



CAERPHELLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN
ON THURSDAY, 8TH JUNE 2006 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor D M Gray - Chairman
Councillor J Taylor - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

D G Carter, G.G Hibbert, Mrs D Price

Together with:

Mrs V Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Advisor), Mr G George (Committee Services Manager), Mrs R Thomas (Committee Services Officer)

Also present:

Mrs E Hawthorn (VALRETTA), Mrs N Boardman (NUT), P Sass (NASUWT), Mrs S John (UCAC), Miss H Bartley (ATL), Mrs J Jones (Church in Wales), Mr D Brooks (Independent)

APOLOGIES

Cllr Mrs R Passmore, Ms K Cole (School Effectiveness Advisor), B Howells (Head of School Effectiveness), Captain J Jepson (Salvation Army), Mrs M Wade (United Reform Church)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Several members declared a general interest as School Governors but remained in the meeting and took part in the debate.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 8th February 2006 be approved as a correct record.

3. ANALYSIS OF INSPECTION REPORT SPRING 2005 TO SPRING 2006'

Members reviewed the 'Analysis of Inspection Report Spring 2005 to Spring 2006' for Primary and Secondary Schools. It was noted that each inspection was carried out in a week and therefore reflected the schools' activity for that period only.

Details of secondary school inspection reports were circulated at the meeting and the main findings were discussed.

Members noted the inspection reports for both primary and secondary schools and placed on record their congratulations to all those schools whose standards were good or better. It was also agreed to ask Heolddu Comprehensive School for their action plan and how they intended to address the non-fulfilment of statutory requirements for collective worship.

4. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Meeting dates were confirmed as set out below and Councillor Carter invited the group to meet at Bargoed's Gigabites in December. The Church and the Salvation Army run the café for underprivileged youngsters. Further information will follow, including the format for the meeting.

- 27th September 2006 – ESIS Parc, Nantgarw at 2.00 p.m.
- 7th December 2006 – Gigabites, High Street, Bargoed at 2.00 p.m.
- 5th February 2007 – St. Helens RC Primary School, Caerphilly for 9.00 a.m. arrival, followed by an act of collective worship at 9.30 a.m.
- 6th June 2007 – Dyffryn House, Dyffryn Business Park, Caerphilly at 2.00 p.m.

5. WELSH ASSOCIATION OF SACRE (WASACRE)

Members noted the following matters relating to WASACRE:

- ❑ Letter from Torfaen SACRE – Torfaen SACRE had raised the issue of RE teachers experiencing difficulty in accessing Continuing Professional Development. Members noted a letter to register their support had been sent.
- ❑ Funding of Post 16 Education – Julie Jones gave a presentation to explain how RE was funded for Post 16 education in Wales. Members asked whether it was possible for those schools that did not deliver RE, to have their budget reduced accordingly, by the LEA.
- ❑ Future Representation – It was agreed that Councillors D Carter and D M Gray would attend the next meeting, to be held on 23rd June 2006.
- ❑ Executive Voting - Members confirmed the representatives to the WASACRE Annual General Meeting on 23rd June at Gwynedd to be given delegated powers to vote on WASACRE executive members. This was due to the possibility of last minute nominations. Members wished to nominate Councillor M Gray for WASACRE Vice-Chairman.
Officers would ask that a cut off date be given for receipt of nominations to assist in future voting.

6. WASACRE SPECIAL CONFERENCE 20TH MAY 2006

Mrs Thomas gave a verbal report on the special conference to the Committee. The need for early consultation was made, regarding the RE curriculum review to coincide with other curriculum review activities.

The Chair thanked Mrs V Thomas and Mr Brooks for their feedback from the conference.

7. REQUEST MATERIALS

Members received information on free materials provided by RE Quest to support teachers of RE in teaching Christianity at both primary and secondary level. The materials include a website, 10 PowerPoint presentations, CD ROM and a poster. Examples of the materials were circulated at the meeting. A full demonstration of these materials will take place at the next meeting on 27th September 2006.

The Committee agreed to send out the RE Quest materials to schools in the LEA and members requested a copy for personal reference.

8. ACCAC GUIDANCE ON SACRE REPORTS AND REVIEW OF SACRE REPORTS 2002/3 AND 2003/4

The Committee noted the reports but commented they were already out of date. A request would be sent to ACCAC asking for an annual report, rather than bi-annually.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Members were made aware of a letter dated 19 May 2006 from the Jerusalem Trust (one of Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts), making available a number of grants to support the purchase of resources for teaching Christianity in RE. Priority in allocating the grants would be given to non-church state secondary schools. A copy of the letter and application form was given to all Members present. Alternatively, information can be obtained via website www.stapleford-centre.org/extra/bursaries.php

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held at ESIS, Parc Nantgarw on 27th September 2006 at 2.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.15 p.m.

CHAIRMAN