



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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT ESIS PARC, NANTGARW  
ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 2.00 PM

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PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

D.G. Carter, R.T. Davies and G.G. Hibbert

Together with:

Mr B. Howells (Head of School Effectiveness), Mrs V. Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Advisor), Ms C. Thomas (ESIS Associate Advisor), Mrs R. Thomas (Committee Services Officer)

Also present:

Miss H. Bartley (ATL), Mrs N.L. Boardman (NUT), Mrs E. Hawthorn (VALRETA), Mrs S. John (UCAC), Mr P. Sass (NASUWT), Mr D Brooks (Independent), Captain B. Womersley (Salvation Army)

### **APOLOGIES**

Councillor Mrs D. Price, Mrs J. Jones (Church in Wales), Mrs M Wade (United Reform Church)

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

### **2. MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 8th June 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

#### **Analysis of Inspection Report Spring 2005 to Spring 2006**

It was confirmed a letter would be issued shortly to Heolddu Comprehensive School for their action plan, to address the non-fulfilment of statutory requirements for collective worship.

#### **Future Meeting Dates**

Members were asked to note the meeting timetabled for February 2007, would now be held in March. Further details were supplied with Agenda Item number 4.

### **4. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2005-2006**

The schedule of meetings for the academic year 2006/2007 were agreed as follows:

- 7th December 2006 – Bargoed Cyber Café (by kind invitation of Councillor D.G. Carter)
- 5th March 2007 – St Helens Primary School (to observe the act of collective worship)
- 6th June 2007 – Dyffryn House, Dyffryn Business Park, Caerphilly

### **5. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

Details of the level of attendance at SACRE meetings during the last academic year were noted. Members were introduced to Councillor R.T. Davies who replaced Councillor Mrs. R. Passmore, and Captain B. Womersley who replaced Captain J. Jepson on the committee.

### **6. CAERPHILLY INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARD PROJECT PRESENTATION**

Members received an informative display of the use of white/SMART boards, in which the different formats and styles teachers could use to interact and inform children, of different age groups, were demonstrated.

The display illustrated how children could become actively involved with the topic being discussed and how ideas and/or results could be shared with other classes.

Members were also given the opportunity to view a sample of the Quest materials which SACRE at its last meeting agreed to distribute to schools.

The Chair thanked Carys Thomas and Nicola Boardman for their informative presentation.

### **7. SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006**

The annual report from Caerphilly SACRE was presented, in which the activities of SACRE during the academic year 2005-2006 were outlined. It followed the guidelines laid down by Department for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DELLS) – formerly known as ACCAC.

Members noted and approved the report that would now be sent to DELLS.

## **8. SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2005-2008**

The report set out Caerphilly SACRE's Development Plan, which aims to ensure that current and future developments were identified.

The plan hopes to promote and support the following:

- Raising of the standards of pupils' attainment in religious education;
- Improvement in the provision of religious education;
- An increase in the number of pupils following external examinations in religious education and religious studies at GCSE and A/AS level; and
- The highest quality provision of collective worship.

Members' attention was brought to the outstanding changes to the National Curriculum and RE, which will have a financial impact for the LEA. The agreed syllabus would need to be reviewed in Summer 2007/08 and a training programme for teacher put into place. Costings are to be submitted to the LEA through its advisory service.

It was agreed to note the content of the Development Plan and progress reports would be received throughout the year.

## **9. INSET NEEDS AND PLANS 2006-2007**

The report gave details of 'in service' training provided for Caerphilly schools during the academic year 2006-2007. The aim of the training was to promote and support: -

- the raising of the standards of pupils' attainment in religious education; and
- the highest quality provision of religious education.

Members noted the content of the report.

## **10. ATTENDANCE AT INSET 2005-2006**

The report informed members of attendance levels at INSET courses from local authorities.

Members noted the level of attendance at various courses and were advised the number of courses had been reduced, primarily due to more 'in-house' courses becoming available. This had led to a lack of up-take. Also the Better Schools Funding was having an impact on teachers coming out of training.

## **11. WELSH ASSOCIATION OF SACRE (WASACRE)**

Members noted the issues and feedback from this meeting. The next meeting would be held on 17th November at Cwmbran (Torfaen). Caerphilly SACRE representatives would be Councillor D.M. Gray, Councillor J. Taylor, Mrs V. Thomas, and Mr D. Brooks. The organiser would be informed accordingly.

## **12. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Members received a copy of the Single Education Plan 2006-08, in which the Authority's improvement strategies are detailed. The document is a statutory requirement by the Welsh Assembly Government that lays down the borough's visions, values and monitoring arrangements for education to children and young peoples' services.

Members welcomed the strategies contained within the report.

**13. CORRESPONDENCE**

Members present were given a copy of RE News (Summer 2006) and Reflections (Summer 2006).

The meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN