



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – 8TH JUNE 2009

SUBJECT: FEEDBACK FROM WASACRE MEETING ON 13TH MARCH 2009

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 13th March 2009 at Bryngarw House, Bridgend.
- 1.2 Members were welcomed to Bryngarw House by the Worshipful Mayor of the County Borough of Bridgend, Councillor Cleone Westwood.
- 1.3 As part of the reflection a tribute was led to Archdeacon John Lewis who died in December.

2. MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Estyn Stakeholders Forum

Rheinallt Thomas provided feedback from the Estyn Stakeholders Forum held on 3rd March 2009. Estyn's annual report for 2007-8 was presented during the meeting. Four challenges were outlined:

- Making sure that all learners can reach their full potential
- Meeting the needs of the bilingual learners
- Working together to make things better for learners
- Self evaluation and using information about learner preference.

2.2 UCAC – Collective Worship article

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

2.3 RE News

It was noted that Dr Geraint Davies, editor of RE News, is currently on long term sick leave. It was explained that Sali Roberts, secretary of REMW, would be editing the next edition of RE News.

2.4 RE Council

Tania ap Siôn has agreed to represent WASACRE on the RE Council for England and Wales. There will also be another representative.

3. MAIN ISSUES SUMMARY

3.1 Arrangements and Election of Officers

The Chair of WASACRE explained that he was relinquishing his role at the end of the academic year. The Vice Chair of WASACRE, Councillor Michael Grey (Caerphilly), will take

over the role of Chair at the AGM in the summer meeting. It was explained that SACREs will be voting on the role of vice chair and for two representatives for the executive committee at the AGM in the summer term meeting.

3.2 Godly Play

Peter Privett gave a presentation on 'Godly Play'. He outlined the background to the strategy and the structure of a 'Godly Play' activity that includes a welcome to the session, the lesson, wondering (thinking about the strategy), work time, feast and a blessing. An example of a 'Godly Play' strategy based on the nativity story was undertaken for members.

3.3 New GCSE Religious Studies Specification

Members received a presentation from Tudor Thomas, RS subject officer at WJEC, about changes to the GCSE specifications.

3.3.1 The main changes outlined: New specifications for Option A and B to be introduced in September 2009 with first assessment in Summer 2010. There will be no coursework in the new specifications.

3.3.2 Specification A (systematic study of a religion)

- Christianity
- Christianity through the gospels
- Roman Catholicism 1
- Roman Catholicism 2
- Christian Philosophy and Ethics (new option)
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Judaism

3.3.3 **Specification B: Option A and B** (a thematic study of some central questions and issues in human life and experience that explores the relevance of religious beliefs, values and traditions to these questions and issues)

Option A: Religion and Life Issues
Relationships; Is it fair?; Looking for Meaning; Our World.

Option B: Religion and Human Experience
Religion and Conflict; Religion and Medicine; Religious Expression: authority – Religion and State.

3.4 Presentation from Mike Strange of RE Quest

Mike Strange of RE Quest shared with members the additional materials created to support teachers of RE in teaching Christianity at both primary and secondary level. He demonstrated the 'Christianity Unpacked' triple CD ROM that is available in Welsh and English.

3.4.1 Power Points on the Christianity Unpacked CD ROM include:

- What's it like to be a Christian: Introduction, Bible, Infant Baptism, Infant Dedication, Believer's Baptism, Confirmation, Communion, Prayer, Belonging and Church Buildings
- Celebrations: The Nativity, Christmas, Lent and Holy Week, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Pentecost, Harvest, Weddings, Funerals, Pilgrimage, Symbols and Art
- Key Teachings of Jesus: Who is Jesus?, Right and Wrong, God Forgives, Forgiving, Revenge and Reconciliation, Greed and Giving, Prayer, Making a Difference, Miracles, Faith and Worry, Life after Death and Disciples

3.4.2 Copies of the CD ROM 'Christianity Unpacked' are available free to schools and Mike Strange made a plea to LEAs and their SACREs to indicate the number of copies they require so that they can issue them to schools.

3.4.3 New materials on the RE Quest website 'www.request.org.uk' was also demonstrated which included:

- A-Z of issues (KS3 and KS4)
- Questions People Ask
- New materials for KS1

3.4.4 Additional materials for KS3 are being developed in the near future.

3.5 Showcase

3.5.1 Books@Press – A catalogue of books to support the teaching of RE for the Early Years Curriculum was distributed.

3.5.2 Jewish Way of Life – Reference was made to this CD ROM that is available free of charge from the Jewish Board of Deputies. SACREs and individuals can request free copies of this CD ROM.

3.5.3 The World Faith Today Series at KS2 – Members were notified that the Teacher's Handbook for this series was now available.

3.6 Feedback from Executive Committee

3.6.1 Collective worship – It was noted that SACRE guidance relating to the legal changes to Collective worship at Post 16 has been sent to schools.

3.6.2 Holocaust issues – no response from the minister as yet in relation to the funding for the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme and the translation of resource packs for schools.

3.7 Meeting with Brian Gibbons, Minister for Equality and Social Justice

3.7.1 Feedback was received from a meeting held between representatives from WASACRE and Brian Gibbons, the Minister for Equality and Social Justice to discuss issues relating to community cohesion and the contribution that RE can make to issues relating to equality and social justice. An invitation has been extended to a representative from the department of Equality and Social Justice to present information regarding their work at a future WASACRE meeting. WASACRE has also offered to comment on any future document being produced by the department and take part in future consultations.

3.8 AOB

3.8.1 SACREs were reminded of their role in monitoring early teacher training. This was highlighted as being important in the light of reconfiguration of primary and secondary RE teacher training courses.

3.9 **Date of next meetings:**

- 24th June 2009 - Wild Pheasant Hotel, Llangollen, Denbighshire
- 13th November 2009 - Council Chambers, Clydach Vale, Rhondda Cynon Taf

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th March 2009