



## CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – 9TH JUNE 2010

**SUBJECT: FEEDBACK FROM WASACRE MEETING ON 18TH MARCH 2010 IN  
SWANSEA**

**REPORT BY: ESIS**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report is to inform members of the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE's meeting held on 18th March 2010 in Swansea.

### 2. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

- 2.1 Members were welcomed to Swansea by the Worshipful Mayor of Swansea, Councillor Alan Lloyd.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

#### 3.1 Interfaith Council

It was explained that the NASACRE questionnaire on SACREs and interfaith organisations had been adapted by members of the executive committee. The questionnaire will be translated and sent to all SACREs.

#### 3.2 Estyn

It was noted that WASACRE had written to Estyn to request for inspectors to continue to report on schools' fulfilment of statutory requirements (in relation to Collective Worship and RE). A letter had been received from Anne Keene noting that the failure to comply would be taken seriously. It was agreed that a delegation from NAPfRE and WASACRE would request a meeting with Iwan Roberts, Estyn, to discuss issues relating to RE and Collective Worship. An appropriate letter of response would be sent following the meeting.

#### 3.3 Pam Kelly, Detective Superintendent, Dyfed Powys Police

A presentation was received from Pam Kelly, Detective Superintendent with Dyfed Powys Police on the importance of RE to the world of work. The cases of Stephen Lawrence and Victoria Climbié were described as pivotal to the police force and had emphasised the importance of understanding different faiths, cultures and religions. She provided examples of case studies emphasising the importance for members of the police force to be aware of different faiths and culture. The importance of respect for race, diversity, culture and faith on public sector working was highlighted.

### **3.4 Learning outside the classroom: places of worship.**

A presentation was received from Norma Glass on the work of Swansea Synagogue in providing an opportunity for teachers and pupils to be informed of the beliefs and practices of the Jewish faith. Norma outlined the various activities that pupils were offered during their visit to Swansea Synagogue. A clip was shown of primary school pupils obviously enjoying a simulation of a Jewish wedding. Information about the Synagogue is also available on the Synagogue website: <http://www.avisittoswanseasynagogue.co.uk/>

### **3.5 RE Festival**

A draft PowerPoint was shared with members providing information about the RE festival that is planned for March 2011. The PowerPoint is being adapted and translated into Welsh before being sent to all SACREs. The aim of the festival is to celebrate RE and to raise the profile of the subject on a local and national level. Copies of the RE festival flyers will be emailed to all SACRE clerks. Draft pages of the RE festival website was also demonstrated ([www.celebratingre.org](http://www.celebratingre.org)). It was agreed that the WASACRE spring term meeting would be an appropriate place to launch the festival in Wales. WASACRE also agreed to fund £1,500 to support translation work for the festival.

## **4. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **4.1 WASACRE Executive Committee**

It was noted that David Williams (Swansea SACRE) had to stand down as a member of the executive committee. It was explained that the Rev Eldon Phillips (Chair of Swansea SACRE) would replace him on the Executive Committee until Summer 2011.

### **4.2 Community Cohesion Board**

It was noted that following the presentation on Community Cohesion by Joanne Glenn (November 2009) WASACRE had been offered the opportunity to be represented on the community cohesion education programme board. The executive will discuss the WASACRE representation at the next meeting. It was noted that Carys Thomas will represent WASACRE at the first meeting on 29th March.

## **5. RESILIENCE PROJECT**

5.1 A presentation was received on the REsilience (AtGyfnertu) project by Gavin Craigen and Denize Morris. REsilience is a DCSF sponsored project designed to support the government's community cohesion strategy. The contract for the project was secured by the RE Council (REC) and it runs from 15th June 2009 till 31st March 2011. DCSF and DCELLS have agreed the inclusion of Wales in the project.

5.2 The aims of the project is to improve RE teachers' skills in facilitating pupils' critical thinking around controversial issues, particularly those that relate to religion, belief, ethnicity, negative stereotyping and religious extremism. The project also aims to improve RE teachers' subject knowledge in the areas of community cohesion and violent extremism by focusing on a deeper understanding of the theological teachings on issues such as conflict, respect appreciation and understanding of different religions and beliefs.

5.3 Five schools in Wales have agreed to be part of the initial pilot (Summer 2010). They will complete a self-evaluation questionnaire on their current position in regard to the management and teaching of controversial issues. These schools will have access to a mentor who will support them in identifying needs and creating an appropriate action plan. The mentor will also signpost to department the appropriate 'Gateway' documents. Following

a review of the pilot materials further training will be undertaken with more schools from September 2010 onwards.

## **6. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **6.1 WASACRE website**

Members agreed to the funding and the development a WASACRE website. It was noted that a website would raise the effectiveness and profile of WASACRE. The Treasurer noted that there was sufficient funding for the set up and maintenance of the website.

### **6.2 Lessons from Auschwitz**

It was noted that 166 students from Wales had been part of the Lessons from Auschwitz visit in March 2010. WASACRE hoped that the programme would continue on an annual basis.

## **7. SHOWCASE OF RE RESOURCES**

### **7.1 REMW**

7.1.1 **Acts of collective Worship** - REMW has produced a list of KS3 Welsh Medium acts of collective worship available on [www.assemblies.org.uk](http://www.assemblies.org.uk). REMW funds their translation. The list is to be sent to every Welsh medium secondary school in Wales.

7.1.2 **RE Ideas** - Copies of the RE Ideas for this term on the theme of 'Friendship' was distributed to those present. It was noted that these are sent to schools in LA that subscribe to REMW.

7.1.3 **RE Today** – two more Welsh language translations will appear shortly in the *Exploring a Theme* series.

7.1.4 **'Amazing Lives'** - is an adaptation of a Welsh language resource which contributes to the curriculum Cymreig.

## **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

- 24th June 2010 - Glyndwr University, Wrexham
- 26th November 2010 - Penallta House, Caerphilly

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

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