



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – 29TH SEPTEMBER 2011

SUBJECT: THE WASACRE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 24TH 2011 AT ANGLESEY

REPORT BY: ESIS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2. SUMMARY

The issues were as follows:

1. Introduction and Welcome

Members were welcomed to Anglesey by Cllr Gwilym Jones, Mr Rheinallt Thomas, pupils of Ysgol y Graig Llangefni and Sian Meinir of Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni.

2. Celebrating RE'

A presentation was received from a number of advisers outlining the range of activities that were undertaken across Wales as part of the Celebrating RE month in March 2011. Activities included:

- Anglesey – examples of art work created by pupils.
- Denbighshire, Flintshire and Conwy – 'Celebrate RE' day at St Asaph Cathedral. Two workshops for schools and an evening celebration of song, dance and drama.
- Bridgend, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Vale of Glamorgan – 'Celebrate with Us'. An after school event for schools and SACRES to celebrate together and showcase the good practice found in schools.
- Vale of Glamorgan –storytelling events with Michael Harvey, professional story teller.
- Swansea – celebration event to demonstrate good practice in RE.
- Newport – the development of a faith trail and a celebration event to share good practice.
- Torfaen – Celebrating RE service, a visit to St Peter's Church by local schools and an exhibition on the life of Jesus.
- Monmouthshire – activities day held in secondary schools for their primary associates.

3. WASACRE Competition: the results

The results and the winning entries for the WASACRE Celebrating RE competition were announced:

Foundation Phase (Joint winners):

Mynydd Cynffig Infants (Bridgend)
Ffrwd y Win (Anglesey)

Key Stage 2:
Ysgol Bryn Coch (Flintshire)

Secondary:
Porthcawl Comprehensive (Bridgend)

The winning entries will be available to view on the WASACRE website (www.wasacre.org.uk).

- 4. Meeting with the Minister, Leighton Andrews**
Feedback was received on the meeting with the Minister on the 23rd March 2011. Questions were raised in relation to developing the REsilience project, including RE in Estyn's thematic reviews and supporting a national forum / conference to launch a series of action research projects across a number of local authorities.
- 5. RE – Guidance for Key Stages 2 and 3**
A presentation was received from Gavin Craigen on the new guidance published by the Welsh Government to provide key messages for planning, learning and teaching Religious Education. Examples were also shown of the learning profiles available on the accompanying CD ROM. SACREs were encouraged to write to the Welsh Government to thank them for the guidance document and to express interest in continuing the support for RE in Wales.
- 6. Feedback from WASACRE Executive Committee**
 - 6.1 Celebrating RE**
A film of the Celebrating RE launch in Penarth has been produced by Media Studies students at Barry Comprehensive. A copy of the film will be made available for all SACREs.
 - 6.2 Teacher Training**
WASACRE Executive received a communication from Vaughan Salisbury from Trinity College, Carmarthen alerting them to changes in the teacher training grants. RE trainee teachers who enrol on the 2011-12 programme will lose the training grant of £7200. Concerns were raised that this could threaten the future of training RE specialist teachers who were considering entering the teaching profession. SACREs were asked to be vigilant and to monitor provision for RE in their LA.
- 7. WASACRE Report 2010-11**
The WASACRE report for 2010-11 was approved for circulation to all SACREs.
- 8. Treasurer's Report**
The Statements of Accounts for 2010 – 2011 was presented. It was agreed that the annual subscription per SACRE for membership of WASACRE, during the 2011 / 2012 financial year, would be set at £400, which represents an uplift of 2% on the 2010-11 subscription (£393).
- 9. WASACRE Officers**
Cllr Michael Gray, the outgoing chair of WASACRE thanked members for their support and for the privilege of serving WASACRE over the last two years.

New officers were announced:
 - Rev Canon Edward Evans (Bridgend SACRE) will be the new chairperson.
 - Tania ap Sion (Wrexham SACRE) was elected vice -chair of WASACRE.
 - Libby Jones (Wrexham SACRE) will be the vice secretary.
 - Brian Rogers (Rhondda Cynon Taf SACRE) and Vicky Thomas (Torfaen SACRE) were elected to the executive committee.
- 10. Date of next meeting:** November 24th 2011 - Cardiff.

3. RECOMMENDATION

SACRE noted the discussions and deliberation of WASCARE.

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