

## CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON THURSDAY, 7TH MARCH 2002 AT 2.00 P.M.

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PRESENT:

Councillors:

R.W. Gough, D.M. Gray and J. Taylor

#### **Representing Teachers Associations**

Mrs. C. Anthony - NAHT  
Miss H. Bartley – NASUWT  
Miss N. Thomas – NUT  
Miss P. Brown – ATL  
Mr. J. Hogan – SHA  
Mrs. E. Hawthorn - Valleys RE Teachers Association

#### **Representing Religious Organisations**

Reverend A. Williams – Church in Wales  
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, Mrs A. Collins and K.R. Snell and Mrs. S. John (UCAC).

#### SA1 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting of Caerphilly SACRE held on 4th December 2001 were received and noted.

#### SA2 **MATTERS ARISING**

##### **(i) Analysis of Examination Results 2001**

Details of the 'A' Level Religious Education results achieved by students in Crosskeys Tertiary College during 2001 were circulated and it was noted that the following grades had been obtained – grade A – 0%, grades A – C – 14.3% and grades A – E – 85.7%.

**(ii) Holocaust Memorial Day**

The Chairman reported that in accordance with the decision taken at the last meeting, a letter had been sent to the National Assembly for Wales expressing SACRE's disappointment that teaching material/information for Holocaust Memorial Day had not been made available in Wales and asking Ministers to give consideration to providing such material in future years.

An acknowledgement card had been received from the Assembly and it was hoped that a full response would be received shortly and could be reported to the next meeting.

**SA3 PRESENTATION – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN THE SECONDARY SECTOR**

Miss Helen Bartley, a Religious Education teacher at Newbridge Comprehensive School addressed the meeting and gave a short presentation on the teaching of Religious Education in the secondary sector.

Miss Bartley circulated handouts that included the following information and outlined each of the teaching practices in detail –

- A document entitled 'Planning Secondary Religious Education – Key Stage 3' which outlined the modules for Years 7, 8 and 9.
- A copy of the Religious Education Department's Self Assessment Form for Key Stage 3 – Year 7, 8 and 9.
- A copy of the Religious Education Department's Marking Policy.
- Details of a stilling exercise and work completed by a Year 8 pupil.
- A copy of an exercise to be completed by pupils when researching an artefact.
- A copy of a 'jigsaw' exercise and examples of pupils work completed as part of this exercise.

The Chairman, Mrs. Thomas and Mr. Howells thanked Miss Bartley for her informative presentation and congratulated her on the different approaches to teaching and learning adopted in her school.

**SA4 INSET FEEDBACK**

SACRE members noted the report that outlined details of the in-service training that had already been provided for Caerphilly schools and provided details of courses proposed for the spring and summer terms in 2002.

Mr. Howells complimented Mrs Thomas on the programme, which he felt to be extensive and well focused.

**SA5 WASACRE – UPDATE**

Copies of a report that provided an update on WASACRE activities were circulated at the meeting.

**(i) Feedback from the WASACRE Meeting held on 7th February**

Details of the main issues raised at the last WASACRE meeting held at Monmouthshire on 7th February were noted.

**(ii) Representation at the WASACRE Symposium**

It was noted that the WASACRE Symposium on the 'status and role of Religious Education Agreed Syllabuses in the present and future' would be held at Llanidloes High School on Saturday 27th April and that every SACRE had been asked to nominate six representatives to attend.

Following discussion, the following members were nominated to attend the Symposium on behalf of Caerphilly SACRE –

Councillor J. Taylor, Councillor D.M. Gray, Miss H. Bartley, Mrs E. Hawthorn and Mr D. Brooks.

**(iii) Representation at next meeting**

It was noted that the next WASACRE meeting would be held in Swansea on 12th July and that Councillor D.M. Gray usually attended as the LEA representative. Councillor J. Taylor also indicated that he might be able to attend the meeting.

**SA6 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET**

Copies of the Holocaust Memorial Day Commemorative Booklet entitled 'A Time to Reflect' had been circulated with the agenda papers.

Consideration was given to the booklet and it was noted that a cross sections of exemplars had been submitted. Mrs Thomas reported that ESIS had been very pleased with the standard of work submitted and she had written to Head Teachers to complement them on the standard of RE in their schools.

The Chairman and other SACRE members commented on the booklet and stated that they believed it to be a well-presented and useful teaching resource.

**SA7 ARTEFACTS RESOURCES : UPDATE**

Bob Howells (Head of School Effectiveness) reported that following the last meeting, he had discussed the possibility of establishing a central resource for religious artefacts with the Director of Education and Leisure and had raised the subject at a meeting of the Directorate's Senior Management Team.

As a result of these discussions, a sum of £1,000 had been made available to purchase appropriate resources. Mr Howells also reported that he was currently examining options for the storage and management of the resources and would notify schools when arrangements had been finalised.

Mrs Thomas thanked Mr Howells for raising the issue so promptly after the last meeting and indicated that she would now arrange for the purchase of early years material and artefacts to support the six main religions included in the Agreed Syllabus.

**SA8 DRAFT EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2002 – 2005**

Consideration was given to the Draft Education Strategic Plan for 2002 – 2005, copies of which had been circulated with the agenda papers.

Mr Howells indicated that the document had been prepared following consultation with all head teachers and a series of workshops involving senior officers, divisional managers and representative group of teachers. To ensure that the final version of the Plan became a practical instrument to shape school improvement across the LEA, all interested parties had been given the opportunity to become involved in the process of construction and views and comments had been sought from a wide variety of bodies/organisations including SACRE.

Attention was drawn to Section 3 – Statement of Proposals – Part 1: Regulatory Elements on page 10 of the document and particular reference was made to Element 1 of the Statement of Proposals which indicated the authority's priorities for raising standards and improving the quality of education for all pupils in its schools. It was noted that one of the identified priorities was to 'continue to raise standards in the foundation subjects and RE in all key stages'. Appendix 1 then listed each priority and identified actions to be taken, the success criteria, sources of funding, links with other Plans and a date for completion of the necessary actions.

The Chairman thanked Mr Howells for outlining the relevant sections of the Plan and invited comments and questions from SACRE members.

During discussion, reference was made to Element iv – LEA Targets for Pupil Achievement at the end of Key Stages 2,3 and 4 and it was noted that SACRE received regular reports on the monitoring of examination performance, including comparisons with the LEA's previous figures and on all Wales basis.

Mr Howells thanked SACRE members for their comments and indicated that any views expressed by consultees on the detail of the Plan would be considered when the final document was produced.

#### **SA9 VISITS TO SCHOOLS OR PLACES OF WORSHIP**

Mrs Thomas informed members that some SACRE's had adopted the practice of holding their meetings in school premises or places of worship. Members appeared to be generally supportive of this approach and it was therefore agreed that consideration be given to this suggestion for the next academic year.

The meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.