



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – 25TH SEPTEMBER 2008

SUBJECT: FEEDBACK FROM WASACRE MEETING ON 26TH NOVEMBER 2008

REPORT BY: ESIS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report is to inform members of the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE's Annual General Meeting held on 26th June 2008 in Mold, Flintshire.

2. MATTERS ARISING

2.1 RE in the Foundation Phase

Clarification was received that amendments have been made to the Foundation Phase National Training Pack in order to reflect more accurately the place of RE. Concerns were raised that Foundation Phase trainers have only just been made aware of the amendments and teachers who have already received training have not been notified of the adjustments.

2.2 WASACRE letter

Letters have been sent to SACREs regarding 14-19 Networks and attendance at WASACRE meetings. Those SACREs who have not received the letters agreed to contact the secretary to receive copies.

2.3 Representation at WASACRE

Disappointment was expressed again 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. Copies of the letter will also be sent to Directors of Education and Council Leaders. It was also agreed to remind SACREs of the need to offer supply costs to enable teachers to attend WASACRE meetings.

2.4 Holocaust Memorial Day

Disappointment was expressed at the fact that the education pack produced by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust is not sent to schools in Wales. The resource pack is sent as a matter of course to all secondary schools in England. WASACRE agreed to write to the Welsh Assembly Government to request that the packs are translated and sent to schools in Wales.

3. MAIN ISSUES SUMMARY

3.1 Presentation: RE and the world of work

Members received a presentation from Gwenan Roberts and Islwyn Griffiths from Careers Wales on RE and the world of work. Information about two specific RE projects were outlined:

- A faith trail in Liverpool for primary and secondary teachers; and
- A day training course for secondary teachers in Ysbyty Gwynedd to meet and discuss issues and case study materials with doctors, pharmacists and clergy.

Other possible themes for future training opportunities were raised including:

- Equality and diversity in the workplace e.g. with industries, the NHS Trust and social care;
- Volunteering e.g. considering the work of the Voluntary Services Council and the role of volunteers in the NHS Trust; and
- Work involving the natural world e.g. with Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water or RSPB.

3.2 **Feedback from Executive Committee**

Information was received regarding the development of a new RE centre for Wales funded by St Mary's College trust at St Deiniol's Library, Hawarden. The Centre, which launches on 1st August 2008 will promote research and development designed to enhance quality in religious education.

The Welsh National Centre for Religious Education will remain in existence in Bangor and will be supported by both Bangor University and by Trinity College Carmarthen.

3.3 **Post 16 Conference**

WASACRE members were updated regarding the arrangements for the Post 16 Conference that will be held on October 4th at 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
- Performance by Sixth Form Pupils
- Report by Funky Dragon representatives
- Presentation by Pam Kelly, Detective Chief Inspector Dyfed Powys Police
- 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, Deputy Headteachers, Heads of Sixth Form and Curriculum Managers.

3.4 **Election of Officers**

- Tania ap Sion has been appointed WASACRE secretary.
- Cllr Michael Gray (Caerphilly SACRE) was elected vice chair of WASACRE.
- Vicky Thomas (Torfaen SACRE) and David Williams (Swansea SACRE) were elected to the executive committee.
- Eirian Pierce (Conwy SACRE) has been invited to join the Executive for two years to fill the vacancy on the Executive following the appointment of Tania ap Sion as Secretary.

3.5 **Treasurer's Report**

The Statements of Accounts for 2007/2008 was presented by the Treasurer. It was agreed that the annual subscription per SACRE for membership of WASACRE, during the 2008/2009 financial year, would be set at £373, which represents an uplift of 2.5% on the 2006/2007 subscription (£368).

3.6 **Constitution**

Amendments to the constitution were approved by all SACREs present at the meeting.

3.7 **Date of next meetings**

- 7th November - Monmouthshire
- 13th March - Bryngarw House, Bridgend
- Summer term meeting – Denbighshire
- Autumn term meeting – Rhondda Cynon Taf

4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

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