



## CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – 29TH SEPTEMBER 2010

**SUBJECT: FEEDBACK FROM WASACRE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 24TH 2010 AT  
WREXHAM**

**REPORT BY: ESIS**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform SACRE of the discussions and deliberations at the WASCRE meeting held on June 24th 2010

### **2. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

- 2.1 Members were welcomed to Wrexham by the Worshipful Mayor of Wrexham and by pupils of Eyton Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled School, Wrexham.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

#### **3.1 St Giles Centre for Religious Education and Faith Development, Wrexham**

A presentation was received from Gavin Craigen, Executive Director of the new St Giles Centre for Religious Education and Faith Development. Gavin Craigen outlined the three broad aims for the work of the centre:

- Working with LA and Dioceses to promote high quality RE in Church and state schools in Wrexham and beyond.
- Working with the Dioceses and local Ecumenical partners to help the church to be more effective in its work with young people.
- To develop resources to enable the historic building of St Giles to be used to teach young people about Jesus.

There will be three streams to the work of the Centre:

- RE Core: developing curriculum developments in relation to RE and to support visits to the church.
- The Faith Development Stream: focusing on the church community, children and young people and the local community.
- Wider Links aspect: The centre will be involved in joint collaboration with St Mary's Centre and Glyndwr University. There will also be local links with the LA, local churches and Trusts as well as other links with in Wales and the UK.

Mention was made of the partnership with Wrexham Local Authority in the shared appointments of a school improvement officer (8-14) and two part time advisory teachers. Another collaboration was with the St Mary's Centre, Hawarden and this would enable the Centre to contribute further to curriculum development and contribute to research aspects and to 'Review' and the 'RE bulletin'.

Artists impression of the exciting building project was shared with members. The Centre will be officially launched on March 12th by the Archbishop of Wales, Barry Morgan.

### **3.2 Spirituality and the Foundation Phase**

A presentation was received from Sam Jessen, the advisory teacher for RE in Wrexham and a teacher in Eyton Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled School, Wrexham on what is spirituality and how can we promote spirituality in the classroom. Images were shared of spirituality areas developed in different schools and examples noted on how schools could develop a spirituality area/corner to develop a particular class theme e.g. artefacts, religious texts, images, relevant books, music, soft toys, photographs.

### **3.3 Celebrating RE – March 2011**

Members were informed about the Celebrating RE website ([www.celebratingre.org](http://www.celebratingre.org)). It was noted that the website includes further ideas and information for schools on how to celebrate the festival during March 2011. From September LA, schools and SACRE will be able to highlight and advertise special events in relation to the festival. From September the website will also give details of a range of competitions that schools can enter. It was agreed that WASACRE would sponsor a regional competition for Wales. The competition would be open to all schools in Wales with three different categories: Foundation Phase, Junior and Secondary. A cash prize to be used for the purchase of RE resources would be presented to the winning entry for each category. Details for the competition would be available on the festival website and sent to SACREs.

### **3.4 Feedback from WASACRE Executive Committee**

Following a meeting with Iwan Roberts, Estyn it was agreed that a letter would be sent to all SACREs reminding them of their statutory duty to monitor the provision of collective worship and religious education in their schools. The possibility of including RE and collective worship as part of future thematic reviews by Estyn is to be raised during the annual meeting with the Minister.

## **4. SHOWCASE OF RE RESOURCES**

The Puddles Series, two new publications will be available shortly:

- A Wedding Day Wish for Puddles
- Puddles and the Happy Easter Day.

Soft toys will also be available for Arthur and the Kittens.

## **5. REMW**

### **5.1 RE Today**

Two more Welsh language translations are available in the *Exploring a Theme* series:

- Ymchwilio i Thema: Codau byw
- Ymchwilio i Thema: Dathliadau

### **5.1.1 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). The list is to be sent to every Welsh medium secondary school in Wales.

### **5.1.2 RE Ideas**

Copies of the RE Ideas for this term on the theme of 'Spirituality' will be sent to schools in LA that subscribe to REMW.

### **5.1.3 'Amazing Lives'**

Is an adaptation of a Welsh language resource which contributes to the curriculum Cymreig.

### **5.1.4 DCELLS Pack on Slavery**

This cross-curricular pack will be sent to every RE / History / Geography and PSE department.

## **6. WASACRE REPORT 2009-10**

6.1 The WASACRE report for 2009-10 was approved for circulation to all SACREs.

## **7. TREASURER'S REPORT**

7.1 The Statements of Accounts for 2009 – 2010 was presented by the Treasurer. It was agreed that the annual subscription per SACRE for membership of WASACRE, during the 2010 / 2011 financial year, would be set at £393, which represents an uplift of 2.5% on the 2009-10 subscription (£383).

## **8. WASACRE OFFICERS**

8.1 Mary Parry (Carmarthenshire SACRE) and Dafydd Treharne (Vale of Glamorgan SACRE) were elected to the executive committee.

## **9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

9.1 November 26th 2010 - Caerphilly;  
March 2nd 2011- Vale of Glamorgan- RE Festival launch.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

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