

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY 14TH MARCH 2001 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

J. Taylor and D.M. Gray

Representing Teachers Association

Ms. E. Hawthorne - Valley's RE Teachers Association
Miss N. Thomas - NUT
Mrs. C. Anthony - NAHT

Representing Religious Organisations

Reverend Alan Williams – Church in Wales
Lieutenant Chris Baldwin – Salvation Army

Together with:

Mrs. V. Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Adviser), Miss C. Thomas (ESIS Associate Religious Education Adviser), Mrs. B. Howells (Head of School Effectiveness) and Mrs. D. Phillips (Committee Services Officer).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. K.M. Baker, Mrs. A. Collins and K.R. Snell, Miss H. Bartley (NASUWT), Miss P. Brown (ATL), Miss S. John (ACAC) and J. Hogan (SHA).

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Lieutenant Chris Baldwin from the Salvation Army to his first meeting.

S20 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting of Caerphilly SACRE held on 7th December 2000 were received and noted.

MATTERS ARISING

S21 Visit to Places of Worship, Cardiff (S16)

Mrs V. Thomas, the Esis Religious Adviser, reported that there had been an excellent response to the Places of Worship visit, with 55 teachers and 6 SACRE members attending. A visit to Llandaff Cathedral was arranged in place of the Hindu Temple who were holding a memorial service on that day and therefore unable to accommodate visitors.

The Chairman reported that it had been a very interesting day and members noted that another visit has been arranged for 5th February 2002.

A teacher reported that the guide for the synagogue had expressed concern at the high demand for visits from schools although it was noted that teachers are instructed to make arrangements well in advance.

S22 Holocaust Memorial Day (S18)

Mrs. Thomas reported that Blackwood Miners Institute had agreed to show the film 'Into the Arms of Strangers' to local school children although the date had yet to be determined. Members would be notified of the date and invited to attend.

S23 ESTYN Report – 'Aiming for Excellence in Religious Education'

Members noted the findings of the ESTYN report on Aiming for Excellence in Religious Education. Mr R. Howells, Head of School Effectiveness reported on the significant improvements at Key Stage 1 and 2. He emphasised the importance of the subject leader and head teacher in the following factors contributing to excellence in religious education:

- Providing sound guidance and advice on planning and resources
- Co-ordinating assessment procedures in order to establish a shared view of standards as the basis for tracking and supporting pupils progress
- Monitoring standards achieved by pupils and setting targets for improvement.

Mrs Thomas reported that the document will be a very useful addition to the training programme.

Members noted the report

S24 ACCAC'S Draft Guidance Document – The Review of Religious Education Syllabuses 2001

This report outlined to members the guidance issued by ACCAC on the review of agreed syllabuses.

Mrs. Thomas explained that every LEA must adopt a locally agreed syllabus for religious education which must be reviewed within five years of its adoption.

The document attached to the report was produced by ACCAC in co-operation with LEA representatives, advisers and teachers and a representative from Estyn.

It was noted that the document is at the draft stage and consultation is being sought from LEA'S, SACREs, schools and religious interests across Wales.

Mrs. Thomas outlined the document to members and reported on minor adjustments that may need to be made including the section on 'use of level descriptions'.

Mrs Thomas would respond on behalf of the LEA.

S25 Report on WASACRE meeting and future representation

It was reported that the Executive Committee report had been approved by WASACRE members on 22nd November 2000.

At that meeting a presentation was given by Tina Renshaw on the work of RETRI (The RE Teacher Recruitment Initiative).

Members received leaflets and posters from RETRI and noted the report.

It was agreed that councillor D. Gray would attend the next meeting on 22nd March 2001 at Pontypool and if anyone else is interested in attending they can contact the Clerk of SACRE.

It was noted that items 2(d) and (e) had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

S26 Correspondence

The Chairman reported that a further letter had been received from Estyn regarding the Inspection at Cwmcarn High School, Crosskeys. The letter reported that aspects of the recent inspection were still being investigated and that further correspondence will follow.

The meeting closed at 3.05pm