



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – 2ND JUNE 2008

SUBJECT: FEEDBACK FROM WASACRE MEETING ON 14TH MARCH 2008

REPORT BY: ESIS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report is to inform members of the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE's meeting held on 14th March 2008 in Carmarthen.

2. MAIN ISSUES SUMMARY

2.1 Report from Executive Committee

2.1.1 10/94

Members of the Executive have been informed that aspects of 10/94 that relate to RE is to be revised in England. A sub-group of the executive has been set up to discuss this further.

2.1.2 Foundation Phase Training

A letter had been sent from WASACRE to ask for changes to be made to the Foundation Phase National Training Pack in order to reflect more accurately the place of RE when planning provision in the Foundation Phase. A letter has been received from Jon Hawkins noting that amendments will be made to the training pack and to the trainer notes. Adjustments will be circulated to those who have received the training pack and further updates of the pack will be amended.

2.1.3 Constitution

Copies of the proposed changes to the constitution will be sent to SACREs.

2.1.4 Collective Worship Questionnaire

The Chair has written to a law student form Cardiff concerning a questionnaire about Collective Worship. The Executive have decided not to pursue the matter further. It is up to the individual SACREs to respond to the questionnaire if they wish.

2.1.5 UCAC Newsletter on Collective Worship

The Chair has written to UCAC regarding a number of inaccuracies in an article published on Collective Worship in the 'Athro'. UCAC has acknowledged inaccuracies and assured that this would be amended in a future issue of 'Athro'.

2.1.6 Guidance on school uniform

Copies of the guidance document were provided for members. It was noted that the Interfaith Forum and Commission of Equality have raised concerns regarding paragraph 2.10.

2.2 **Presentation: Christian Education – Tackling Tough Issues Project.**

Members received a presentation from Professor Russell Stannard and Peter Fishpool on the background, pedagogy and activities of the resource 'Tackling Tough Questions'. The resource explores Evil, Suffering and Death and includes a DVD and a booklet outlining teaching and learning activities. The DVD presents the viewpoints of young people from different religions explaining their faith perspectives on issues relating to evil, suffering and death. Members had the opportunity to partake in one activity from the teacher's book.

2.3 **Post 16 RE conference**

The Post 16 Conference will be held on 4th October and the venues will be St David's College, Cardiff and St Richard Gwyn High School, Flint. The conference will be organised jointly between WASACRE and DCELLS. The purpose of the conference is to suggest innovative ways that RE might be delivered in the curriculum and the benefits and value of RE in the world of work, in everyday life and in society. The conference would include:

- Key note speech by the Minister
- Presentation by Sixth Form Pupils
- Report by Funky Dragon representatives
- Presentation by Dyfed Powys Police
- Presentation by School of Medicine, Cardiff University
- Presentation by Lat Blaylock of Dare to Engage
- Three workshops: Spiritual Engagement materials, BBC e-clips and case studies from the DCELLS Guidance.

The conference is being directed at Headteachers, heads of Sixth Form, curriculum managers and RE teachers.

2.4 **Election of Officers**

Nominations have been received for the role of vice chair and members of the executive. Information will be sent to SACREs.

2.5 **14-19 Networks**

SACREs have been encouraged to make contact with their local 14-19 network in order to ensure that Network co-ordinators are aware of the statutory requirements for RE. A letter will be drafted by WASACRE and sent to each SACRE.

2.6 **Holocaust Educational Trust**

Opportunity is provided for two sixth form pupils from each school to visit Auschwitz with the support of the Holocaust Educational Trust. Letters have been sent to schools in Wales.

2.7 **WASACRE secretary**

Thanks were extended to Sue Collingbourne, WASACRE secretary, who will relinquish her role at the next meeting. Nominations are sought for the role of secretary.

2.8 **Representation at WASACRE**

Disappointment was expressed at the lack of members present at the meeting. A letter will be sent from the Chair to all SACREs reminding them of the need to send representation to WASACRE meetings.

2.9 **Date of next meetings:**

- 26th June 2008 – Mold (Flintshire)
- 7th November - Monmouthshire

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Members are asked to note the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE.

Author: Vicky Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Advisor)

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Draft copy of minutes of WASACRE meeting held on 14th March 2008