



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) – 5TH MARCH 2007

**SUBJECT: TO INFORM THE SACRE OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND DELIBERATIONS
OF WASACRE**

SUMMARY

Torfaen LEA extended a welcome with Coed Eva Junior School pupils singing and an exhibition of children's work available for delegates. WASACRE was welcomed by the Lady Mayor cc Mary Barnett (formerly Chair of Torfaen SACRE) and the Millennium prayer was read by the head boy and girl of Ysgol Gyfun Gwynlliw. Mr Gavin Craigen thanked Torfaen for their wonderful welcome. This was the first meeting for Mr Craigen as incoming Chair of WASACRE.

The issues discussed were as follows.

1. MATTERS ARISING

- 1.1 Gareth Wyn Jones will be the new representative for Estyn to replace Paul Morgan.

2. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- 2.1 Letter received from Samaritan's Purse clarifying the work of the organisation and answering concerns raised about anti-Islamic literature being inserted into the boxes distributed to children. They commented that as an organisation they work with all races, creeds and colours and would not attempt to denigrate any religious group. It does not allow evangelical literature to be put into the boxes but where culturally appropriate include a booklet on the meaning of Christmas and the Christian message. The organisation emphasised that schools or orphanages are chosen because of need alone and not on whether it is / or is not appropriate to include the Christian booklet. WASACRE appreciated the letter and its clarification.

3. NAPFRE PRESENTATION

- 3.1 Mary Parry and Gavin Craigen gave a presentation about the network grant received from GTCW and the work that was produced by primary and secondary teachers in North and South Wales. This work was conducted on behalf of NAPFRE and WASACRE. It was an RE and ICT project co-ordinated by Gavin Craigen and Bethan James in North Wales (Secondary) and Mary Parry and Carys Thomas in South Wales (Primary). Some examples of the work produced were demonstrated.
- 3.2 The range of materials include:

PRIMARY

- Genesis Creation Story
- Virtual Tour of a Welsh Baptist Chapel

- The Salvation Army
- Birthdays
- St David
- The Chapel
- Christmas and Divali
- Ramadan
- The Bible (Years 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6)
- The Chapel
- The Life of Jesus
- World Religions

SECONDARY

- St Winefride's Well, Holywell
- Islam –KS3-4
- Stop the Press newspaper reports for discussion and debate
- People of Faith in Wales
- Resources for WJEC Specification A Religious Studies
- Resources for WJEC Specification B Religious Studies

3.3 Teachers benefited from the project through the collaborative working of the project and also it provided for their own personal development. All materials are available in both Welsh and English. These materials have been put on the GTCW website for teachers in Wales to access.

4. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

4.1 Some of the issues discussed at the Executive were raised with members.

- The report of the WASACRE Conference was now available and members were asked to take these back to their SACREs for discussion. WASACRE asked if a copy of their response to DELLS regarding the revised Framework for RE be copied to WASACRE.
- A reminder to SACREs that teachers are an important part of SACREs and that they should be funded to attend meetings of SACRE and WASACRE.
- That Keith Davies at WJEC had assured members of WASACRE that the revised Welsh Baccalaureate includes the signposting to RE as advised by WASACRE members. It was recommended that WASACRE write to WJEC asking for confirmation of this in writing and asking for a copy of the Specification.

5. SHOWCASE OF NEW RESOURCES INCLUDING

- 'Puddles lends a Paw' by Gill Vaisey for Early Years/ KS1.
- New Welsh translations of the resource by REMW- Special People called ' Pobl Arbennig' for KS2.
- DELLS material on collective worship using ICT stimulus material/ video clips etc on topics of - 'At War 'and 'What is Spirituality Today'.

6. INTERFAITH FORUM AND THE INTER FAITH PROJECT BY REV ALED EDWARDS (CYTUN) AND BRIGID BOWEN, INTERFAITH PROJECT

6.1 Rev Aled Edwards, Chief Executive of Cytun and also recently appointed as Wales Commissioner for Racial Equality addressed members. He referred to the new Interfaith Council for Wales set up by Rhodri Morgan in response to 9/11. Members of all principal faith communities are invited to create an inter faith forum to discuss matters of faith. They meet twice a year with Rhodri Morgan and other political leaders. It provides an opportunity to lobby over faith issues. The Inter Faith Council can set up regional networks. Brigid Bowen has

been appointed to work with these networks. There is a website called interfaithwales.org. This provides an online meeting place to discuss interfaith issues. There is an intention to set up a Youth Forum for sixth formers to discuss interfaith issues. Brigid Bowen can be contacted on info@interfaithwales.org

7. AOB

- The RE Council for England and Wales will include a link to Wales in its website. The next meeting of the Council will be held in Wales and WASACRE agreed to fund this meeting.
- DELLS. Denize Morris informed members that RE will be included in the Securing Teacher Assessment working groups alongside the Core and Foundation subjects. It will involve a working group looking at the level descriptions of the Framework to see if they can correlate to pupils work. It is intended that a portfolio of work be put together that shows exemplification of each level.

8. DATES OF NEXT MEETING:

- March 23rd 2007 at Haverfordwest (Pembrokeshire)
- June 28th at Llandrindod Wells (Powys)

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Draft copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2006