

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON 6TH MARCH 2000 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

D.M. Gray and J. Taylor

Representing Teachers Associations

Mrs C Anthony - NAHT

Ms E. Hawthorne - Valley's RE Teachers Association

Miss. N. Thomas - NUT

Representing Religious Bodies

Rev. P. Mc Mullen - Church in Wales

Together with:

D. Hopkins (Head of Professional Services), Mrs. V. Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Adviser) and Mrs K. Wall (Committee Services Officer).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs K.R. Baker, R.W. Gough, Mrs A. Parsons and K.R. Snell and Miss C. Thomas (ESIS Associate Religious Education Advisor).

S1 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman informed the meeting that at the last meeting, he had received a letter from Reverend A.D. Ireland tendering his resignation. The Chairman read the letter to the meeting and it was agreed that a letter thanking Reverend Ireland for his service would be sent on behalf of Caerphilly SACRE. The Chairman also indicated that a letter had been received from Reverend P.C. Noble also tendering his resignation and it was agreed that he would be sent a similar letter.

S2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th January (minute nos. SA 18 - SA 21) were received and noted.

S3. Presentation - Curriculum Planning - Primary Sector

The ESIS Religious Education Adviser gave a short presentation on Curriculum Planning in the Primary Sector and answered questions arising from discussion thereon.

S4. New Specification for A/AS Level Religious Education

With the aid of slides and overheads, the ESIS Religious Education Adviser outlined the new specification for A/AS Levels in Religious Education. It was acknowledged that revision of the syllabuses was long overdue and that the new specification would provide the following benefits -

- more continuity between GCSE and A level
- two levels of qualification
- a wider choice of areas of study, including the addition of Christianity, Sikhism and Religion and Ethics
- more accessibility for less able candidates
- the benefits of modularity
- opportunities to undertake a research study similar to coursework
- the potential to attract more candidates

SACRE members were informed that the new Advanced Subsidiary (AS) was designed to be a qualification in its own right, intermediate between GCSE and A Level and would count for half an A Level in the UCAS points system and it was also the first half of the full A Level course and contributed half the A Level marks.

The ESIS Religious Education Adviser reported that Mr Tudor Thomas, Examination Officer at the WJEC had been invited to attend the meeting in July to provide further information on the specification for A/AS Level Religious Education.

The Chairman thanked the ESIS Education Adviser for the very informative presentation.

S5. The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education Handbook

SACRE Members were circulated with copies of the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education Handbook and were informed that two copies had been sent to each Primary School and four copies to each Secondary School within the borough. It was also noted that a Welsh language version had been produced.

The ESIS Religious Education Adviser outlined the contents of the Handbook and gave a presentation on planning primary and secondary Religious Education.

The ESIS Religious Education Adviser reported that Mrs E. Hawthorne, representing the Primary Sector and Mrs C. Anthony, representing the Secondary Sector had attended an ESIS training session on the new syllabus and she invited them to briefly update SACRE on their experiences with the new syllabus.

Both teachers felt that the new syllabus had been favourably received in their respective schools. Mrs Hawthorne reported that the section on Early Years was particularly useful for Primary Schools and both teachers welcomed the document and the specific guidance it provided.

The Chairman thanked the ESIS Religious Education Adviser and the teacher representatives for their contributions.

S6. WASACRE Minutes

The minutes of the WASACRE meeting held on 12th November 1999 were received and noted.

Meeting closed at 3.20 p.m.