



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT Tŷ DYFFRYN, DYFFRYN BUSINESS PARK
ON WEDNESDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER 2007 AT 2.00 PM**

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

D.G. Carter, R.T. Davies, G.G. Hibbert, Mrs D. Price

Representing Teacher Organisations:

Miss H. Bartley (ATL), Mrs S. John (UCAC), Ms K. Mathias (VALRETA), Ms A. Stevens (ASCL)

Representing Religious Organisations:

Mr D. Brooks, Captain Ms B. Womersley, Mrs J. Jones, Mrs E. Hawthorn

Together with:

J. Lawrence (Assistant Director, Learning, Education and Inclusion), V. Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Advisor), R. Thomas (Committee Services Officer)

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Mrs N.L. Boardman (NUT)

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the last meeting of 2007, in particular to Ms A. Stevens who had joined the committee to represent head teachers. Members were advised P. Sass (NASUWT) had resigned from the group due to work commitments.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made before or during the meeting.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that subject to the amendment to J. Lawrence's title, the minutes of the last meeting held on 25th September 2007, be approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Schedule of Meetings 2007-2008 – Item No. 5

Councillor D.G. Carter confirmed the committee would be welcome in Bargoed in February. He was to make enquiries with the Library/Baptist Church, Hanbury Road.

SACRE Development Plan 2005-2008 – Item No. 8

A copy of the national exemplar framework for RE has been received from The Department for Education, Culture and the Welsh Language (DECWL - formerly DELLS), dated 19th November 2007. Officers were to confirm that this was the final version before they commenced its review.

WASACRE – Representation at Next Meeting – Item No. 13

Mrs E. Hawthorn advised she would be unable to attend the next meeting of WASACRE on 4th December 2007 at Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent.

4. ANALYSIS OF EXAMINATION RESULTS, 2007

Members reviewed the analysis of examination results for 2007. 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. In addition, factors influencing course take up were discussed.

Members noted the examination results and placed on record their acknowledgement of the improving standards, by those involved. Schools to be informed of the outcome.

5. TEACHER ASSESSMENT IN LEVELS AT KEY STAGE 3, 2007

The Committee agreed to defer the report.

6. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2008

Members were informed the 2008 theme would be 'Imagine ... remember, reflect, react'.

Schools are encouraged to participate in Holocaust Memorial Day in order to remember the victims of the Holocaust and more recent genocides, with the aid of materials produced by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. These information packs were sent automatically to schools in England, but Welsh schools had to request them, the advisory service have received packs for all secondary schools and SACRE endorse that they be sent out as soon as possible. Members agreed that the committee write to schools to ask them to commemorate the event on or near to 27th January 2008.

Additionally, Members asked if locally produced information could be sent to schools, following the visit to Auschwitz and Birkenau Concentration Camps by Helen Bartley and a party of pupils in October 2005, and Paul Sass's presentation of last year. Members believed students would be more influenced by locally produced information giving a local perspective. Officers agreed to review the data held to see if this could be done.

7. REVIEW OF THE AGREED SYLLABUS

A copy of the agreed syllabus had been received from DECWL, but clarification had been sought as to whether it was the final version.

Members were advised to see their copy of RE News, Autumn 2007, as there was an article within referring to the national exemplar framework for RE and the intention to commence a pilot of schools to secure teacher assessment in RE using the level descriptions contained within this document. This is one of the reasons it is important that the revised agreed syllabus following closely the national exemplar framework for RE.

Members were reminded that a Standing Conference would take place immediately following the next SACRE meeting, to discuss and endorse the contents.

8. THE SKILLS FRAMEWORK: IMPLEMENTATION

V. Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Advisor) introduced the document to inform members of how RE can address the skills framework. Members were given a copy of the skills framework progression ladder, showing the different skills required at each level. To give a practical example of how to use and understand the ladder, members of the committee formed three sub-groups and carried out three separate activities, as groups of school children would.

The activities used and developed various skills, such as team work, communication and listening skills. When audited against the framework progression ladder it was possible to see a person's skill level and areas that required further development.

The Chairman thanked V. Thomas for the enlightening demonstration.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- RE News, Autumn 2007 (Copies distributed during the meeting). Members were asked to note the article by Tudor Thomas on page 17/18 under the heading WJEC. Mr Thomas refers to changes relating to short courses and the implementation to controlled tasks. This was seen to have huge implications and an additional burden on teachers. For this reason, the changes are no longer taking place.
- Curriculum and Assessment Update, Issue 3, Autumn 2007 (Copies distributed during the meeting)

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held at the Library/Baptist Church, Hanbury Road, Bargoed on 28th February 2008 at 2.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.

Approved as a correct record, and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 28th February 2008, they were signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN