

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND MAY 2002 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mrs K.R. Baker, R.W. Gough, D.M. Gray and J. Taylor

Representing Teachers Associations

Miss N. Thomas – NUT

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:

Mrs V. Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Adviser), Ms C. Thomas (ESIS Associate Religious Education Adviser) and Mrs K. Wall (Committee Services Officer).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs A. Collins and K.R. Snell and Mrs S. John (UCAC), Miss H. Bartley (NASUWT), Mrs C. Anthony (NAHT), Miss P. Brown (ATL), J. Hogan (SHA) and Captain C. Baldwin.

SA1 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting of Caerphilly SACRE held on 7th March 2002 were received and noted.

SA2 ARTEFACTS RESOURCE UPDATE

Mrs Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Adviser) reminded members that a sum of £1,000 had been allocated to develop a central resource for religious artefacts. She reported that artefacts to support the six main religions had been purchased and schools would be informed when the storage and management arrangements had been finalised.

SA3 ESTYN INSPECTION REPORTS

Reports providing an analysis of inspection reports undertaken in the primary and secondary sectors during the period Spring 2001 to Spring 2002 were circulated at the meeting.

Miss Thomas (ESIS Associate Religious Education Adviser) then outlined the main findings in respect of religious education and collective worship for both the primary and secondary sectors.

During consideration of the inspection report in respect of St Ilan Comprehensive School, it was noted that the need to comply with the statutory requirements for the provision of religious education and acts of worship for all students had been raised as a key issue for action. Similarly, it was noted that the inspection report in respect of Bedwas Comprehensive School had identified the need for the school to meet the statutory requirements for the provision of religious education in the sixth form and for a daily act of collective worship.

SACRE members expressed their concern that the schools did not appear to be meeting the statutory requirements and that this issue had been identified as key issues for action in previous inspections at both schools.

It was therefore agreed that a letter would be sent to the schools' offering SACRE's assistance in addressing the key issues identified in the inspection reports and requesting copies of their Post Inspection Action Plans.

SA4 FEEDBACK FROM THE WASACRE SYMPOSIUM

Members were circulated with a copy of the questions discussed in the group sessions at the WASACRE Symposium held in Llanidloes on 27th April 2002. It was also noted that a fuller report identifying the key issues raised at the Symposium would be prepared by WASACRE and would be forwarded to SACRE members for comment, when available.

SA5 DATES AND VENUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at Beulah Baptist Church, Abertridwr on Wednesday, 9th October 2002 at 2.00 p.m.

SA6 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

A copy of the response received from Jane Davidson AM regarding the provision of teaching materials by the Welsh Assembly Government to support Holocaust Memorial Day.

The response referred to the fact that ESIS had produced a booklet commemorating the Holocaust and stated that this 'was very much in tune our (i.e. the Welsh Assembly Government) overall approach of looking at LEAs, working with schools, to determine local priorities and needs.'

The letter concluded that on this basis there were currently no plans for the Welsh National Government to produce such materials.

The Chairman reported that a further letter had been drafted on SACRE's behalf drawing attention to the fact that the DFES intended to produce an education pack of resource material on an annual basis for use in schools in England and pointing out that National Holocaust Day was a government initiative to ensure that the terrible crimes against humanity committed during the Holocaust are never forgotten and as such should be supported by central and Assembly

government. The letter also asked Jane Davidson AM to reconsider its priorities and include plans to support LEAs and schools for Holocaust Memorial Day 2003.

SACRE supported the contents of the response to be sent to the Welsh National Assembly and it was agreed that any further correspondence would be reported to the next meeting.

SA7 VIDEO PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

A discussion paper prepared by Mr D. Brooks (SACRE member representing the faith communities) in respect of the diversity of religious traditions and Christianity had been circulated with the agenda papers.

The paper was fully discussed and SACRE members also viewed extracts from BBC GCSE Bitesize videos that aimed to demonstrate the diversity in Christian worship. It also addressed the Welsh dimension and aspects of baptism and communion.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Thomas for providing the videos and SACRE members for their contributions to the debate.

The meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.