



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) - 28TH FEBRUARY 2013

SUBJECT: THE WASACRE MEETING HELD ON 23RD NOVEMBER 2012 AT MERTHYR TYDFIL

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform SACRE of the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE

2. SUMMARY

2.1 Introduction and Welcome

Members were welcomed to Merthyr Tydfil by Councillor Lisa Mytton, the Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil. A presentation was received by pupils of Twynrodyn Community Primary School on their work in RE based on the theme of The Golden Rule. They outlined how it links with SEAL and P4C strategies. They emphasised the importance of RE on the curriculum and its relevance to everyday living. They summed up their work through a Class Charter that outlines the rules for living and behaviour in their school community. Thanks were extended to the Headteacher of the school Mark Carrington and their RE co-ordinator Jayne Williams.

A moment of reflection took place. Rev Canon Edward Evans, Chair of WASACRE asking the members present to reflect on the theme 'What Inspires People' by reference to round the world yachtsmen and women.

2.2 Matters Arising

- **Examination Data.** Carys Pritchard gave an update on the correspondence that has taken place with the Welsh Government regarding national examination data and this data is currently received in May. She proposed a joint letter be sent by WASACRE and NAPfRE to ask the WG to release this information earlier than May so that SACRE's can discuss the outcomes in their Spring term meetings. This was agreed by members.
- **Collective Worship Guidance.** The guidance document on collective worship in schools has now been circulated to all SACRE's for sending to schools.
- **WASACRE Survey on SACRE's and their Local Community.** Members were informed that the report has been sent to all SACRE's for discussion. The case studies to support the document will be on the WASACRE website in December.

2.3 Presentation Further Education: Chaplaincy and Religious Education (agenda item 6)

Two presentations were received.

- **RE in Further Education** by Jonathon Martin, Deputy Principal of the College in Merthyr. Mr Martin outlined the provision for RE at the tertiary college which will include AS and A level students in 2013 and 2014. Students will have the opportunity to mix and match both

A level and BTEC qualifications. They will also be offered the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification. There are healthy numbers at AS/A2 (65/41). The AS modules studied will be Philosophy and Ethics. There will be provision for RE through the Welsh Baccalaureate slots on the timetable with guest speakers in attendance. The subject will be promoted through close liaison with schools and attendance at Career Evenings. There will be opportunities for students to explore a multi faith dimension to the curriculum with tutors through their tutorial sessions. The college as part of the University of Glamorgan has a Chaplaincy team. There is a prayer room at the College and the College will draw on the expertise of the multi faith team at the University of Glamorgan. Mr Martin is a member of Merthyr SACRE and welcomes SACRE's role in the development of RE at Merthyr College.

- **Chaplaincy and Pastoral Support in College of FE.** This presentation by Andrew Morton of Coleg Gwent outlined the pastoral support offered to staff and students. He outlined the provision for pastoral support and opportunities for those with belief to affirm their beliefs and practice through a designated prayer room. There is information and provision of materials on the multi faith dimension available on Moodle. Chaplaincy services are offered that is non evangelistic. There is a tutorial enrichment programme where topics such as Equality, Diversity and Religion, Faith and Spirituality, Loss and Bereavement are covered. Members were asked to draw attention to the provision for RE/ Chaplaincy in FE colleges. Some SACRE's already co-opt tertiary colleges on to their committee.

2.4 RE Council report (agenda item 7)

- Attention was drawn to the publication of the REsilience material being adapted for FE Colleges. It is called 'Challenging Voices' and provides guidance in handling contentious issues with students. It is available on the REC website: www.religiouseducationcouncil.org
- Two vacancies exist for WASACRE to be represented on the RE Council. Tania ap Sion and Gavin Craigen have expressed an interest to serve WASACRE on this committee and their nominations were endorsed by the Association.
- A report was received about the All Party Parliamentary Group for RE established at Westminster. Tania ap Sion attended on behalf of WASACRE. This group was established to support the cause of RE in England. Their current enquiry is regarding the supply and support for RE teachers in England. All teachers have received a questionnaire to be completed and this will be supported by research findings and case studies. It was agreed that Wales should keep an eye on events in England and suggested ways in which the English enquiry could be supported. Firstly, the research conducted by Leslie Francis on religious diversity includes English and Welsh data and this could be offered to them. Secondly, subject to England finding this helpful- a letter could be sent to the Committee offering information on how RE is supported in Wales through the Welsh Government.
- RE Subject review. As part of the English National Curriculum Review the REC has been asked to conduct a review of RE to contribute to the Review process. Their implementation date is September 2013. Wales will also be conducting a Curriculum Review for implementation September 2014. There are huge implications for RE and review of agreed syllabuses and it was recommended and endorsed that WASACRE Executive discuss this at their next meeting in February 2013.

2.5 Correspondence (agenda item 8)

No correspondence received.

2.6 RE in the Higher Education Sector by Lynda Maddock (agenda item 9)

Two presentations were received.

- **Primary PGCE:** This focused upon the revalidation of the course in Summer 2012 and the implications were a large reduction of time for all subjects other than the CORE subjects.

This includes a substantial reduction of time for RE specific issues from 12 hrs to 4.5 hours per year. The reasons for this are firstly, that there is an intention to make the training more school based a kind of 'learning on the job' and secondly, because of the emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy in the curriculum.

- **Secondary PGCE:** Since September 2010 this course has been delivered at Swansea Metropolitan University rather than Trinity Saint Davids. The cap on numbers is reducing year on year and this year the cap is set at 24. This is driven by the fact that there are less teaching posts available at the end of the course. All places have been filled. An outline of the structure of the course and the assessment processes were given. Students are encouraged to gain some teaching experience prior to entry on the course through such courses as Prepare to Teach run by the Open University.

2.7 Report from the WASACRE Executive Committee (agenda item 10)

The Executive Committee Report was received.

2.8 Updates (agenda item 11)

Three updates were received.

- **Estyn Thematic Review 2012**
This took place in November and December by Estyn. It came about after WASACRE raised the issue with the Minister for Education, Leighton Andrews. The issue concerned the importance of highlighting the state of provision and standards in RE in Wales so that SACRE's have a benchmark to use when looking at school inspection reports and self-evaluation. WASACRE was invited to send a delegation to discuss the review with Mark Champion lead inspector for the review. The focus is upon RE at Key Stages 3 and 4. The review involves three Estyn inspectors, 20 secondary schools having a one-day visit by an inspector and 20 schools completing a questionnaire. The outcomes will be reported to the Minister in March 2013 and then to WASACRE and a wider audience in the Summer term.
- **Key Stage 3 Moderation**
Libby Jones gave a presentation on behalf of Gavin Craigen, Chief Moderator. It outlined the KS3 moderation process and outcomes and the main messages found in the Chief Moderators Report 2012. There are 15 schools that have been reported to DfES as exemplars of good practice. Both the WASACRE Executive and NAPfRE have discussed the way forward for schools now that the moderation process is over. It was agreed that training on the KS3 assessment structure would be offered to all schools though a series of training days offered in the Spring term 2013. These training days would be funded by WASACRE
- **REQM (RE Quality Mark)**
Phil Lord attended this training to become an assessor on behalf of NAPfRE/ WASACRE. It was recommended that the course materials be amended to suit a Welsh context and that Phil conduct a trial of the award with a sample of schools in his LA's. Discussion arose about the merits and shortcomings of such an award. It was proposed that a trial take place and a full and transparent feedback be given to the Association at its summer meeting. A vote was taken and the proposal was endorsed by WASACRE members.

2.9 Showcase of Resources (agenda item 12)

Mr Ben Wigley informed members that REM Wales had developed a comprehensive list of resources to support acts of collective worship in Welsh medium secondary schools.

RE Ideas was distributed to local authorities who subscribed to REM Wales.

2.10 Any Other Business

Reference was drawn to the announcement by the Education Minister Leighton Andrews of the review into education and the possibility of local authorities being stripped of their responsibilities for schools. It was agreed that WASACRE would contact the Minister to enquire what the implications of such a change would be to SACRE's.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **22nd March 2013 at Newport**

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The discussion and deliberations of WASACRE links directly to SACRE's duty to monitor and develop the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools and the CCBC Strategic Equality Plan 2012.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report is for information purposes only, so the Council's Equalities Impact Assessment process has not been applied, however Religion and Belief is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 and locally is covered by section 6 (xi) of the CCBC Strategic Equality Plan 2012.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications attached to this report.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no personnel implications attached to this report.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 That SACRE noted the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE.

Author: Vicky Thomas (RE Consultant to SACRE)