

Nominee Bibliographies for Executive Committee Members

Mark Brown – Conwy SACRE

I graduated from the University of Wales, Bangor with a BEd degree, specialising in Religious Education. Throughout my career I have seen RE as a fundamental subject which is essential to our school curriculum. I have taught in a variety of schools, both denominational and more secular. I am a specialist in the Foundation Phase and have been involved in several Foundation Phase projects to develop RE as an integrated rather than 'stand alone' subject (as required by the Foundation Phase curriculum). I relish the opportunity to sit on the Conwy SACRE as the Foundation Phase representative (a post that I have held for nearly two years) and have recently undertaken a 'Farmington Fellowship' to develop a KS2 resource for Bangor Cathedral. Throughout my career I have developed strong links with local religious groups, which have in turn developed the children's knowledge and understanding of the world around them. I am a committed and dedicated primary teacher with a real love of RE.

Phil Lord - Denbighshire SACRE

I graduated in 1999 with a BA (Hons) degree in Theology and Christian Ministry from the University of Manchester. After completing my degree I enrolled on a two-year Cross Phase Key Stage 2 /3 Postgraduate Certificate in Education at Didsbury, Manchester. I gained experience teaching learners in both junior and secondary schools. After deciding that I wanted to concentrate on my degree subject, I transferred to a PCGE concentrating on Secondary School Religious Education. I was appointed as a teacher of RE at Sandbach boys school in 2002. I applied and secured the post of Head of Religious Education in Bishop Heber High School, Malpas, two years later. While working in those schools, I worked closely with the RE Advisor, developing ICT resources and presenting INSET on behalf of Cheshire SACRE. In September 2007 I became the Head of RE at Ysgol John Bright in Llandudno. During my time at the school I was able to work at length with Conwy's RE advisor, Gavin Craigen, developing guidance material relating to the 2008 curriculum. This helped me to create Key Stage 3 schemes of work in my own department, recognised by Estyn in March 2009 when we gained 'Grade 1'. I applied for and secured the post of RE advisor for Conwy, Flintshire and Denbighshire in the autumn term, 2009. In that time I have been involved in monitoring schools on behalf of SACRE as well as providing subject support as a local authority officer. I have provided target support at all phases, including Foundation Phase Guidance, Key Stage 2 days at both Bangor and St Asaph Cathedrals and the creation of a Key Stage 2/3 bridging unit. I have supported teachers through the Key Stage 3 Securing Teacher Assessment process. I have organised and presented GCSE revision days and Year 12 day conferences. As Officer to three SACREs and Vice Chair of NAPfRE I regularly attend the termly WASACRE meetings and have contributed to a number of these.

Rheinallt A Thomas - Anglesey SACRE

Rheinallt commenced his career as an RE teacher and then for 30 years he trained students to be RE teachers. He has held hundreds of INSET course for teachers from Infants to Secondary levels. He was the Founder Director of the Welsh National Centre for RE at Bangor University where he served for 21 years. He has been a member of WASACRE from its outset – he was actually instrumental in its formation - has been a member throughout its existence and has served not only on the Executive for many years but is also a past Chairman. He is still a faithful member of both Anglesey and Gwynedd SACREs and although he is officially retired is still active in several areas linked with education and RE e.g he is Treasurer of REMW; Trustee and Finance clerk to the Welsh Sunday schools Council; is responsible for education matters for the Presbyterian Church of Wales and he represents the Welsh Free Churches on the UK churches education committees.