



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – 14TH JUNE 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.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 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.

How can standards in RE in schools be monitored?

- 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 responses to the SE process to be presented to SACRE.
- To consider the National Advisory Panel for RE (NAPfRE) pro forma as a useful tool for monitoring and also to provide more commonality in monitoring procedures by the LA's of Wales. This can be adapted by SACRE's to suit their needs.
- For Estyn to conduct a thematic review of RE. WASACRE took up this issue at their annual meeting with the Minister for Education (March 23rd 2011). **Response** - *The Minister will check what WAG has asked Estyn to include in its thematic review for the forthcoming year. If RE had not been included, he would support RE's inclusion in Estyn's new remit letter.*

How can collective worship in schools be monitored?

- There will still be sections of Estyn inspection reports that will give information about non fulfilment of statutory requirements and also the provision and quality of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. SACRE's 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 and provision and quality of collective worship in the light of feedback from some Headteachers.(see letter/ pro forma)

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Appendices:
Appendix 1 Letter/Pro Forma