



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT CROSSKEYS METHODIST CHURCH,
CROSSKEYS ON MONDAY, 14TH JUNE 2011 AT 1:30PM**

PRESENT:

Councillor D.M. Gray – Chairman
Councillor J. Taylor - Vice Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs A. Blackman, Mrs A. Collins, Mrs R. Potter

Representing Teacher Organisations:

Mrs C. Thompson (NAHT)

Representing Religious Organisations:

Mr D. Brooks (Independent), Mrs E. Hawthorn (United Reformed Church) and Mrs J. Jones (Church in Wales)

Together with:

V. Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Advisor) and E. Sullivan (Committee Services Officer)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Carter, Miss Helen Bartley (ATL), Mrs N.L. Boardman (NUT), Mrs B. Davies (UCAC), Mrs K. Mathias (VALRETA), Mrs S. Rivers (ASCL), Mrs D. Williams (NASUWT), Mr T. Crosse (St Helens RC Primary School), Captain Richard Walters (Salvation Army), Mr Darren Ralph (VALREC) and Mrs J. Lawrence (Assistant Director Learning, Education and Inclusion).

ACT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP THE CHILDREN AND STAFF YSGOL PENALLTAU

Mrs Andrea Woods, Headteacher Ysgol Penalltau, welcomed Members to the school and to the afternoon's act of collective worship.

The assembly's theme was 'Trust' and included the story of Moses crossing the Red Sea, Members were pleased to see the pupils actively participate in the story telling and how they enthusiastically joined in with the discussions and final prayers.

The Chair thanked Mrs Woods for her warm welcome and for allowing SACRE to share in their act of the collective worship.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

The Chair opened proceedings with a poem by Helen Steiner Rice entitled 'Brighten The Corner Where You Are'.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the meeting.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Caerphilly SACRE meeting, held on 14th February 2011 (minute nos. 1 - 13 on page nos. 1 - 5) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

The Chair of SACRE Councillor D.M. Gray thanked Members for all their support during his period as Chair of WASACRE.

3. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2011-12

The report provided Members with the schedule of SACRE meetings for 2011-2012. The meeting dates were confirmed as:-

- Thursday, September 29th 2011 - 2:00pm - Heolddu Comprehensive School
- Monday, December 12th 2011 - 2:00pm - Bedwas Junior School (1.30pm for act of collective worship)
- Tuesday, February 20th 2012 - 2:00pm - Bargoed Baptist Church
- Thursday, June 21st 2012 - 2:00pm - Beulah Baptist Church, Abertridwr

Members noted that Heolddu Comprehensive School had confirmed that they were involved in the REsilience project and a presentation on the schools involvement with the project would be part of September's meeting.

Bedwas Junior School have confirmed that they would host December's meeting and Members looked forward to observing a Christmas assembly.

Councillor J. Taylor and Councillor D. Carter were thanked for offering venues for the spring and summer term meetings.

Members noted the schedule of meetings for 2011-2012.

4. ANALYSIS OF INSPECTION REPORTS

The report provided Members with a synopsis of the Caerphilly Primary Schools Inspection Reports (Autumn 2010-Spring 2011).

During Autumn 2010 and Spring 2011, eight Caerphilly schools were inspected, they included one infant school, one junior school and six primary school. Members noted that no secondary or special schools were inspected during this period.

Comments in relation to spiritual development were evident in six inspection reports and all schools were fulfilling their statutory requirements. Reference to the quality of collective worship was mentioned in four inspections reports and these were confirmed for Members information.

In conclusion the ESIS RE Advisor was pleased to advise that there was nothing adverse to report.

Members noted the contents of the report and were pleased to note the positive comments on quality for Nant y Parc, Penllwyn Primary, Pontlottyn Primary and Ty Sign Primary.

5. SACRE MONITORING OF RE AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN SCHOOLS

The report considered how SACRE's role in monitoring collective worship and standards in Religious Education could be maintained under the new Estyn Inspection Framework given that there will be less evidence from the Estyn reports.

Mrs Thomas confirmed the use of a pro-forma as discussed in previous meeting had been discussed with Jill Lawrence and it was agreed to ascertain the views of some headteachers/SMT to the pro-forma. This took place with two secondary schools and they had both been extremely supportive of the document and advised that they would be happy to complete it on an annual basis. The next step would be to see if the LA would include this SACRE monitoring within their own cycle of school self evaluation. Further discussions are to take place.

Discussion with a primary head was positive but an annual cycle would not be practical for primary schools and it was envisaged that the pro-forma would be circulated to tie in with the Estyn Inspection Period, when schools would already be in the process of writing reports, this could be the current six year cycle or alternatively mid term - equating to a 3-year cycle.

Members noted the positive feedback and agreed that the pro-forma should now be circulated more widely amongst other Head Teachers in order to gain their opinion and approval for the document. It was agreed that this should be shared with primary and secondary Head Teachers at their respective forums in order to encourage discussion and identify any areas of development or support that might be required before the document is finalised. Mrs Thomas agreed to discuss this with the Local Authority and would provide an update on progress at the next meeting.

Mrs Thomas emphasised that the pro-forma could be completed electronically and was more than a tick box exercise as its format encouraged SMT/teachers to include as much information as possible.

Members agreed that the completion of the form on a 3-yearly cycle did not seem onerous and felt that this would also be an acceptable time frame for primary schools.

Mrs Thomas drew Members attention to the response of the Minister for Education to WASACRE's request for Estyn to include RE in its thematic review for the forthcoming year and was encouraged to note that the Minister's response was if RE had not been included in the current Estyn remit then the Minister would support RE's inclusion in Estyn's new remit.

6. REVIEW OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN CAERPHILLY SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The report outlined the review of Religious Education in Caerphilly Secondary Schools for the academic year 2010-2011.

Mrs Thomas confirmed the grade criteria for Members information and advised that 14 schools had been reviewed with 20 lessons observed. The analysis of the review showed that 85% of lessons observed were graded excellent or good for teaching and learning and 85% of lessons were graded excellent/good for assessment for learning, with only 1 lesson graded as unsatisfactory.

Members were advised that the outcome of the review would be shared with Department Heads and noted the review's recommendation to make KS3 moderation a priority.

Members noted the contents of the report and were pleased to note the excellent achievement by the Secondary Schools of Caerphilly.

7. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: GUIDANCE FOR KEY STAGES 2 AND 3

The report updated SACRE on the materials available that help teachers at KS2 and KS3 to implement the revised curriculum and its associated assessment arrangements.

Copies of the Guidance for Key Stages 2 and 3 (DCELLS/WAG) were circulated for Members information. The key messages for planning, learning and teaching in religious education were outlined and Members noted that both documents had been sent out to all schools and were available as a PDF on an accompanying CD ROM.

Members noted the contents of the report.

8. INSET 2011-2012

The report detailed the dates of the ESIS INSET Courses running from Summer 2011-Spring 2012.

Mrs Thomas confirmed that the dates listed had been circulated to all schools and would be held at Ty Dysgu. Members were advised that Cross-Curricular Courses, Heads of Department Seminars and a Collective Worship Course would also be offered by ESIS.

Members noted the ESIS INSET Course dates for 2011-2012.

9. RE FESTIVAL MARCH 2011

The report provided Members with feedback from the RE Festival Events of 2011. The aim of the National RE Festival of England and Wales was to celebrate RE and to raise the profile of the subject on a local and national level.

RE Festival Launch

Members were shown a DVD of highlights from the RE Festival Launch held at Stanwell Comprehensive School in Penarth. Over 120 people and pupils attended the Launch including representatives from different faith communities. The keynote speaker The Archbishop of Wales, Barry Morgan, spoke very eloquently about the role and purpose of religious education and the contribution it can make to the curriculum in schools.

Central South Consortia Event Ty Dysgu (ESIS)

This event was attended by over 200 teachers, pupils and SACRE members and included a number of presentations and performances from primary and secondary schools in the consortium. Caerphilly schools taking part included Cwrt Rawlin Primary and St Gwlydys Primary who performed dance routines on the themes of the Chinese New Year and the Genesis Story of Creation. Mrs Thomas confirmed that a DVD of the event would be available for Members to view at the next meeting.

Caerphilly Contribution to the National Competition

Members were advised that two primary schools entered the national competition and their entries were judged by a delegation from SACRE. The two entries received were from Hendre Junior School and St James' Primary School. The winning entry for Caerphilly was from St James Primary School and was forwarded on the WASACRE to compete in the National Competition.

Members noted the contents of the report and complemented Mrs Thomas on the DVD of the National RE Festival Event which highlighted the success of the event and looked forward to seeing the DVD of the ESIS Event at the next meeting.

Mrs Thomas also advised that the Celebrating RE Website had put together a compendium of events, which included both the All Wales launch and the SE Wales consortia event were recorded and recommended that Members visit the site if they get the chance.

WASACRE

10. FEEDBACK FROM THE MEETING ON MARCH 2ND 2011 AT THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN

The report informed Members of the discussions and deliberations of the WASACRE at its meeting on the 2nd March 2011.

Members noted the contents of the report.

11. REPRESENTATION AT NEXT MEETING ON JUNE 24TH 2011 AT ANGLESEY

The report sought nominations for a SACRE representative to attend the next WASACRE Meeting at Anglesey on the 24th June 2011.

Members discussed the nominations and it was agreed that Mr David Brooks, Councillor D.M. Gray and Mrs Vicky Thomas would attend.

12. EXECUTIVE VOTING FOR THE PERIOD 2011-2013

The report informed Members of the executive nominations to be discussed at the WASACRE AGM on the 24th June 2011.

Members noted that SACRE's had not been asked to vote on the vacant WASACRE positions as the nominations received, filled the vacant places.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr David Brooks offered his resignation to the Chair and Members of SACRE as the Independent Representative to the Council. Mr Brooks confirmed that his recent period of ill health had led him to re-evaluate his commitments and with great reluctance confirmed his intention to withdraw his membership. Mr Brooks thanked his fellow members for all their support over the years.

The Chair thanked Mr Brooks for attending the meeting in order to offer his resignation in person. On behalf of SACRE the Chair thanked Mr Brooks for his contributions over the years and for his support for both SACRE and WASACRE.

The meeting closed at 3:05 p.m.

Approved as a correct record, and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 29th September 2011, they were signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN