

## CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON MONDAY, 2ND OCTOBER 2000 AT 2.00 P.M.

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PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mrs. A. Collins, R.W. Gough, D.M. Gray, K.R. Snell and J. Taylor.

**Representing Teachers Associations:**

Mrs. C. Anthony	- NAHT
Ms. E. Hawthorne	- Valley's RE Teachers Association
Mrs. S. John	- UCAC
Miss H. Bartley	- NASUWT

Together with:

Mrs. V. Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Adviser), Miss C. Thomas (ESIS Associate Religious Education Adviser), Mr. B. Pugh (Primary Adviser) and Mrs. K. Wall (Committee Services Officer).

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr B. Howells (Head of School Effectiveness), Councillor Mrs K.R. Baker, Miss N. Thomas (NUT), Miss P. Brown (ATL) and Reverend M. Mc Mullen (Church in Wales)

#### **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The Chairman reported that Reverend Mc Mullen had tendered his apologies for this meeting and that technically SACRE was not therefore quorate as the constitution stated that at least one member from each constituent group needed to be present. However, legal advice had been sought and it was felt that as SACRE was not making decisions in respect of the items on the agenda, the lack of a quorum would not prevent the meeting from being held.

The Chairman also welcomed Councillor Mrs A. Collins and the recently appointed NASUWT representative, Miss H. Bartley to the meeting. Introductions were then made.

#### 1. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting of Caerphilly SACRE held on 25th May 2000 were received and noted.

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

### **Minute No S9 - Presentation - Curriculum Planning in the Secondary Sector**

Reference was made to the resolution made at the last meeting which stated 'that the Director of Education and Leisure be asked to write to all schools informing them of the implementation of the new agreed syllabus from September 2000 and curriculum requirements, including adequate time allocation and asking schools to consider providing sufficient resources for the subject'.

The Religious Education Adviser indicated that it was unsure whether a letter had been sent out to schools and it was reported that this would be investigated and 'chased up', if necessary.

### **Minute No S10 - ACCAC Post 16 Curriculum 2000 Guidance**

In accordance with the decision taken at the last meeting, a letter had been sent to ACCAC seeking an explanation for the absence from the Curriculum 2000 of any reference to the place of RE in the post 16 curriculum and asking how the misleading information offered to schools would be addressed.

The Religious Education Adviser reported that a response had been received from ACCAC's Chief Executive, stating that it 'was not ACCAC's intention to mislead schools into thinking that religious education is not a statutory part of the curriculum for six formers'.

This information was noted.

### **Minute No S11 - Proposed Changes to the GCSE Religious Studies and Religious Education**

In accordance with the decision taken at the last meeting, a letter had been sent to ACCAC raising the concerns expressed by Caerphilly SACRE.

ACCAC's Chief Executive had responded to the concerns expressed and stated in his letter that 'your SACRE may be assured that the current RE Short Course will continue, albeit under the title *Religious Studies*.'

The Chief Executive went on to thank Caerphilly SACRE for drawing attention to the importance of continuity from KS4 to post-16 and stated that ACCAC would keep this matter under review.

The issue of allowing time for proper discussion and consultation in respect of changes to examination criteria was also addressed in the response.

## **2. RE RESOURCE SHOP, BANGOR**

SACRE was informed that Mrs S. Johns had represented SACRE at a RE Advisory meeting held at the University College in Bangor. Mrs Johns referred to the RE Resource Shop in Bangor which would be closing at the end of the month and to the fact that presentations of the RE resources available could be made on request.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the organiser of the RE Resource Shop expressing SACRE's concern that the opportunity to view material needed to be retained and hoping that the service will continue.

## **3. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

Members were reminded that the next meeting of SACRE was due to be held on Thursday, 7th December and that Tudor Thomas, Head of Examinations at the WJEC had been invited to make a presentation on the new 'A' level and GCSE specifications. It was also proposed that Miss C. Thomas, Associate Religious Education Adviser would make a presentation on the

availability of RE resources.

The following provisional dates were then arranged -

Wednesday 14th March 2001

Tuesday, 12th June 2001

and it was agreed that the Clerk to SACRE would confirm these dates in writing to SACRE members.

#### 4. **CAERPHILLY SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 1999/2000**

Consideration was given to Caerphilly SACRE's Annual Report which outlined the activities of SACRE during the academic year 1999/2000.

It was noted that the report followed guidelines laid down by ACCAC and following approval by SACRE members would be returned to ACCAC by 30th December 2000.

Following discussion, the report was noted and approved.

#### 5. **CAERPHILLY SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2000 - 2001**

The Religious Education Adviser reported that it was necessary for Caerphilly SACRE to discuss the elements of the Development Plan in order to ensure that the business to be considered by SACRE was current and that future developments were identified.

Consideration was then given to the Development Plan 2000/2001 and it was noted that the Development Plan aimed to promote and support -

- \* the raising of the standards of pupils' attainment in religious education;
- \* improvement in the provision of religious education;
- \* an increase in the number of pupils following external examination in religious education and religious studies at CoE, GCSE and A Level;
- \* the highest quality provision of collective worship.

SACRE was pleased to note the development work that would be carried out this year to support RE as outlined in the Development Plan.

SACRE noted and approved the Development Plan as set out in the report.

#### 6. **INSET NEEDS AND PLANS 2000/2001**

The Officer's report provided details of the in-service training provided for Caerphilly schools during the academic year 2000 - 2001.

It was noted that the aims and objectives of in-service training was to promote and support -

- \* the raising of the standards of pupils' attainment in religious education;
- \* the highest quality provision of religious education

Consideration was then given to details of the courses to be provided for primary and secondary religious education.

It was noted that visits to places of worship were proposed as part of the training programme and it was agreed that SACRE members would be notified of such visits and be invited to attend.

The report was noted.

## **7. INSPECTION REPORTS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1999 - 2000**

The Officer's report informed SACRE of the outcomes of the analysis of inspection reports for the academic year 1999/2000.

Miss C. Thomas, Associate Religious Education Adviser presented SACRE with a summary of the main findings in respect of religious education and collective worship for both the primary and secondary sectors.

During discussion in respect of the primary sector, it was noted that the inspection reports in respect of two schools had identified raising the standards of achievement in religious education as a key issue for action.

Mr B. Pugh (Primary Adviser) reported that he had been involved with one of the schools identified and advised SACRE that this issue had now been addressed and no further action was therefore required.

In respect of the other school identified, it was agreed that a letter would be sent requesting to view the Action Plan in order to provide help and support in raising standards in religious education.

During discussion on the inspection reports in respect of the secondary sector, it was noted that in respect of 'School B', no judgements had been made regarding standards at KS5 or in respect of the quality of teaching.

SACRE members felt that the registered inspector and his team had not fulfilled the necessary inspection criteria and it was agreed that a letter be sent to ESTYN expressing SACRE's concern regarding this particular inspection report.

## **8. EXAMINATION RESULTS ANALYSIS 2000**

SACRE members were circulated with a report which outlined details of the GCSE Full Course Religious Studies, the GSCE Short course Religious Education and GCSE A Level Religious Studies.

Consideration was given to the analysis and it was noted that in the GCSE Full Course Religious Studies there had been an improvement in results at grades A\* - C, A\* - G and A\* - A and that the results were better than the All-Wales figures for A\* - A, A\* -G and A\* - C.

There had been a significant increase in numbers entered for the short course this year and last. It was noted that the results at A\* - A, A\* - C and A\* - G fell short of last year's results for Caerphilly, but compared well at A\* - G with the All-Wales figures.

The GCSE A Level Religious Education results from six schools and Crosskeys College of Further Education were considered and it was noted that the schools and the College had achieved a hundred percent pass rate for grades A - E.

SACRE was pleased to receive the examination results and it was agreed that a letter be sent to all schools and Crosskeys college on behalf of SACRE expressing members' congratulations on the results achieved.

## **9. WASACRE MEETING - 13TH JULY 2000**

The Officer's report outlined details of the main issues discussed at the WASACRE meeting held

in Bridgend on 13th July 2000.

It was noted that that the next WASACRE meeting would be held at Newport Civic Centre on 22nd November 2000. Councillor D.M. Gray was nominated to attend as the Local Education Authority representative and the teacher representatives present were asked to contact the Clerk if they also wished to attend.

The meeting closed at 3.20 p.m.