



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH
ON MONDAY, 2ND JUNE 2008 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

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

Councillor:

G.G. Hibbert

Representing Teacher Organisations:

Miss H. Bartley (ATL), Ms C. Cook (NASUWT), Ms K. Mathias (VALRETA), Mrs C. Thompson (NAHT)

Representing Religious Organisations:

Mrs E. Hawthorn (United Reformed Church), Mrs J. Jones (Church in Wales), Captain B. Womersley (Salvation Army)

Together with:

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D.G. Carter, Mrs D. Price, Mrs N. Boardman (NUT), Mrs S. John (UCAC) and Mr D. Brooks

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. TO APPOINT A CHAIRPERSON

Councillor D.M. Gray was appointed Chairman for the ensuing four years.

3. TO APPOINT A VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Councillor J. Taylor was appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing four years.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman,

- (i) Caerphilly SACRE held on 28th February 2008 (minute nos. 1 - 13 on page nos. 1 - 4); and
- (ii) Caerphilly SACRE, Standing Conference, held on 28th February 2008 (minute nos. 1 - 2 on page nos. 1 - 2).

subject to the following adjustments:

- (i) amend M. Williams title to 'Learning Education and Inclusion Advisor'; and
- (ii) insert an apology for absence from J. Lawrence (Assistant Director, Learning, Education and Leisure).

5. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2008-2009

Members discussed possible times, dates and venues for forthcoming meetings. Members confirmed their preferred start time for each meeting was 2.00 p.m. and a number of venues were agreed (subject to confirmation). The schedule of future meetings were agreed as follows:

- Thursday, 25th September 2008 – Chapel House, Watford Road, Caerphilly;
- Wednesday, 10th December 2008 – Hendre Junior School, Trecenydd;
- Tuesday, 24th February 2009 – Penallta House, Ystrad Mynach; and
- Monday, 8th June 2009 – Park Primary, Bargoed.

6. ANALYSIS OF INSPECTION REPORTS (SPRING 2007 - SPRING 2008)

Members considered the outcomes of the analysis of inspection reports for the period Spring 2007 to Spring 2008 and they were reminded of the three types of inspections (full, standard and short). Members were advised few schools received a full inspection and it was noted that only two schools (Aberbargoed Primary and Abertysswg Primary) received an inspection including religious education reviews.

It was agreed to:-

- (i) note the inspection reports;
- (ii) write to Aberbargoed Primary to ask for their action plan in order fully address shortcomings and raise standards in RE as identified in their inspection report (Key Stage 1 and 2); and
- (iii) following receipt of this action plan and appointment of a new Headteacher, the school will be contacted by the RE adviser and offered assistance.

7. UPDATE ON TRAINING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREED SYLLABUS

Members were informed of the INSET attendance figures for the agreed syllabus training and advised although primary training had already taken place, this would be repeated in early September. In addition, secondary training was due to start on 12th and 14th June.

Members noted the attendance rates and were reassured all schools within the borough had been invited. Feedback from individual schools to the training was positive and teacher representatives on the Committee echoed this opinion.

Mrs V. Thomas agreed to forward more details of the training and non-attendees to Mrs J. Lawrence (Assistant Director, Learning, Education and Leisure).

8. PRIMARY/SECONDARY PRESENTATION

Members received a copy of "The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education", to be implemented from September 2008. They were advised a CD Rom would be available in September 2008 and this would be circulated at the next meeting.

Mrs V. Thomas asked Members to note the contents of the syllabus and gave a practical demonstration from the Foundation Phase through to Key Stage 3 on the core unit 'Our World'.

Miss H. Bartley also gave a verbal presentation to illustrate the continuity of the topic at Key Stage 4 by informing Members of a typical lesson she would take and materials she would use.

Members noted the same themes running through all ages, but catered to different ages, and thanked Mrs Thomas and Miss Bartley for their presentations.

9. WASACRE - FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 14TH MARCH 2008 AT CARMARTHEN

Members reviewed a summary of the meeting of WASACRE held on 14th March 2008 at Carmarthen, whilst Mrs V. Thomas gave a verbal report on particular items of interest to the Committee.

Mrs V. Thomas also made reference to letters sent to members due to recent poor attendance figures. WASACRE had asked to ensure a full compliment of SACRE representatives attended its meetings in the future.

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

10. WASACRE - REPRESENTATION AT NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 26th June 2008 at Mold, Flintshire. SACRE's representatives were agreed as Mrs V. Thomas and Councillor D.M. Gray. It was agreed to contact Mr D. Brooks to see if he could also attend on behalf of the Committee.

11. WASACRE - AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Members reviewed the proposed amendments and confirmed they were happy with the changes. They asked Mrs V. Thomas to vote in favour of the changes at the next WASACRE meeting.

12. WASACRE - EXECUTIVE VOTING FOR THE PERIOD 2008-2010

Members discussed the nominations as detailed by WASACRE and the Committee agreed to vote for Councillor D.M. Gray in the first instance for Vice-Chairman. A vote would also be placed for Councillor D.M. Gray (if unsuccessful, in the role of Vice-Chairman) and Mrs V. Thomas in the role of Executive Members. Alternatively, the remaining vote would go to Mr D. Williams.

13. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Members discussed the report that confirmed despite agreement to accept up to two co-opted members to the Committee (at the meeting held on 28th February 2008), and having received interest from third parties, as yet neither the Chairman nor Committee Clerk had received any subsequent formal request.

The Committee agreed, in the absence of any such requests, that the Committee remain unchanged at this time.

In addition, Mrs J. Lawrence advised Members that Ms Ali Stevens, Association of School and College Leaders representative, had resigned with immediate effect. Mrs Lawrence advised she would seek nominations for a replacement.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) Mrs Jane Hutt AM (March 2008) – the Committee noted their dissatisfaction with the response received from Mrs Jane Hutt. Mrs V. Thomas advised the group that other SACREs had received a similar response and due to the collective dissatisfaction, WASACRE would now correspond with the Assembly Member on behalf of Welsh SACREs;
- (ii) The Salvation Army (March/April 2008) – Members noted the resignation of Captain Bev Womersley from the group and the Chairman thanked her for her assistance and contributions. The nomination of Captain Richard Waters as her replacement was accepted and it was agreed to send a letter to welcome him to the Committee;
- (iii) AQA - Religious Studies Specification Development (29th April 2008) – Members noted the correspondence received;
- (iv) Swansea County Borough's Annual SACRE Report (2006-2007) – Members noted the correspondence received;
- (v) Curriculum and Assessment Update, Issue 4, Spring 2008 – copies distributed at the meeting;
- (vi) RE News, Spring 2008, No. 80 – copies distributed at the meeting; and
- (vii) Reflections, Spring 2008 – Members noted the correspondence received.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RE Quest DVD and booklet

Members were advised a copy of the RE Quest DVD and booklet had been sent to all schools and copies were distributed at the meeting.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held at Chapel House, Watford Road, Caerphilly at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 25th September 2008 subject to confirmation of the venue's availability.

The meeting closed at 3.45 pm

Approved as a correct record, and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2008, they were signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN