

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON MONDAY, 12TH JUNE 2001 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

D.M. Gray and J. Taylor

Representing Teachers Associations

Mrs. C Anthony - NAHT

Mrs. E. Hawthorn - Valley's RE Teachers Association

Miss H. Bartley – NASUWT

Mr. J. Hogan – SHA

Representing Religious Organisations

Reverend A. Williams – Church in Wales

Captain C. Baldwin – Salvation Army

Together with:

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr B. Howells (Head of School Effectiveness), Mrs. V. Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Adviser), Councillors Mrs. K.R. Baker, Mrs. A. Collins and Miss N. Thomas (NUT) and Miss P. Brown (ATL).

MINUTES

RESOLVED that subject to the following typing errors in the list of those present and the apologies tendered, the minutes of the last meeting of Caerphilly SACRE held on 14th March 2001 be received and noted –

Mrs. B. Howells (Head of School Effectiveness) to read **Mr. B. Howells**, Miss S. John (ACAC) to read **Mrs. S. John (UCAC)**.

Matters Arising

S1 Min No S22 – Holocaust Memorial Day

A SACRE member enquired whether the film entitled 'Into the Arms of Strangers' had now been screened at Blackwood Miners' Institute (BMI).

Miss Thomas (ESIS Associate Religious Education Adviser) reported that despite enquiries made, she had not received details from the Institute. The Chairman agreed to investigate when the film

would be screened and to notify SACRE members accordingly.

S2 ESTYN Inspection Reports

The report informed SACRE of the outcome of the analysis of inspection reports for the period Summer 2000 to Spring 2001.

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

During discussion in respect of the secondary sector, it was noted that the inspection report in respect of School B had concluded that at Key Stage 5, the provision of Religious Education was unsatisfactory and the class based acts of worship did not meet the statutory requirements and this had been identified as a key issue for action.

Several SACRE members expressed their concern at this finding and asked to be kept informed of progress made in respect of the School's Post Inspection Action Plan.

During consideration of the primary sector, SACRE was pleased to note that standards of Religious Education were satisfactory or better in every school inspected during this period.

The Chairman thanked Miss Thomas for the very informative summary and it was agreed that letters of congratulations be sent to the schools involved.

S3 Collective Worship Guidance

Copies of an ESIS booklet entitled 'Guidance on Collective Worship in Schools' which explained the legal requirements for collective worship and offered practical advice and guidance to schools and governing bodies and a brochure entitled 'Guidelines at a Glance' were circulated at the meeting.

SACRE members thanked Officers at ESIS for their work in producing the documents.

S4 Feedback from WASACRE Meeting

Consideration was given to the report that provided details of the discussions that had taken place at the last WASACRE meeting held in Pontypool on 22nd March.

It was noted that the next meeting would be held at Llangollen on 17th July 2001. Councillor D.M. Gray was nominated to attend this meeting as the local authority's representative and representatives of the other organisations were advised to inform the Clerk if they wished to attend.

S5 Overview of Caerphilly SACRE's Development Plan

Miss Thomas outlined an overview of Caerphilly SACRE's Development Plan and particular attention was made to the following areas –

1. Analyse examination entries and results for religious studies and religious education within the county borough

It was noted that this exercise had been completed and had been reported to SACRE in October 2000.

2. Identify development work to provide support materials for schools to raise standards in schools

Miss Thomas reported that ESIS had now produced resource lists to support schemes of work and the following documents were circulated to those present –

Religious Education and ICT – Resources for Secondary Schools
Religious Education and ICT – Resources for Primary Schools
Religious Education – Video Resources for Secondary Schools
Religious Education – Video Resources for Primary Schools
Book Resources to Support the Teaching of Religious Education – Secondary
Book resources to Support the Teaching of Religious Education - Primary

Schemes of Work for Key Stages 1 and 2 had also been developed and copies were circulated at the meeting.

3. Analyse OHMCI inspection reports on religious education and collective worship for schools within the county borough

This exercise had been undertaken for the period Summer 2000 to Spring 2001 and a summary report had been considered earlier at the meeting.

4. Produce a unified agreed syllabi (including assessment structures) for schools within the county borough

It was noted that the Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus had been implemented since September 2000.

5. Develop Guidelines for Collective Worship in Schools within the county borough

It was noted that ESIS had produced documents entitled 'Guidance on Collective Worship in Schools' and 'Collective Worship Guidelines at a Glance', copies of which had been circulated earlier at the meeting.

6. Identify INSET needs relating to the improvement of the provision of religious education and collective worship

It was noted that a report providing details of the in-house training provided for Caerphilly schools during the academic year 2000 – 2001 had been considered by SACRE in October 2000.

The Chairman thanked Miss Thomas for the information provided. A member of the teacher representatives referred to the practical help and resources she and her colleagues had received from ESIS and thanked Mrs V. Thomas and Miss C. Thomas, in particular for their help and assistance.

S6 R.E. Directory

Copies of the R.E. Directory, compiled and published by WASACRE were circulated at the meeting.

During discussion, a member of the religious organisations made reference to the fact that the R.E Directory did not include details of non-Christian faith communities.

Miss Thomas accepted this comment and agreed to refer the issue to WASACRE.

S7 Correspondence

The Chairman reported that a response had now been received from ESTYN in respect of the inspection of Cwmcarn High School during the academic year 1999 – 2000. The letter was read aloud and it was noted that Susan Lewis, HM Chief Inspector for Education and Training in Wales accepted the issues raised by SACRE and had discussed them with the registered inspector concerned. The letter also thanked SACRE for drawing the matters to the attention of ESTYN.

S8 Dates of Future Meetings

The following dates were provisionally proposed -

Wednesday, 10th October at 2.00 p.m.

Tuesday, 4th December at 2.00 p.m.

but it was agreed that the Clerk would investigate the availability of Mrs V. Thomas (Religious Education Adviser) on these dates and confirm them in writing to SACRE members.

The meeting closed at 3.00 p.m.