



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT GIGABITES E-CAFÉ, BARGOED
ON THURSDAY, 7TH DECEMBER 2006 AT 2.00 PM**

PRESENT:

Councillor D.M. Gray - Chairman

Councillors:

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

Together with:

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

Also present:

Miss H. Bartley (ATL), Mrs E. Hawthorn (VALRETA), Mrs S. John (UCAC),
Captain B. Womersley (Salvation Army)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J. Taylor and Mr P. Sass (NASUWT).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

2. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Vicar Andrew Bookless of Bargoed and café manager Diane Thomas to the meeting and thanked them for their presence and hospitality.

Members were given a tour of the building and Vicar Bookless informed members of 'Churches in Action's' vision statement. He reiterated the aim of the café was to offer a safe and welcoming atmosphere for young people and to provide recreational and educational facilities.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 27th September 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Schedule of Meetings

It was confirmed an act of morning worship would be observed at St Helens Primary School at 10.00am. Members were asked to arrive at the school at 9.30am and were advised the meeting would take place immediately afterwards in the Van Community Centre.

It was proposed that the Autumn SACRE meeting take place at St Gwladys Junior School.

5. ANALYSIS OF EXAMINATION RESULTS 2006

Members reviewed the analysis of examination results for 2006. Details of the results on a 'school by school' basis were circulated at the meeting. The main findings of each document were discussed and placed in the context of percentage of Cohort entered for GCSE and A-AS level.

Members noted the examination results and placed on record their acknowledgement of the improving standards, by those involved. They asked that appropriate letters be sent to all teachers, via their head teachers.

6. ANALYSIS OF KS3 TEACHER ASSESSMENT 2006

Members reviewed the 2006 key stage 3 (KS3) teacher assessment analysis, and were informed that there were no national levels for KS 3 and therefore no RE comparisons were available.

Members discussed the report and noted the results showed an improved performance at level 5+ and level 6+.

7. MEETING OF 17TH NOVEMBER 2006 AT CWMBRAN

Members reviewed a summary of the meeting of WASACRE held on 17th November 2006 at Cwmbran (Torfaen). In addition, copies of WASACRE's booklet 'Looking Beyond 2008 – Visioning Religious Education' were circulated at the meeting

Members attention were drawn to the following matters:

- Estyn - Gareth Wyn Jones would be the new representative, replacing Paul Morgan
- NAPfRE Presentation - access to the materials listed was free and had been created for use in primary schools
- Executive Committee - the consultation document on the revised framework from DELLS was to go to Caerphilly SACRE's next meeting for discussion. Members were asked to attend in force – particularly representatives who were teachers
 - the revised Welsh Baccalaureate was still waiting to be seen
- Interfaith Forum - it was reiterated that the forum brought faiths closer together

8. REPRESENTATION AT WELSH ASSOCIATION OF SACRE (WASACRE)

The next meeting would be held on 23rd March 2007 in Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire. Caerphilly SACRE representatives would be Councillor D.M. Gray, Councillor G.G. Hibbert and Mrs V. Thomas. The organiser would be informed accordingly.

9. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2007- VERBAL UPDATE

Members were informed the 2007 theme would be 'The Dignity of Difference', where greater tolerance of difference ethnic origins was the key message.

In association with the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust a creative writing competition had been organised on the above theme. There were to be two age groups (7-11 year olds and six formers), with a closing date of 30th November 2006. This information has already been circulated to schools in the LEA via the ESIS advisory service. Members however could obtain information from website -www.holocaustcentre.net.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Members were given a copy of a pamphlet entitled 'Gigabites Youth Project 2006'. This give a brief description about the group and the services the café provided.

(b) Members were made aware of a letter dated 28th September 2006 to Heolddu Comprehensive School and their response of 3rd October 2006, regarding the findings of the 'analysis of inspection report (Spring 2005 to Spring 2006)'. The head of the school confirmed that the act of daily worship was undertaken via the school's tannoy system, which enabled each classroom to receive the 'daily message'. A copy of the letters were given to all Members present.

Vicky Thomas confirmed she would be visiting the school March to discuss the use of the tannoy system for the delivery of collective worship.

(c) Members reviewed the minutes of the first meeting of the Valleys Faith Forum, held at the Glamorgan Business Centre, Treforest on 26th October 2006. Members discussed the minutes and agreed it would be informative to invite a member of the forum to the next convenient SACRE meeting, in order to inform members of the format and aims of the forum. Regular updates were also requested, in the form of the forum's minutes.

(d) In additional to the agenda items listed above, members also received a copy of REflections for Autumn 2006.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held at St Helens Primary School, Caerphilly at 10.00am on 5th March 2007.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm.

CHAIRMAN