



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – 29TH SEPTEMBER 2009

SUBJECT: FEEDBACK FROM WASACRE MEETING ON 24TH JUNE 2009 IN LLANGOLLEN

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 24th June 2009 in Llangollen.

2. MATTERS ARISING

2.1 UCAC – Collective Worship article

The Chair noted that UCAC had published an amended article on Collective Worship in the 'Athro' (April 2009) acknowledging and correcting previous inaccuracies.

2.2 RE News

It was explained that the summer edition of RE News will be distributed by mid July. The Chair of WASACRE extended his thanks to Sali Roberts for all her work.

2.3 RE Post 16

Following the WASACRE / DCELLS conference in October 2008 it was noted that the 'Dare to Engage' pack had been sent to all secondary schools in Wales. Attention was drawn to the DCELLS RE Guidance document for 14-19 year olds that has also been sent to schools.

2.4 RE Council for England and Wales

Tania ap Sion and Gavin Craigen have agreed to represent WASACRE on the RE Council for England and Wales.

2.5 Revisions to 10/94

It was explained that a new non statutory guidance is available in England that outlines all the legal requirements in relation to RE. A proposal was accepted to establish a sub-group of the WASACRE executive to consider the guidance and to present a business plan to WAG with a view to producing a similar document for Wales.

2.6 Trinity College

It was noted that the Secondary RE PGCE course will move from Trinity to the Metropolitan University Swansea from September 2010 onwards. The Chair thanked all who had contributed to the course in Trinity College.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- 3.1 Tania ap Sion, WASACRE secretary, represented Wales as a panellist at the 'Local interfaith organisations and SACREs working together for understanding and community cohesion' conference in Coventry. Issues raised at the conference will be discussed at the next WASACRE executive meeting.
- 3.2 It was reported that Wales is to be included in a community cohesion project funded by the Department of Children, Family and Schools. The RE Council for England and Wales will be responsible for the development of the project. The aim of the project is to develop resources and offer training for RE teachers on issues relating to community cohesion. Further meetings will be held to explore how the project can be developed in Wales.

4. 'RE AND THE MORE ABLE AND TALENTED'

Members received a presentation by Vicky Barlow of Wrexham LA on 'RE and the More Able and Talented'. Several examples were provided of how RE can address and target the top 20% of the school population. In order to challenge the more able and talented pupils in RE teacher could:

- Use a variety of challenging questioning strategies to encourage pupils to explore religious phenomena and questions
- Plan extension tasks that encourage greater depth
- Explore authentic materials such as sacred texts
- Focus on the interpretation of symbol, metaphor text and story
- Teach pupils the terminology and language and language that they need to handle.

Reference was made to a number of case studies of more able and talented pupils being challenged across a number of key stages. They included:

- Engaging pupils with challenging issues e.g. Beth Shalom exhibition, Holocaust Memorial Day, Refugee Week
- Integrate the 'Spirited Arts' competition into classroom activities (<http://www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts>)
- Opportunities for peer education e.g. Croeso project
- Curriculum enrichment day e.g. to discuss a fundamental question, President for a Day workshop (Damarius)
- Opportunities beyond the classroom e.g. meeting members of faith communities, presentation to elected members on what they had accomplished in RE, partaking in the Tapestry of Life and Faith Festival.

Reference was made to a number of documents and resources to support the teaching of more able and talented pupils. They included:

1. A Curriculum of Opportunities (WAG).
2. Thinking Through RE -Vivienne Baumfield.
3. Meeting the Needs of Your Most Able Pupils: Religious Education - Dilwyn Hunt.
4. Meeting the needs of gifted and talented pupils in RE - Penny Hollander.

5. SHOWCASE OF RE RESOURCES

5.1 **People, Beliefs and Questions** (published by Tinopolis)

This pack, to support the teaching of RE in the Foundation Phase, contains four stand up big books:

- Lost but Found (The Lost Sheep story)
- If only I could have ... (Hindu story)
- Size doesn't matter (David and Goliath)
- This world belongs to ... (Creation story and the concept of stewardship)

The accompanying CD includes teacher's notes and images from the books. Price: £80. Available in Welsh and English.

- 5.2 **Stories to Remember Series** is published by RMEP to support the teaching of RE in the Foundation Phase. Each book in the series offers three stories from a world religion. Available in Welsh and English. Price: Big book: £15.99. Pupil book: £2.99.
- 5.3 **Places for Worship Series** is published by RMEP to support the teaching of RE in the Foundation Phase. The series explores key features of the places of worship for the six principal religions. Available in Welsh and English. Price: Big book: £15.99. Pupil book: £2.99.
- 5.4 **St Mary's Centre - RE-Bulletin:** The Centre will produce a newsletter every 6 weeks to highlight the major developments in the field of RE. SACREs were encouraged to make teachers aware of the newsletter.
- 5.5 **BBC e-clips** – due to be sent to schools in the summer term.
- 5.6 **Tinopolis DVD (KS3)** - to be launched in September.
- 5.7 **Jewish Cultural Centre London** – Handbook translated into Welsh. Available to school in Wales.

6. **KS3 TEACHER ASSESSMENT**

Gavin Craigen, the Chief Moderator of the WJEC KS3 securing Teacher Assessment, outlined the latest development regarding this project:

- Rachel Samuel, Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari has been appointed deputy chief moderator. A team of additional external moderator for RE will be appointed in the Autumn term.
- The chief and deputy moderators are currently talking to teachers about current practice in relation to assessment.
- Additional elements relating to RE will be added to the WJEC general guidance on KS3 assessment.
- The pilot scheme will begin in September 2009. Letters will be sent to LA to ask for a list of schools that might be interested in the pilot scheme. It is expected that there will be at least one school from each LA involved in the pilot scheme.
- Two dissemination conferences will be held:
 - 23rd October 2009 - Llandudno
 - 2nd November 2009 - Cardiff
- Teachers will need to demonstrate that they understand the level descriptions and show how they apply the levels to pupils' work.
- Evidence presented should reflect the three interrelated core skills of the Exemplar Framework for RE / Agreed Syllabus and the work should relate to the characteristics of the level descriptions.
- Evidence should largely be drawn from year 9.
- Schools will be asked to demonstrate performance at levels 4-7.

- Materials can be provided from a wide range of source e.g. departmental portfolio, individual pupil portfolio or from other sources that is appropriate to demonstrate understanding of levels. Sufficient evidence is needed to show the breadth of coverage and to exemplify the level characteristics.
- It is expected for departments to provide commentary / annotation for each level description outlining how pupils' work demonstrates the level.

Feedback will be presented to WASACRE following the pilot scheme.

7. REPORTS

7.1 WASACRE report 2008-09

The WASACRE report for 2008-9 was approved for circulation to all SACREs.

7.2 Treasurer's Report

The Statements of Accounts for 2008 – 2009 was presented by the Treasurer. It was agreed that the annual subscription per SACRE for membership of WASACRE, during the 2009 / 2010 financial year, would be set at £383, which represents an uplift of 2.5% on the 2007-08 subscription (£373).

8. WASACRE OFFICERS

- Cllr Michael Grey (Caerphilly SACRE) was elected chair of WASACRE.
- Rev Edward Evans (Bridgend SACRE) was elected vice chair of WASACRE.
- Rheinallt Thomas (Anglesey SACRE) and Brian Huw Jones (Denbighshire SACRE) were elected to the executive committee.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

- 13th November - Council Chamber, Clydach Vale, RCT
- 18th March 2010 - Swansea
- 24th June 2010 - Wrexham

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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