



CAERPHELLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT BEDWAS JUNIOR SCHOOL, BEDWAS ON
THURSDAY, 8TH DECEMBER 2011 AT 1:30PM**

PRESENT:

Councillor D.M. Gray – Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs A. Collins

Representing Teacher Organisations:

Miss Helen Bartley (ATL)

Representing Religious Organisations:

Mrs E. Hawthorn (United Reformed Church) and Mrs J. Jones (Church in Wales)

Together with:

V. Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Advisor) J. Lawrence (Assistant Director Learning, Education and Inclusion) and E. Sullivan (Committee Services Officer)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Carter, Mrs A. Collins, Mrs Nicola Boardman, Mrs Chris Thompson, Mr D. Ralph (VALREC), Ms K. Mathias (VALRETA), Mrs D. Williams (NASUWT), Mr P. Jones, Mr T. Crosse and Captain R. Waters.

ACT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Mr Paul Warren, Head Teacher of Bedwas Junior School, welcomed SACRE to the school and to their Christmas Assembly.

The assembly encouraged children to take a moment and think about the true meaning of Christmas by exploring the Nativity through story telling and song. Members were pleased to see the way in which the children participated in all aspects of the assembly and how whether they were narrating, singing or playing a musical instrument they all contributed so enthusiastically to the proceedings.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

The Chair thanked Mr Warren on behalf of SACRE for the warm welcome to the school and for allowing the Council to join them in their Christmas Assembly.

The Chair opened proceedings with a poem entitled We've Come A Long Way Since That First Christmas Night by Helen Steiner Rice.

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 29th September 2011 at Heolddu Comprehensive School (minute nos. 1 - 15 on page nos. 1 - 6) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

Membership Update - Members were advised that Rhian Linecar from the Free Churches had been contacted with regard the current SACRE vacancy and any nominations received would be brought forward for Members attention.

Co-opted Membership Nomination - Members noted that Phillip Jones had accepted the nomination as a co-opted member to SACRE.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2012 - Members noted that a letter had been sent to all schools asking them to commemorate the day in some way.

3. RE QUEST - REFLECTIONS RESOURCE

Mrs Thomas referred to the DVD, which was played for Members information and particular attention was drawn to the interviews on Interfaith Dialogue, Ethics and War and Conflict. Members noted the usefulness of the resource and its coverage of controversial topics as an aid to discussion.

4. ANALYSIS OF EXAMINATION DATA 2011

The report detailed the examination results for 2011 for the GCSE full course, GCSE short course, AS and A Level. Members were asked to note that definitive conclusions could not be drawn because the figures represented raw scores and did not necessarily reflect the selectivity of the entry and in some cases the numbers were too small to be statistically significant.

In terms of the GCSE full course there were 615 entries from 13 schools, which was an increase over 2010. The overall percentage of A*-C grade for Caerphilly was 73.7%, the overall percentage of A*-G grades was 99.2%, which showed an excellent pass rate and the overall percentage of A*-A Grades was 34.1% which was again noted to be an excellent result.

Members were pleased to note the excellent results at all grades and felt that schools should

be commended for their hard work.

With reference to the GCSE Short Course, Members noted that numbers had decreased this year with 901 entries from 13 schools. The overall percentage of A*-C grades for Caerphilly was 46.7% and was the lowest performance of the last three years. The percentage of A* to G grades was 97.3%, the best result of the last three years and the overall percentage of A*-A grades was 16.4% also below previous performance.

Members were asked to note that entry numbers for the short course were significantly down this year and were advised that in some schools more able pupils were being entered for two short courses which meant their results were being included within the full course results.

Members were also mindful that this course was not an option but a fulfilment of statutory requirements and were pleased to see that 97.3% of pupils received some kind of accreditation for their studies at KS4.

The results at A Level were detailed and Members were pleased to note the increase in candidates. The percentage of pupils achieving A*-A grade was 19.8%, just below the All-Wales figure of 21%. Results at A*-C grade were noted to be below previous performance at 74.4% but the 100% pass rate for grades A*-E was an excellent result and was better than the All-Wales figure of 98%.

At AS Level, Members noted a significant drop in entry numbers and pass rates at grades A-E, A-C and A were below previous performance.

SACRE having fully discussed the Examination Results for 2011 noted the report.

5. TEACHER ASSESSMENT IN LEVELS AT KEY STAGE 3

The report sought to inform Members of the Teacher Assessment in Levels at Key Stage 3 for 2010.

Members noted that Teacher assessment is not moderated externally; Teachers arrive at judgements for each pupil using assessment information gathered during the course of KS3.

Members were advised that results at L5+ remained consistent with 2010. Results for boys had improved by approximately 4%, however girls results had decreased by 4%. This meant that the gap in performance between boys and girls has narrowed from 16% in 2010 to approximately 7% in 2011.

Results at L6+ were noted to be below 2010 performance at 25.9%. Boys' performance had remained unchanged, whilst girls' performance is below that of 2010 by approximately 7%. The gap in performance between boys and girls has again narrowed from 10% in 2010 to approximately 3% in 2011.

Members were pleased to note that the gap in performance between boys and girls in RE had narrowed in 2011 at both L5+ and L6+ and that this was an improvement on the gender gap in performance seen in English and History.

Mrs Thomas confirmed that schools were currently going through a DfES/WJEC moderation process on Securing Teacher Assessment at KS3 and the moderation process had raised some issues about Teacher Assessment at KS3.

SACRE having fully discussed the Teachers Assessment in Levels at Key Stage 3 noted the report.

6. INSPECTION REPORT ANALYSIS

The report informed Members of the outcomes of Estyn Inspection in Caerphilly Schools.

During the Summer 2011 two Caerphilly Primary Schools were inspected, Cwrt Rawlin Primary and Tir-y-Berth Primary, there were no Secondary or Special Schools inspected during this period.

Positive comments relating to spiritual development were evidenced in both reports and both schools were in compliance with statutory requirements in relation to collective worship.

Members were pleased to note the Inspectors comments with regard to Cwrt Rawlin Primary in that 'Global Citizenship is developed well through religious education' and that 'Diversity and Multiculturalism is promoted well through acts of collective worship'.

It was also noted that the Tir-y-Berth Primary inspection report noted that 'Pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered well in lessons and through the wide range of relevant extra-curricular activities'.

In light of the inspectors comments it was agreed that Cwrt Rawlin Primary School be approached as a potential venue for a SACRE meeting in December 2012 and if possible present to Members on how they are developing global citizenship through RE.

WASACRE

7. THE WASACRE MEETING HELD ON THE 24TH NOVEMBER 2011 IN CARDIFF

The report outlined the discussion and deliberations of the WASACRE meeting held in Cardiff on the 24th November 2011.

Councillor Gray and Mrs Enfys Hawthorn represented SACRE at the meeting and expressed their appreciation for the contributions by Mount Stuart Primary School who performed the Divali story through dance and the Indo Cymru choir from Kitchener Primary.

Mrs Thomas provided an update on the proceedings including presentations from Donna Graves of Bryntirion Comprehensive School on the REsilience Project and Jared Nolan from Usk Church in Wales Primary School on Community Cohesion.

Members noted the links that had been developed between Maesglas Primary and Maindee Primary Schools to promote community cohesion and how the use of team building games, school visits and identity projects had helped them to gain a greater understanding of each others identity and diversity.

Members were advised that WASACRE had discussed Humanist representation on SACRE's as a result of the recent correspondence received from the Humanist Society. It was noted that the WASACRE Executive had written to Welsh Government asking for clarification on the issue and were awaiting a response.

Members noted the discussions and deliberation of WASACRE.

8. REPRESENTATION AT WASACRE ON 30TH MARCH 2011 IN ABERAERON, CEREDIGION

The report sought nominations for representatives to attend the next WASACRE meeting on the 30th March 2012 in Aberaeron, Ceredigion.

SACRE members Councillor Michael Gray and Councillor Mrs Anne Collins volunteered to attend. It was agreed that details of the meeting would be forwarded to Members

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Humanist Representation on SACRE - Members noted the email from WASACRE.

SACRE Monitoring - Members noted the email and pro-forma received from WASACRE and agreed that WASACRE be informed that Caerphilly SACRE had already implemented a monitoring procedure.

Farmington Fellowships for Teachers of Religious Education - Members noted the letter received from the Farmington Institute and Mrs Thomas confirmed that this information had been circulated to schools.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None noted.

The meeting closed at 3:30 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 Monday, 20th February 2012, they were signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN