

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON TUESDAY, 4TH DECEMBER 2001 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

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

Representing Teachers Associations

Mrs. C. Anthony - NAHT

Representing Religious Organisations

Reverend A. Williams – Church in Wales
Captain C. Baldwin – Salvation Army
Mrs M. Wade – United Reformed Church
Mr D. Brooks – Baptist Church in Wales

Together with:

B. Howells (Head of School Effectiveness), 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 and K.R. Snell and Mrs E. Hawthorn (Valleys RE Teachers Association), Miss N. Thomas (NUT), Miss P. Brown (ATL), Mrs S. John (UCAC), Mr J. Hogan (SHA) and Miss H. Bartley (NASUWT).

SA1 MINUTES

Subject to the following corrections, the minutes of the last meeting of Caerphilly SACRE held on 10th October 2001 were received and noted.

Minute No SA1 to read 'The minutes of the last meeting of Caerphilly SACRE held on **12th June 2001** were received and noted'.

Minute No SA2 – Estyn Inspection Reports – Mrs Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Adviser) asked SACRE to note that the issue of whether to name schools in inspection reports was a matter for the local education authority to determine. Mr Howells (Head of School Effectiveness) indicated that reports to the Education and Leisure Scrutiny identified individual schools and he indicated that he was in favour of naming schools in future inspection reports to SACRE.

MATTERS ARISING

SA2 Minute SA5 – SACRE Annual Report 2000/2001

The Chairman read aloud a letter received from Mr Paul Morgan of ESTYN that thanked SACRE for supplying him with a copy of its Annual Report. The letter also asked the Clerk to pass on to SACRE his 'appreciation of all the work that members do so freely in support of religious education' and stated that 'without their commitment, religious education and pupils would be the poorer'.

SA3 Minute SA8 – Analysis of Examination Results 2001

It was noted that the Tertiary College examination results had not yet been received but would be reported to the next meeting.

SA4 KEY STAGE 3 LEVELS: OVERVIEW

SACRE members were circulated with a report that provided details of Key Stage 3: Year 9 Religious Education Levels 2001 and Mrs Thomas explained that this was the first year that schools had submitted their assessment levels at Key Stage 3. In future years, comparisons could be made and any trends over time noted. It was noted that the teacher assessments were not moderated externally and that teachers arrived at judgements for each pupil using assessment information gathered during the course of Key Stage 3. Exemplification material was also made available to schools in order to moderate standards internally against the level description contained in the agreed syllabus.

The report included a table that depicted the levels gained by pupils included in the assessment. The table also provided details of the levels gained by girls and boys and indicated the percentage of pupils attaining a level 5 or above in Religious Education, the percentage of pupils gaining a level 6 or above in Religious Education and the percentage of pupils where no level was awarded.

SACRE members welcomed the introduction of teacher assessments at Key Stage 3 and thanked Mrs Thomas for the information provided.

SA5 THE SCHEME OF WORK FOR RE: EXEMPLARS

It was noted that as part of its Development Plan, SACRE had agreed to develop support material for primary school teachers, consisting of schemes of work to match the revised agreed syllabus for Religious Education, implemented into schools from September 2000.

Consideration was then given to the report that provided details of the scheme of work document and exemplars of study units for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and it was noted that the document would be distributed to schools by the Spring Term 2002.

SACRE members welcomed the Scheme of Work document and exemplars and thanked Mrs Thomas and Miss Carys Thomas (Associate Religious Education Adviser) for their work in their production.

SA6 WASACRE

The report provided details of the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE at its last meeting held in Ebbw Vale on 8th November.

Attention was drawn to the reference to the WASACRE Symposium to be arranged in collaboration with ACCAC and to be held in Llanidloes on 27th April. It was noted that the aim of the Symposium would be to discuss and consider the role and status of Religious Education agreed syllabuses in the present and in the future.

Six members of each SACRE would be invited to attend and members of SACRE were asked to notify the Clerk if they wished to attend.

It was also noted that the next ordinary WASACRE meeting would be held at Monmouthshire on 7th February 2002. Councillor D.M. Gray expressed his interest in attending and other SACRE members were asked to notify the Clerk if they also wished to attend.

SA7 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY – JANUARY 27TH 2002

Consideration was given to plans to raise awareness of Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January 2002 and Mrs Thomas outlined details of the following initiatives –

- A Holocaust and genocide information pack and associated flashcards produced by the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) that were available to schools on request. Copies of this information had also been requested for use by SACREs. It was noted that in Wales, the National Assembly for Wales (NAfW) had indicated that it had no plans to produce any literature or information packs for schools this year.
- Acts of collective worship had been produced by ESIS during 2001 that could be reused in 2002.
- Plans for the four local authorities to produce a commemorative booklet of children's work from the primary and secondary sectors for distribution to all schools within the county borough

The Chairman thanked Mrs Thomas for the information provided and asked SACRE members to contact the Clerk if they had any further comments or suggestions for raising awareness of the issues raised by Holocaust Memorial Day.

During discussion, Councillor D.M. Gray mentioned the film 'Into the Arms of Strangers' and enquired whether it could be screened within the county borough. Mrs Thomas reported that to date no progress had been made in arranging a screening.

Mr B. Howells (Head of School Effectiveness) indicated that he would contact Ms Kate Strudwick (Arts Development Officer) to investigate whether the film could be screened at Blackwood Miners Institute.

Mr Brooks (Baptist Church in Wales) asked whether plans for Holocaust Memorial Day could be linked with schools' PSE (personal and social education) requirements. This suggestion was supported and it was agreed that the information packs requested from the DfEE could be widened to include PSE issues as well as Religious Education and History.

SACRE members expressed their disappointment that teaching material/information had not been made available in Wales and it was agreed that a letter be sent to the NAfW asking Ministers to consider providing such information in future years.

SA8 PRESENTATION – 'R.E. IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL'

Mrs Thomas reminded SACRE members that at the last meeting it was agreed to invite Mrs Debbie Griffiths, Head of RE at St Martins Comprehensive to attend this meeting to make a presentation on the delivery of RE in the secondary sector. An invitation had been extended to Mrs Griffiths, but she had indicated that due to increased responsibilities and workload she would not be able to attend meetings of SACRE until the Summer Term.

Mrs Thomas had therefore approached Miss Helen Bartley (SACRE teacher representative) who had agreed to make a presentation. However, due to illness Miss Bartley was unable to attend the meeting and so Mrs Thomas reported that she would make a presentation on teaching and learning approaches with particular reference to the use of artefacts and the stilling and visualisation processes.

The benefits of using artefacts were outlined and illustrated by an exhibition of artefacts that could be used for primary and secondary school pupils.

The second approach of stilling and visualisation was then outlined and excerpts of a television programme and a training video produced by St. Martins Comprehensive School were shown.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Thomas for the informative presentation and SACRE members were invited to make comments.

Mrs C. Anthony (SACRE teacher representative) emphasised how the use of artefacts enriched the teaching process and asked whether the local authority would give consideration to providing a central resource facility for use by schools within the county borough.

Mr Howells reported that he had previously discussed this issue with Mrs Thomas. He accepted the desirability of establishing a central resource for religious artefacts but stated that the funding and location of such a facility would require detailed consideration.

SACRE members supported the need for a resource facility and it was agreed that the item would be included on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion. In the meantime, Mr Howells stated that he would discuss the issue with Mr David Hopkins (Director of Education and Leisure) and raise it at the Directorate's Senior Management Team.

SA9 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held at the Council Offices, Tredomen on Thursday, 7th March at 2.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.50 p.m.