



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH DECEMBER 2004 AT 2.00 PM**

PRESENT:

Councillors:

D.M. Gray, J. Taylor and G.G. Hibbert

Representing Teacher Organisations

P. Sass (NASUWT), Miss H. Bartley (ATL), Miss N. Boardman (NUT) and Mrs E. Hawthorn (VALRETTA)

Representing Religious Organisations

D. Brooks (Independent)

Together with:

Mrs. V. Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Advisor), Ms K. Cole (Education) and Mrs K. Wall (Committee Services Officer)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E.K. Griffiths, Mrs R. Passmore, Miss S. John (UCAC), Mrs J. Jones (Church in Wales), Captain J. Jepson (Salvation Army), Mrs M. Wade (United Reform Church) and B. Howells (Head of School Effectiveness).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made during the course of the meeting.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman -

Minutes of the meeting of Caerphilly SACRE held on 20th October 2004.

3. ANALYSIS OF EXAMINATION RESULTS 2004

The report provided an analysis of examination results for 2004 in respect of GCSE Full Course Religious Education Studies, GCSE Short Course (Specification B) Religious Studies, GCSE A Level Religious Studies and GCSE AS Religious Studies. Members were asked to note that definitive conclusions could not be drawn because the figures represented raw scores and did not necessarily reflect the selectivity of the entry and in some cases the numbers were too small to be statistically significant.

Consideration was then given to the following examination results –

GCSE Full Course Religious Studies

The results this year were excellent at all grade boundaries and exceed the All-Wales figures and previous LEA performance. It was noted that there had been 378 entries for the year and that the overall percentage of A* - C grades was 79.6%, a figure that was significantly better than the previous two years results and also exceeded the all Wales figure of 67.7%. The overall percentage of A* - G grades was 99.2%, a figure better than last year's performance and comparable with the All-Wales figure of 96.8%.

The overall percentage of A* - A grades was 33.9% and compared well with the figures of the previous two years and exceeded the All-Wales figure of 28.9% and there had been a consistency in a significant percentage of pupils achieving this top grade over a three year period.

GCSE Short Course (Specification B) Religious Studies

The results at all grades were satisfactory and in line with the All-Wales figures. It was noted that there had been 1008 entries and that there had been a significant increase in the numbers entered over a three-year period. The overall percentage of A* - C grades was 56.3%, comparable with the All-Wales figure but below the previous year's performance; the overall percentage of A* - G grades was 95.7% which was slightly below previous performance and comparable with the All-Wales figure of 95.5%. It was also noted that the overall percentage of A* - A grades was 15.5%, a figure below previous performance and the All-Wales figure of 18.2%.

GCSE A Level Religious Studies

A 100% pass rate had been achieved by pupils sitting the GCSE A Level examination. It was noted that a total of 41 candidates from seven schools within Caerphilly County Borough had been entered for the examination, a figure less than those entered last year. Those pupils achieving A grades were 12.2%, a figure better than last year's results but below the All-Wales figure of 16.9%. The percentage pass rate for grades A – C was 53.7%, below last year's excellent performance of 83.7% and the All-Wales figure of 70.2%. It was also noted that the percentage pass rate for grades A – E was excellent with a 100% pass rate and comparable with the All-Wales figure of 100%.

GCSE AS Religious Studies

It was noted that there had been 46 entries for the AS examination. At grades A – E, the pass rate was 78.3%, at A – C the pass rate was 30.4% and at grade A there had been a 8.7% pass rate.

In noting the AS results, SACRE members acknowledged that they represented a very incomplete picture as the grades were accumulated over a three year period.

Coleg Gwent Crosskeys

GCSE A Level Religious Studies

A total of 12 candidates had been entered for the A Level examination. The percentage of pupils achieving grades A – E was 100% and those achieving grades A – C was 83.3%.

GCSE AS Level

A total of 12 pupils had been entered for the AS examination. The percentage of pupils achieving grades A – E was 95.2% and those achieving grades A – C was 71.4%.

In noting the results for the AS examination, SACRE members again noted that grades could be accumulated over a three-year period.

Following discussion, the report was noted and it was agreed that a letter would be sent to schools and Coleg Gwent Crosskeys informing Headteachers of the examination results and expressing SACRE's pleasure at the increased uptake for short course and the opportunities afforded to pupils to achieve accreditation in their studies at Key Stage 4.

The Chairman also thanked Mrs Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Adviser) for presenting and explaining the data.

4. ANALYSIS OF KEY STAGE 3 TEACHER ASSESSMENT 2004

Consideration was given to the report that provided details of the results of teacher assessments at Key stage 3 for 2004. It was noted that teacher assessments were not moderated externally and that teachers arrived at judgements for each pupil using assessment information gathered during the course of Year 9. 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 was noted.

5. WASACRE MEETING HELD ON 19TH NOVEMBER 2004 AT CAERPHILLY

The Chairman thanked the SACRE Clerk for the arrangements made to host the WASACRE meeting held at the Council Offices, Caerphilly on 19th November and for the hospitality shown by the Mayor.

Consideration was then given to the report that provided a summary of the main issues discussed at the meeting. During discussion, it was noted that the next WASACRE meeting would be held in Merthyr Tydfil on 25th February. Councillors D.M. Gray and J. Taylor and Mr Brooks indicated their intention to attend the meeting and other members were asked to contact the Clerk if they too were able to attend.

6. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2005 – UPDATE

Consideration was given to ways in which schools could commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January. Examples of assemblies prepared by ESIS for Key Stages 4 and 5 had been included with the agenda papers and Mr Sass (NASUWT representative) also made a short presentation in respect of assembly outlines he had prepared on behalf of SACRE, for Key Stages 2 – 3 and Key Stages 3 – 5.

The Chairman thanked Mr Sass for preparing the assembly outlines and members acknowledged that these documents would be very useful and helpful for schools when planning their school assemblies on 27th January. It was therefore agreed that copies would be circulated to Headteachers of all primary and secondary schools within the county borough.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman reported that a letter had been received from Mr Rheinallt Thomas, Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Wales enquiring how SACREs in Wales intended to monitor religious education and collective worship in the light of the new inspection arrangements.

Mrs Thomas outlined details of the proposed inspection arrangements and the self-evaluation reports that would be prepared by schools. She also indicated that she would raise the issue at the next NAPRE meeting and collate comments so that a response could be made to the Presbyterian Church by the required deadline of 1st March 2005.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held at Risca Primary School on Wednesday, 9th February at 2.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.10 pm.

CHAIRMAN