



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) STANDING CONFERENCE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH DECEMBER 2004 AT 3.10 P.M.

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. REVIEW OF THE AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Chairman opened the meeting and invited Mrs. Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Adviser) to outline the need for a Standing Conference.

Mrs. Thomas reported that there was a legal requirement for a SACRE to review its Agreed Syllabus every five years. The current syllabus had been implemented in the autumn term 2000 and a process of review therefore needed to be undertaken.

In accordance with this requirement, a questionnaire had been sent to all infant, junior, primary, special and secondary schools within the county borough, a Working Party of teachers had been established to review the syllabus and a draft Agreed Syllabus had been

prepared for consultation and had been sent to schools in the summer of 2004.

The findings of the consultation exercise had been reported to SACRE at its meeting held on 20th October 2004. At that meeting, SACRE members noted the outcome of the review and the suggested amendments and had agreed to convene a Standing Conference to approve the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

Copies of the Draft Agreed Syllabus had been circulated with the agenda papers and Mrs. Thomas presented a report that highlighted the proposed main amendments.

Consideration was then given to these documents and members supported the 'slimming down' of the Agreed Syllabus. Teacher representatives also particularly welcomed the introduction of an assessment element and the fact that there was greater choice and flexibility built into the syllabus.

Following discussion, SACRE unanimously approved the Agreed Syllabus.

The meeting closed at 3.35 p.m.

CHAIRMAN