



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – 6TH DECEMBER 2010

**SUBJECT: THE WASACRE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 26TH 2010 AT
CAERPHILLY**

REPORT BY: ESIS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform SACRE of the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE.

2. SUMMARY

The issues were as follows:

2.1 Introductions And Welcome

Members were welcomed to Caerphilly by Cllr James Fussell, the Worshipful Mayor of Caerphilly, and by Mrs Sandra Aspinall, the Director of Education and Leisure.

2.2 NGFL Cymru

A presentation was received from Ian Morgan, Deputy Director of the National Grid for Learning Cymru. Ian Morgan outlined the aims of NGfL in:

- Creating interesting resources to engage pupils.
- Supporting continuing professional development.
- Supporting education policy and foci.

The website was demonstrated to members as well as examples of RE projects currently in development.

2.3 Project Updates

a) Celebrating RE

It was explained that the launch of the RE festival in Wales will be held during the Spring Term meeting of WASACRE at Stanwell Comprehensive School in the Vale of Glamorgan. The launch will include an input from local primary and secondary schools, a panel of faith representatives, a demonstration by India Dance Wales, contribution by Roger Royle and a performance of the national song. The festival will be officially launched by the Archbishop of Wales, Barry Morgan. **SACREs are asked to request tickets from the WASACRE secretary by January 31st 2011.**

b) WASACRE Website

The WASACRE website was demonstrated by Dr Tania Ap Sion. The aims of the website are to:

- make the work of WASACRE more accessible to SACREs
- publicise the work of WASACRE.

The website includes the following sections:

- **Welcome page** – outlines the aims of WASACRE
- **About us** – information about WASACRE and the Executive Committee
- **Projects and events** – reference to WASACRE involvement in ongoing projects such as REsilience and Celebrating RE
- **Publications** – provides downloadable copies of agreed syllabi, SACRE Annual Reports, presentations to SACRE and relevant WAG documents. A copy of the SACRE handbook 'So you're joining your local SACRE' will also be available to download.

The website will also provide the relevant papers for all WASACRE meetings as well as an archive of past papers.

c) **REsilience**

The aim 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. The project is being run by the RE Council (REC) and it is supported by DfE and DCELLS. Five schools in Wales were part of the initial pilot (Summer 2010). SACREs were asked to encourage schools in Wales to register for the project by visiting the REsilience website: www.re-silience.org. The target for REsilience in Wales is to have 40 schools involved in the project.

2.4 Face To Faith

A presentation was received from Jo Malone, a Face to Faith Facilitator on the educational programme funded by the Tony Blair Faith Foundation. Face to Faith is a school project that engages students of different faiths and none in inter and intra-faith dialogue through the use of video conferencing. It is designed to encourage young people to recognise the similarities between faiths and to respect and deal with the differences between diverse and sometimes conflicting worldviews. The programme is aimed at 11-16 year olds. Currently schools in the UK, US, Canada, India, Pakistan, Singapore, Indonesia, Lebanon, Palestinian Territories, Jordan, UAE, Egypt, Philippines, Israel and Australia are involved. One school from Wales is involved in the project and they are hoping to attract further interest from schools in Wales.

2.5 Correspondence

- a) The Welsh Assembly Government's Holocaust Memorial Day service will be held at Cardiff City Hall on the 27th January 2011.
- b) Holocaust Memorial Day Trust will be happy to promote any events that are being arranged by SACREs to commemorate HMD on its website.

2.6 The Valleys Regional Equality Council (VALREC)

A presentation was received by Darren Ralph on the work of the Valleys Regional Equality Council. It was explained that VALREC have a service level agreement with the counties of Bridgend, Caerphilly, RCT, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent and also work closely with Parc Prison. Examples of the work undertaken by VALREC were outlined e.g. its training programme on religion and belief and work on issues relating to community cohesion and the Prevent agenda (counter terrorism strategy), hate crime and forced marriages.

2.7 Feedback From WASACRE Executive Committee

- a) The annual meeting with the Minister has been postponed from January until March 23rd 2011.
- b) The possibility of including RE and collective worship as part of future thematic reviews has been raised with Estyn. However, members were informed that the thematic reviews were currently on hold due to the current financial climate. It was agreed that further clarification will be sought at the meeting with the Minister in March 2011.

3. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

2nd March 2011:

WASACRE meeting and launch of the Celebrating RE festival.

Venue: Stanwell Comprehensive School, Vale of Glamorgan.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That SACRE note the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Agenda WASACRE 26th November 2010

Appendix 2 Papers WASACRE 26th November 2010