



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT ST GWLADYS CHURCH, BARGOED
ON THURSDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY 2008 AT 2.00PM**

PRESENT:

Councillor D.M. Gray - Chairman

Councillors:

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

Representing Teacher Organisations:

Miss H. Bartley (ATL), Mrs N.L. Boardman (NUT), Miss C. Cook (NASUWT), Ms K. Mathias (VALRETA), Ms A. Stevens (ASCL), Mrs C. Thompson (NAHT)

Representing Religious Organisations:

Mr D. Brooks (Independent), Mrs E. Hawthorn (United Reformed Church), Mrs J. Jones (Church in Wales), Captain Ms B. Womersley (Salvation Army)

Together with:

V. Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Advisor), M. Williams (School Effectiveness Advisor), R. Thomas (Committee Services Officer)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J. Taylor and Mrs S. John (UCAC).

1. CHAIRMAN'S THANKS

The Chairman thanked Vicar Andrew Bookless for his hospitality and allowing the Committee to meet at St Gwladys Church at such short notice. Thanks were also given to Councillor D.G. Carter for helping with the arrangements.

Vicar Bookless informed members of the Church's history and advised of the church's aim to promote the church within the wider community and of the available services.

2. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Miss C. Cook (NASUWT) and Mrs C. Thompson (NAHT) to their first meeting of Caerphilly SACRE.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 28th November 2007 (minute nos. 1 - 10 on page nos. 1 - 3), be approved as correct records and signed by the chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Analysis of Examination Results, 2007 – Item No. 4

Members were advised examination results had been received from Coleg Gwent (Risca). These were distributed during the meeting, together with school results to allow a comparative analysis.

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2008 – Item No. 6

It had been noted some Welsh SACREs were concerned the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) had not promoted this as prominently as in England. In addition, the Sunday Times had run an article for students and their teachers to visit Auschwitz, and questions had been raised why this had not been extended to Wales. The Holocaust Educational Trust had now confirmed a visit from Wales would take place on 13th May and details were being circulated to schools. Members were advised to contact Ms V. Thomas if they wanted a copy of the information.

Members agreed to write a letter to WAG to illustrate concern about the lack of promotion of HMD through schools and LEAs.

6. SACRE MEMBERSHIP

Members noted the actions taken by officers in securing a replacement NASUWT representative and a new head teacher representative (NAHT) to the Committee. The Committee welcomed the new Members – Carolyn Cook and Christine Thompson.

Members discussed the option of accepting co-opted members to the Committee and the number that could be accepted. It was noted up to two co-opted members could be invited to join the group, without voting rights. Members agreed in principle to the proposal.

Members continued to discuss the nominees named within the report, but felt that they were unable to make an informed decision without further information. It was agreed to ask the two nominees to submit a personal synopsis.

In addition, Members were advised if they knew someone who was interested in becoming a co-opted member of the Committee, they should submit a letter to the secretariat detailing their interest and qualities. Any request for membership would be considered at the first meeting following its receipt.

7. TEACHER ASSESSMENT IN LEVELS AT KEY STAGE 3 (2007)

An additional information sheet was circulated at the meeting.

Members were reminded this agenda item was deferred from the last meeting, and that while teacher assessment was not moderated externally, teachers from four local education authorities (Caerphilly, Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff), did collate data for comparative purposes.

Members noted the report and made reference to the decrease in the overall percentages in 2007 compared to 2006 at Levels 6, 7 and 8. In addition, members noted the difference in the boys and girls level of achievement at L5+ (54.1% and 70.33% respectively). Officers advised this mirrored the national picture and was a priority for schools and the LEA to address.

8. WASACRE - FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 4TH DECEMBER 2007 AT EBBW VALE, BLAENAU GWENT

Members reviewed a summary of the meeting of WASACRE held on 4th December 2007 at Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent, whilst Mrs V. Thomas gave a verbal report on particular items of interest to the Committee.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Thomas for her feedback from the meeting.

9. WASACRE - REPRESENTATION AT NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 14th March 2008 at Carmarthen. SACRE's representatives were agreed as Mrs V. Thomas and Cllr D.M. Gray.

10. WASACRE - NOMINATIONS TO THE WASACRE EXECUTIVE

Members discussed the nominations required by WASACRE and it was agreed to forward Councillor D.M. Gray's name, in the first instance for the position of Vice-Chairman; and if unsuccessful, in the role of WASACRE Executive.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Annual Report of the Croeso Project (2006-2007) - Members advised a copy is available from the Members' library;
- (2) Neath Port Talbot County Borough's Annual SACRE Report (2006-2007) - Members advised a copy is available from the Members' library;
- (3) Torfaen County Borough's Annual SACRE Report (2006-2007) - Members advised a copy is available from the Members' library;
- (4) National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education for 3 to 19-year-olds in Wales – copies distributed at the meeting;
- (5) Child's Eye Media Ltd - Members noted the correspondence received; and
- (6) MultiFaiths, Fasts & Festivals 2008/2009 - Members noted the correspondence received.

12. LATE AGENDA ITEMS – CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Croeso Project - Members were advised an invitation had been received inviting Caerphilly SACRE to share in a day of activities to celebrate the history, lives and hopes of Gypsies and Travellers in Wales, to be held on Wednesday, 12th March 2008. Any interested Members were asked to contact the clerk of SACRE.
- (2) Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School - Members were advised the school's post-inspection action plan had been received. Ms A. Stevens informed the Committee of the progresses made to date in order to comply with the statutory requirements of a daily act of collective worship.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held at the Ebbw Room, Tŷ Penallta on 2nd June 2008 at 2.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 2.45 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 2nd June 2008, they were signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN