



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH
ON WEDNESDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY 2010 AT 2.00 PM**

PRESENT:

Councillor D.M. Gray - Chairman

Councillors:

D.G. Carter, Mrs D. Price

Representing Teacher Organisations:

Miss H. Bartley (ATL), Mrs B. Davies (UCAC)

Representing Religious Organisations:

Mr D. Brooks (Independent), Mrs E. Hawthorn (United Reformed Church), Mrs J. Jones (Church in Wales), Captain R. Waters (Salvation Army)

Together with:

V. Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Advisor), R. Thomas (Committee Services Officer)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Taylor, Mrs. A. Collins, Mrs. R. Potter. Mrs. N. Boardman (NUT), Mrs. C. Thompson (NAHT), Mrs S. Rivers (ASCL), Ms. K. Mathias (VALRETA) and Mrs. J. Lawrence (Assistant Director, Learning, Education and Inclusion)

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

The Chairman gave everyone belated New Year wishes and welcomed Mrs. Bethan Davies to her first meeting of the Caerphilly SACRE. He wished Mrs Kathy Mathias a speedy recovery from her spell in hospital.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Caerphilly SACRE meeting, held on 10th December 2009 (minute nos. 1 – 13, on page nos. 1 - 4) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

3. Committee Membership (Minutes No. 4)

Mr Brooks thanked Mrs R. Thomas for the data circulated to all members on the number of non-Christian faiths within the Caerphilly county borough.

4. Holocaust Memorial Day 2010 (Minute No. 5)

Members received an update on the WAG funded Lessons from Auschwitz Project. Five schools in CCBC were to visit Poland as part of the project - Heolddu Comprehensive; Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni; Bedwas High School; The College; and Rhymney Comprehensive School. Councillor D. Carter advised the Royal British Legion may be able to offer financial support, and would investigate this. Mrs H. Bartley advised a group of pupils from Newbridge School would be visiting Auschwitz later this year.

5. Inspection Reports Analysis (Minute No. 9)

Members were advised a response had been received from Bedwas Junior School and would be discussed later in the meeting, as per the agenda.

6. WJEC PILOT KS3 MODERATION EXERCISE

The report informed Members of the moderation process and the schools involved in the pilot process. Newbridge School is a pilot school.

Members were advised the pilot scheme began in September 2009. As a result, teachers will need to demonstrate that they understand the level descriptions and show how they apply the levels to pupils' work. It is expected for departments to provide commentary / annotation for each level description, outlining how pupils' work demonstrates the level. With an appropriate focus on religious beliefs, teachings and practices in the tasks set.

Members were asked to note that it is anticipated that feedback will be presented to schools, WASACRE and SACREs in Summer/ Autumn 2010.

The Committee discussed the report and Miss H. Bartley invited the committee to meet at Newbridge School, to give a presentation on the moderation process at the Summer meeting of SACRE.

7. THE RESILIENCE PROJECT : UPDATE

The report informed Members of the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) sponsored project entitled REsilience. The project is designed to support the government's

All Wales Community Cohesion Strategy. The contract for the project was secured by the RE Council and it runs from 15th June 2009 to 31st March 2011.

Offices highlighted the broad aims and objectives of the project and advised members that a pilot of the strategy will run in 7 schools across Wales. Members reiterated concerns that some of the WAG initiatives could be more political than educational, but welcomed Resilience and its support to teachers dealing with controversial issues. Schools themselves were to identify the need for any assistance. WAG funding is initially proposed until 31st March 2011.

Members discussed and noted the contents of the report.

8. ESIS WEBSITE

The report informed Members of the materials available to schools on the Education and School Improvement Service (ESIS) website (www.esis.org.uk).

The website was launched in December 2009 to enhance its support for local authorities and schools, providing access to information relating to ESIS services, inset courses and information about published resources. There is also a 'good practice' section where teachers share examples of effective learning strategies and thinking skills.

Members were advised that the website was still in its infancy and were encouraged to send any items to ESIS for consideration for entry onto the website.

Members noted the contents of the report.

9. MEMBERSHIP VACANCIES

It was noted Mrs Bethan Davies of Ysgol y Llawnt, Rhymney was the new Undeb Cenedlaethd Athrawon Cwyr (UCAC) representative on the Committee. She replaces Mrs. Sian John, who retired from teaching at Ysgol Gymraeg, Caerphilly last year.

Following Carolyn Cook's employment outside of Caerphilly county borough, officers had been in contact with two representatives from the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT). Due to work commitments, one had been forced to withdraw his interest, but Mrs Diane Williams of Ystrad Mynach Primary had supplied a verbal pen portrait for consideration. This was read to the committee, who were happy with Mrs Williams's active role in religious education and enrichment exercises.

Members welcomed Mrs Davies to the committee and agreed to invite Mrs Williams to the next meeting of the committee.

10. WASACRE - ISSUES

The draft minutes of WASACRE's meeting of 13th November 2009 at Rhondda Cynon Taf was distributed to members during the meeting.

At the last Caerphilly SACRE meeting, Members were advised of the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE at its Autumn meeting in Rhondda Cynon Taff. The tabled report updates Members on the presentation by Joanne Glenn, Head of the Community Cohesion Strategy Unit of the Welsh Assembly Government - the 'All Wales Community Cohesion Strategy'.

Both Caerphilly SACRE and WASACRE Members raised serious concerns regarding the draft strategy especially in relation to the projects being considered by the Education Cohesion Programme Board. There will now be a future meeting between Denize Morris, RS subject officer at DCELLS and Joanne Glenn to discuss further aspects of the All Wales Community Cohesion Strategy.

Members noted the contents of the report.

11. WASACRE - REPRESENTATION AT NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be held on 18th March 2010 in Swansea. Caerphilly SACRE's representatives were agreed as Councillor D.M. Gray, Mrs V. Thomas, Captain R. Waters and Mr D. Brooks.

12. WASACRE - NOMINATIONS TO THE WASACRE EXECUTIVE

Members were reminded that traditionally each year at this time, two places are available on the Association's Executive Committee, and the committee are asked to nominate an Executive member. The terms of office for Mary Parry (Carmarthenshire) and Eirian Pierce (Conwy) come to an end in the summer.

This year, as Councillor D.M. Gray is Chairman of both Caerphilly SACRE and WASACRE, WASACRE's constitution dictates that Caerphilly SACRE will not be able to nominate an Executive member.

The Committee noted however that Caerphilly SACRE was already well represented by Councillor D.M. Gray and Mrs V. Thomas (who attends for Torfaen).

13. CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Bedwas Junior School; Members noted the contents of the report and appendix. It was agreed to visit the school later in the year, at a date to be agreed with the Headteacher.
- (2) Religious Education Movement Wales (REMW) - Members noted the contents of the report and agreed to recommend the cessation of support REMW, for the reasons given at the meeting.
- (3) REflections, Winter 2009 - Copies were distributed at the meeting. Members noted the correspondence received.
- (4) Religious Education News, Winter 2009, No. 85 - Copies were distributed at the meeting. Members noted the correspondence received.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (1) Monmouthshire SACRE Annual Report 2008-2009 – Members noted the report and that a copy of the report was available from the authority's resource centre.
- (2) Swansea SACRE Annual Report 2008-2009 – Members noted the report and that a copy of the report was available from the authority's resource centre.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members were advised that the meeting scheduled for Monday 14th June 2010 at the United Reform Church, Caerphilly had had to be rearranged. The next meeting will now be held at Newbridge School at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 9th June 2010.

The meeting closed at 2.57 p.m.

Approved as a correct record, and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2010, they were signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN