



## CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – 10TH DECEMBER 2008

**SUBJECT: FEEDBACK FROM WASACRE MEETING ON 7TH 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 meeting held on 7th November 2008 in Cwmbran.
- 1.2 The meeting began with a tribute to Hywel Evans, who died in September 2008. Hywel was a former secretary of WASACRE and his service to education and to RE was immense.

### **2. MATTERS ARISING**

#### **2.1 Estyn Forum**

Vicky Thomas confirmed that she was WASACRE's representative on this forum but had not yet been contacted about the date of the next meeting.

#### **2.2 Article in Yr Athro (UCAC)**

It was requested that WASACRE ask UCAC for an explanation and correction of incorrect statements made in Yr Athro in 2007.

#### **2.3 14-19 Networks**

Letters have been sent to SACREs regarding 14-19 Networks. No further comment - it is ongoing.

#### **2.4 Holocaust Education**

WASACRE had written to the Welsh Assembly Government to request that the HMD packs sent as a matter of course to all secondary schools in England are translated and sent to schools in Wales. The Minister has responded that she will take up this issue with the HMD Trust. This is one of the questions to be raised by WASACRE with the Minister in November 2008.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF MAY 2008**

- 3.1 WASACRE was informed that Circular 10/94 is to be revised and that a question about the status of this document would be raised with the Minister in November 2008.
- 3.2 The issue of the timing of the WASACRE Annual Executive Report is still ongoing and will be discussed again at the next WASACRE Executive meeting.
- 3.3 WASACRE was informed that Trinity College Carmarthen will now take over responsibility for articles in RE News. Any articles for the Spring Term to be submitted to Geraint Davies as soon as possible.

- 3.4 A note of thanks was given to Gavin Craigen and DCELLS for their hard work in organising and hosting the RE Post 16 conference in October 2008. A full account of the event is an item on the agenda for this meeting.

#### **4. MAIN ISSUES SUMMARY**

##### **4.1 Correspondence**

A list of correspondence received was included with the papers. A letter had been received from Christine Abbas regarding inter faith dialogue and this was for information only. It shall be referred to the Executive to discuss.

##### **4.2 Presentation 'Building Learning Power in RE' - by Laura Burridge and Caroline Neudegg (Cardiff LEA)**

Laura Burridge a teacher at Michaelston Community College, Ely, Cardiff outlined her work with pupils at her school that was funded by a GTCW grant. Building Learning Power is about helping young people become better learners. She outlined her action research with a Year 8 class and how the strategies used improved their learning. They developed better collaboration skills, improved their communication skills and dramatically improved their motivation and behaviour. She outlined some of the strategies she used including:

- Group activities
- Sharkline
- Collaborative games
- Learning Wall

##### **4.3 Presentation: Exemplification of the RE Framework – Denize Morris, Subject Officer for RE (DCELLS)**

Denize explained that as the exemplification of the Exemplar Framework had not yet been disseminated and that they were still awaiting permission to print then her presentation would be an overview of DCELLS guidance and an update on new resources commissioned by DCELLS.

- The 14-19 Guidance document – this is still in draft format and was circulated at the Post 16 conference in October. It will include a snapshot of good practice by looking at different models of delivering statutory RE.
- KS2-3 Guidance – copyright permissions have held up this document. It should be available in the New Year with a Conference to be held in the Spring. The guidance will demonstrate the three core skills and also exemplify standards by the use of 'best fit' level descriptions. Denize stressed the importance of exemplifying a range of work and not individual pieces of work.
- A number of projects identified through the Needs Identification Programme that reach fruition over the next few months include:
  1. Important Religious Questions a series by Gavin and Fiona Craigen and its accompanying DVD resource (KS2/3). This will be available in English and in Welsh.
  2. KS3 DVD about Asking the Big Questions. These include topics like Forgiveness/ Suffering/ Search for Meaning.
  3. BBC e clips for RE with the 14-19 year age range

##### **Resources due out**

- Foundation Phase Books
- Pack on the Slave Trade
- KS3 –Thinking Skills Pack

- GCSE/A Level resources material
- Supporting Assessment materials

#### **Future Plans**

- Guidance on RE in the Foundation Phase
- Good practice in Thinking Skills- DM is to visit schools exemplifying good practice. DM asked for names of schools to be submitted to her.
- Advert for a Chief Moderator and Deputy Moderator to lead the WJEC pilot 'Securing Teacher Assessment in RE at KS3'

#### **4.4 Report from the Executive Committee meeting held on 22nd September 2008**

WASACRE members were informed of the questions to be raised with Jane Hutt, Minister for Education when WASACRE meet her in November 2008.

The date of the Summer meeting of WASACRE was confirmed as June 24<sup>th</sup> 2009 at Llangollen by kind invitation of Denbighshire LEA.

#### **4.5 Showcase of Resources**

Gill Vaisey informed members of her new resources – Puddles and the Christmas Play and The Baby Birds.

Rheinallt Thomas informed members of the new resources from REMW including 'Amazing Lives'. A flyer advertising all the REMW resources was left for each SACRE representative.

#### **4.6 Inspiring RE-Engaging Young Adults in the 21<sup>st</sup> century - Post 16 Conference Summary and Evaluation by Gavin Craigen**

WASACRE members were informed of the purpose and arrangements for the Post 16 Conference that was held on October 4<sup>th</sup> at St David's College, Cardiff and St Richard Gwyn High School, Flint. The conference was jointly organised by WASACRE and DCELLS. The purpose of the conference was to raise the profile of RE at Post 16 in Wales and identify and proclaim the benefits of RE at Post 16. the Conference had suggested innovative ways that RE could 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 included:

- Key note speech by Jane Hutt, Minister for Education
- DCELLS representative Denize Morris to set the scene
- Presentation by Lat Blaylock of Dare to Engage to examine spiritual development
- Personal views of RE by two RS graduate students to also include a report of Funky Dragon viewpoints
- Presentation by Pam Kelly, Detective Chief Inspector Dyfed Powys Police
- Presentation by Professor Ian Russell on the need for people in healthcare who have an understanding of people's religious needs
- Three workshops: Spiritual Engagement materials, BBC e-clips and case studies from the DCELLS Guidance.

The conference although directed at Headteachers, deputy headteachers, heads of Sixth Form and curriculum managers was disappointing in the number of schools and colleges represented especially the very small number of Welsh medium schools and colleges.

It was noted that the conference was just the beginning and that RE at post 16 will be an ongoing area for development in order to improve practice.

WASACRE was asked to write to DCELLS expressing their thanks for all they have done to promote RE and also pressing for an input on this issue at future DCELLS conferences to ensure that all schools may benefit from such a superb package. It was proposed and seconded that a letter be sent to each LEA Education Director to agenda this as an item for

discussion at Headteachers Forums.

#### 4.7 **AOB**

4.7.1 Mairwenna and Gavin have given notice of their intent to resign from being WASACRE representatives on the RE Council for England and Wales. It was agreed that this would be referred to the Executive Committee with one representative being an Executive Officer. Gavin and Mairwenna were thanked for their invaluable contributions.

4.7.2 **Trinity College Carmarthen** - The Chair of WASACRE- Vaughan Salisbury, informed members that Trinity College Carmarthen had been inspected by Estyn and the RE department had been given Grade 1. He thanked all those who have been involved with the college as training providers, examiners and assessors and who have aided them in gaining this excellent grade.

#### 4.8 **Date of next meetings:**

- 13th March 2009 - Bryngarw House, Bridgend
- 24th June 2009 - Llangollen, Denbighshire
- 13th November 2009 - Council Chambers, Clydach Vale, RCT

### 5. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

Author: Vicky Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Advisor)