S. John - (UCAC)

Mrs. C. Anthony - (NAHT)

Mr. P. Sass - (ATL)

Rev. D.J. Carpenter

Rev. A.D. Ireland

Together with:

ESIS Religious Education Adviser (VT), Head of Professional Services, Research Officer (Performance), Senior Committee Services Officer.

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. A. Parsons and K.R. Snell and Ms. N. Thomas (NUT).

#### **CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED that Councillor J. Taylor be appointed as Chairman.

#### **VICE-CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs. K. Baker be appointed as Vice-Chairman.

#### **INTRODUCTIONS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

Representatives from the Teachers Associations and Religious Bodies introduced themselves and identified the organisations they represented. Members and Officers of the County Borough did likewise.

#### **SA1 MINUTES**

RESOLVED that subject to the inclusion of Reverend D. Carpenter in the list of those

Members who had tendered their apologies, the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 1999 be noted.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

Consideration was given to the following reports.

### **SA2 Inspection Reports for the Academic Year 1998/99**

Details of the outcome of the analysis of inspection reports for the academic year 1998/99 were noted.

In reference to six infant/primary schools inspected it was noted that standards are satisfactory or better in both infants schools and in three out of four primary schools. Where standards were deemed unsatisfactory in one primary school at key stage, it has been identified as a key issue to raise standards. The good features and shortcomings were noted.

With regard to the one secondary school inspected, the standards, shortcomings and good features in respect of Religious Education at key stages 3, 4 and 5 and Religious Studies at key stage 4 were noted.

Details of the findings in relation to collective worship in each of the schools inspected were outlined.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be noted;
- (ii) all schools be informed of the findings of the analysis of inspection reports.

### **SA3 Caerphilly LEA Self-Evaluation Exercise in Secondary Schools (Religious Education)**

The outcomes of the LEA monitoring exercise on religious education in the secondary sector were reported.

It was confirmed that the focus of the programme was self evaluation and the purpose of the exercise was to inform the Authority of the position in regard to religious education to form their own strategic planning. It was recognised that schools are at different stages in the development of their self-evaluation processes and it was hoped that the exercise will have created a dialogue which will help to recognise and disseminate good practice.

The findings of all secondary schools involved in the process and issues for consideration with regards to senior management team, reviews of departments, departmental self evaluation procedures, examination performance, assessment issues and departmental development plans were outlined.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be noted;
- (ii) schools be informed of the results of the self evaluation.

### **SA4 OHMCI Standards and Quality in Primary Schools : Religious Education in Key Stages 1 and 2**

The educational standards achieved, quality of teaching, curriculum planning and organisation, quality of assessment, role of the religious education co-ordination, learning resources and

contribution of R.E. and collective worship to schools ethos were noted. The need for progression and continuity was emphasised.

The key issues for action were identified and it was confirmed that whilst the LEA largely concurs with the key issues identified it would make the following points:-

- The issue of improving standards is commendable but the reference to 20% of classes does not accord with the 10% unsatisfactory work mentioned earlier in the report;
- The issue of making effective use of time is not inappropriate but may not rank as being so urgent as the third issue on improving assessment;
- The paucity and quality of written work in key stage 2 is an important issue, recognised in the body of the report but omitted from the key issues.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report, as a further contribution to the raising of standards in religious education, be welcomed;
- (ii) the Agreed Syllabus Working Party be asked to consider how the matters of progression and assessment at key stages 1 and 2 might be made more effective by (a) the structure and content of a revised agreed syllabus (b) additional guidance which could be provided in schools and to consider how writing in religious education might be improved at key stage 2.

**SA5 SACRE Guidance on Religious Education at Key Stages 1 - 3 (minute No.55)**

It was noted that this report had been considered at the meeting held on 22nd March 1999 and the comments raised by the Members at that time in that the reference to the 'Mid Glamorgan Syllabus' under the heading 'Scheme of Work' had been deleted.

RESOLVED that the amended guidance be issued to all schools.

**SA6 WASACRE Meeting Held on 17th March 1999**

Details of the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE at Mold on 17th March 1999 in relation to amendments to the constitution, responses to the symposium report, millennium celebrations, the Executive Committee and Treasurer's report, standards in RE/exemplification material and OHMCI standards in quality in primary schools were reported.

It was confirmed that the next meeting on the Structure and Content of Agreed Syllabi would be held in Haverfordwest on 12th November 1999 and agreed that representatives from Caerphilly SACRE would be nominated at the next meeting.

**SA7 WASACRE Meeting Held on 7th July 1999**

Details of the main discussion topic at the meeting on 7th July 1999 in respect of Examinations in Religious Education and Religious Studies which was introduced by Mr. T. Thomas, (Examination Officer at the WJEC) were outlined. A brief verbal resume on other issues raised was given including the Treasurer's report (and the fact that there is to be no increase in subscription for 1999/2000). The need to remind to ACCAC to include RE alongside of the national curriculum and the need for guidance in respect of personal, social and educational elements was given by the Religious Education Adviser. It was noted that detailed minutes would be presented to the next

meeting.

**SA8 Millennium Celebrations - Update**

It was confirmed that since the last SACRE meeting, the Council's Millennium Sub-Committee has met to discuss general millennium activities including religious celebrations. At that meeting, it was agreed that consideration be given to holding meetings with religious organisations whenever possible to give advice and guidance. The Council's Working Group set up to formulate plans to celebrate the millennium in the Borough has been successful in securing funds from the Millennium Commission Grants for the 'Get the Alternative Bug' scheme. The publicity and details of the package produced by the Authority was noted.

It was confirmed that local authorities are not able to bid for money from the fund and it was agreed to investigate whether SACRE would be eligible to apply and to report thereon to the next meeting to prepare a structured bid if appropriate. The need to encourage schools to become involved in the celebrations and the need for a co-ordinated approach with other schools in the area was emphasised and possible activities involving a school reading week co-ordinated by the schools library service, the use of childrens materials to make a book based on collective worship and religious education along with other suggestions which have been raised in previous meetings were discussed.