



## **CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT CWRT RAWLIN PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
CAERPHILLY ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH DECEMBER 2012 AT 2:00 P.M.**

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PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mrs. M.E. Sargent

Representing Teaching Organisations: Miss H. Bartley (ATL) and Miss S. Gingell (Student)

Representing Religious Organisations: Mrs. E. Hawthorn (United Reform Church), Mrs. J. Jones (Church in Wales) and Lieutenant C.D. Palma (Salvation Army)

Together with:

V. Thomas (RE Consultant to SACRE), K. Cole (Manager - Learning, Education and Inclusion) and E. Sullivan (Committee Services Officer).

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Carter, W. David, D.M. Gray, Mrs. G.D. Oliver and J. Taylor. Mrs. N. Boardman (NUT), Mrs. B. Davies (UCAC) and Mrs. H. March (ASCL) and Mr. D. Ralph (VALREC).

### **ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN**

In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair nominations were received from the floor and by a show of hands Councillor Mrs M.E. Sargent was elected as Chair for the meeting.

### **CHRISTMAS ACT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND WELCOME BY THE PUPILS OF CWRT RAWLIN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The Head Teacher Mr. Trevor Cole welcomed SACRE to Cwrt Rawlin Primary School and invited them to join pupils and staff in their Christmas Act of Collective Worship.

The assembly illustrated the message of Christmas through song, readings and presentations. During the assembly pupils were encouraged to consider how children in other parts of the world lived and celebrated and this was explored further through the schools different fundraising and charity events. Members were very pleased to see global citizenship

incorporated in this way. Pupils actively participated in the different aspects of the assembly and the enthusiasm and enjoyment they contributed was obvious throughout the proceedings.

SACRE thanked Mr Cole for the warm welcome they had received and for all the hard work by the pupils and staff of the school in preparing the Christmas assembly. Members requested that a letter be sent to the school to formally thank them for all their efforts.

**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 the 2nd October 2012 (minute nos. 1-17 on page nos. 1-7) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

Minute No. 4 - page 3 - the date of the Summer Term meeting was confirmed as Monday, 10th June 2013.

**4. SACRE CONSTITUTION 2012**

The report sought Members endorsement of the revised Caerphilly SACRE Constitution. The constitution had been reviewed in light of the changes in education and the roles and functions of SACRE.

Members advised that the revised document had been discussed by the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, the Manager of Education Inclusion and Learning, Senior Legal Officers and the RE Adviser to Caerphilly SACRE.

The contents of the document were highlighted for information and Members fully discussed the proposed revisions.

SACRE having fully considered the revised Constitution formally approved and endorsed the document as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

**5. ANALYSIS OF EXAMINATION RESULTS 2012**

The report sought to inform SACRE of the examination data for 2012.

Copies of the analysis of examination results for 2012 were distributed and Members were advised that definitive conclusions could not be drawn because the figures represent raw data and do not necessarily reflect the selectivity of the entry and in some cases the numbers were too small to be statistically significant.

Members noted the results for the GCSE Full Course and were advised that there were 697 entries from 14 schools; this showed both an increase in entry numbers and the number of schools entering. The overall percentage of A\*-C grades achieved was 69% and was noted to be below previous performance and the All Wales figure of 74%. The overall percentage of A\*-G grades achieved was 99% which was an excellent pass rate for Caerphilly and higher than the All Wales figure of 98%. In conclusion Members were advised that one again results

at A\*-A and A\*-G were very good and schools were to be commended for their efforts. Members were advised that the outcomes include both pupils who had opted for the subject and those pupils fast tracked from statutory RE (those entered on two short courses to make a full course) would receive only half of the examination board's recommended time.

Results for the GCSE Short Course were confirmed and Members noted that there had been 949 entries from 13 schools, which again showed an increase in this academic year. The overall percentage of A\*-C grades achieved was 47% and A\*-G grades result were at 92%, which was noted to be below the previous years performance. Performance at A\*-A grades in Caerphilly was also below previous performance at 15%, however the increase in pupils being entered for two short courses would have an impact on the figures presented. Short Course entries had increased this year and Members were asked to bear in mind that this course was a statutory requirement. SACRE was pleased to note that 92% of pupils had received some kind of accreditation of their studies at KS4.

A Level results were confirmed and Members noted that 67 candidates had been entered this year a drop on last years figures. 19% of pupils achieved A\*-A grade but the percentage of pupils achieving A\*-C grades (67%) fell below the previous years figures and was down on the All Wales figure of 81%. SACRE was pleased to noted that the 100% pass rate for grades A\*-E had been achieved again this year and was above the All Wales figure of 99%.

Finally the results at AS Level were confirmed and Members noted that there had been a significant drop in entry numbers this year. The pass rate at A-E was confirmed at 77%, which was comparable to the previous year however the pass rate at A-C at 45% was below previous the years performance.

Concerns were expressed with regard to the drop in entry numbers at AS Level and the impact this could have going forward. Mrs Thomas confirmed that she would monitor this position next year in order to ascertain if this was a one off dip or if there was an underlining trend that required follow up with schools.

Members requested that a letter be sent to all secondary schools congratulating them on the examination results for 2012 and drawing attention to the dip in performance at GCSE Short Course and the significant drop in entry figures at AS Level.

SACRE having fully considered its content noted the report.

## **6. TEACHER ASSESSMENT IN LEVELS AT KEY STAGE 3 (2011/2012)**

The report sought to inform SACRE of the analysis for KS3 Levels 2012. Members noted that this would be the last year where such data would be collated.

Mrs Thomas referred to the written statement by Welsh Government on the Review of Assessment and the National Curriculum in Wales. Members noted the introduction of the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework and the requirement for teachers to undertake annual assessments of pupil's progress as well as introducing reading and numeracy tests for pupils in Year 2 to Year 9. The impact of the review was discussed at length and Members expressed concern with regard to the potential effect on the agreed syllabus. Mrs Thomas confirmed that WASACRE would continue to work with local authorities on the best way forward and awaited further information from Welsh Government before making decisions regarding as to at what point here would need to be a review of the agreed syllabus for RE.

The results of the assessments were detailed and Members noted that results at L5+ were at 71.5% for all pupils, an improvement on both the 2011 and 2010 results. Boys' performance had slightly decreased and girls' performance had increased by 9%, which had resulted in the gap in performance between boys and girls increasing to 18.2%. Results at L6+ were at 27.1% for all pupils, which was again better than the 2011 performance. Boys' performance

at L6+ had also seen a decrease and again girls' performance had increased by 7%, which had resulted in the gap in performance increasing to 13.4%. Mrs Thomas confirmed that the widening of the gap between boys and girls performance had been identified as a concern across many subjects and strategies had been put in place by schools to address the issue.

It was noted that issues had been raised with regard to teacher assessments at KS3 by schools that had gone through the DfES/WJEC moderation process in order to address this WASACRE had agreed to fund training for teachers in Wales on the use and application of level descriptions in RE. The Chief Moderator had agreed to facilitate the training and Caerphilly County Borough Council had agreed to provide a suitable venue for the SE Wales Consortia. Mrs V Thomas to co ordinate the arrangements with Mrs. Keri Cole. This will take place in the Spring Term 2013.

SACRE having fully considered its content noted the analysis for Levels Data 2012.

## **7. INSPECTION ANALYSIS SPRING/SUMMER 2012**

The report informed SACRE of the outcomes of the Estyn inspections in Caerphilly schools during the spring and summer terms of 2012.

Members were advised that five Caerphilly Primary schools were inspected during this period but no Secondary or Special schools. The main findings were detailed for Members information and it was noted that inspectors would only report on instances where schools did not comply with statutory requirements. Comments in relation to spiritual development were evident in all inspection reports and noted SMSC as either 'good' or promoted 'well'.

The inspectors' comments were detailed in Appendix 1 of the report and Mrs Thomas confirmed that reference was made to the quality of collective worship in one inspection report, where it noted that *'school assemblies provided appropriate opportunities for pupils to reflect on their values and rights, pupils learn how to develop a tolerant attitude toward each other and values are nurtured well'*. With regard to SACRE monitoring processes, it was confirmed that the approved self-evaluation forms had been sent to those schools undergoing inspections in the spring and summer of 2013. The Clerk to SACRE agreed to send out a reminder to the schools listed and collate the completed reports.

SACRE having fully considered its content noted the report.

## **8. WASACRE MEETING HELD ON 23RD NOVEMBER 2012 AT MERTHYR TYDFIL**

The report informed Members of the discussions and deliberations of the WASACRE meeting held on the 23rd November 2012 at Merthyr Tydfil.

Mrs Thomas confirmed that a letter had been sent to WASACRE confirming that Caerphilly SACRE did not consider it necessary to set up a separate sub group to look at membership issues as discussed at the last meeting.

Members noted the discussions on the Estyn Thematic Review and Mrs Thomas confirmed that WASACRE had been invited to send a delegation to discuss the review with the Lead Inspector. The review was comprised of 3 Estyn Inspectors and involved a one-day visit to 20 secondary schools and 20 schools completing a questionnaire. The outcomes would then be reported to the Minister in March 2013 and then to WASACRE and a wider audience in the Summer Term.

Reference was made to the introduction of the RE Quality Mark to Wales and Members noted that a sample of schools would trial the award and provide feedback to the summer WASACRE meeting. Concerns were expressed with regard to the amount of work involved in

achieving this type of accreditation and Mrs Thomas confirmed that she had been impressed by the methodology demonstrated at the meeting.

SACRE noted the discussions and deliberation of WASACRE.

**9. WASACRE - REPRESENTATION AT NEXT MEETING ON MARCH 22ND 2013 AT NEWPORT**

Nominations were sought with regard to attendance at the next WASACRE meeting on the 22nd of March 2012 at Newport.

Mrs V. Thomas, Mrs E. Hawthorn, Mrs J. Jones and Councillor D.M. Gray agreed to attend the meeting.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE - FARMINGTON FELLOWSHIPS FOR TEACHERS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND HEAD TEACHERS ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/2014**

Members noted the correspondence with regard to the Farmington Fellowships offered by the Farmington Institute, Oxford.

The details of the eligibility and composition of the Fellowships was discussed at length and Members agreed that this information should be circulated to all schools in order to raise awareness of the opportunities provided by the Institute. The Clerk to SACRE agreed to request a PDF version of the information booklet and circulate to all Head Teachers and RE Department Heads.

The meeting closed at 3.40 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 28th February 2013, they were signed by the Chairman.

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CHAIRMAN