



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – 14TH FEBRUARY 2011

SUBJECT: MONITORING OF RE AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN SCHOOLS

REPORT BY: ESIS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To discuss SACRE's monitoring role.
- 1.2 SACRE has a role in monitoring collective worship and standards in religious education. Previously this was done by examining Estyn inspection reports. However, with the absence of subject reports under the new Framework there will be less evidence from Estyn reports to monitor standards in RE.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 How can we monitor standards in RE in schools?

- As schools become more self-evaluative and adept at writing self-evaluation reports and as internal structures and systems for monitoring become more systematic and robust then more constructive critical analysis by schools may now be in place. SACRE could consider the possibility of monitoring through the school self evaluation report during the inspection cycle (i.e. that would mean that a school would provide the LA with a self-evaluation once every six years. This could be flexible enough to be pre or post inspection). An overview of the SE process to be presented to SACRE
- The National Advisory Panel for RE (NAPfRE) has met to discuss this issue with the intention to have more commonality in monitoring procedures by the LA's of Wales. They have drawn up a pro forma for SACRE's to discuss.
- That SACRE support WASACRE in taking up this issue of the monitoring role of SACRE in their annual meeting with the Minister for Education (March 2011) and await any outcomes from that meeting.

2.2 How can we monitor collective worship in schools?

- There will still be sections of the Estyn inspection reports that will give us information about non fulfilment of statutory requirements and also the provision and quality of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We can continue to use this information to monitor aspects of collective worship.
- SACRE could consider the possibility of monitoring collective worship through the school self-evaluation report during the inspection cycle.
- Continue to capitalise on the opportunities offered by schools to host SACRE meetings and, where possible, for members to attend acts of collective worship so that they have first hand experience of collective worship in schools.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To consider the arrangements to be made by SACRE to monitor standards and provision in RE.

- 3.2 To consider the arrangements to be made by SACRE to monitor provision and quality of collective worship.
- 3.3 SACRE to consider the pro- forma as a useful tool to monitor standards in RE.
- 3.4 To ascertain the response of head teachers to the process of monitoring RE and collective worship, including consideration of the manageability of using the suggested pro-forma, and feedback on any suggestions for improvement.

Author: Vicky Thomas, ESIS RE Advisor