



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) - 10TH JUNE 2013

SUBJECT: WASACRE MEETING HELD ON 22ND MARCH 2013 AT NEWPORT

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform SACRE of the discussion and deliberations of WASACRE

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The discussions arising from the WASACRE meeting held on the 22nd March 2013 are summarised below for Members information.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The discussions and deliberations of WASACRE link 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. THE REPORT

4.1 Introduction and Welcome

Members were welcomed to Newport by county councillor John Guy, Mayor of Newport. He commented upon the pro active approach of Newport SACRE and the important role that WASACRE played in Wales in raising the profile of RE nationally. A presentation was received by The Gwent Education Ethnic Minority Service led by Martin Dacey and the GEMS team. They outlined the varied work they did to support schools and ethnic minority groups, including many projects that have also supported Religious Education such as Holocaust Memorial Day events and the creating of a Faith Trail around the Newport area that schools can use for visiting local faith communities. Thanks were extended to the GEMS team for their presentation.

A moment of reflection took place led by Rev Canon Edward Evans, Chair of WASACRE.

4.2 Matters Arising

- **Review of National Curriculum**

TapS gave an overview of the review process in England and also the findings of the survey conducted to ascertain the state of RE in English secondary schools. There are some worrying findings from this survey. In Wales, RE is not part of the review and members commented that it was very important that the Welsh Government was reminded

that RE is a statutory subject and the importance of RE being included in the review process. It was important to find out if the NEFRE is to be reviewed and whether it would still be in line with the curriculum subjects once the curriculum review has taken place and changes have been implemented. This is an important issue because the agreed syllabuses of Wales have adopted or adapted the NEFRE. It was agreed to write to the Welsh Government asking whether there was an intention to review the National Exemplar Framework for RE and raising the issue of the place of RE in the curriculum review.

4.3 **Key Stage 3 Training: Gavin Craigen**

GC informed WASACRE that RE training (funded by WASACRE) had been provided on a consortia basis for secondary schools in Wales. There were a total of 90 attendees (26 Welsh Medium). The purpose of the training was to follow up on the main messages given to schools in the Chief Moderator's Report of Summer 2012 after the moderation process was completed. The evaluations show that 85% of schools had graded the training overall as Excellent/Good. GC was thanked for his hard work and willingness to take the training and WASACRE was thanked for funding this important training.

4.4 **NAPfRE Presentations on RE in the Foundation Phase**

In the light of the implementation of the Foundation Phase Framework introduced into Wales and also the three year independent evaluation of this implementation, its impact and its value for money by the Welsh Government, it seemed appropriate to devote a session to the position of RE in the Foundation Phase.

There were **three** presentations

The **first presentation** was from Ann Williams and Helen Evans from Llanelltyd Primary school, near Dolgellau a small rural school in Gwynedd. They gave an account of the practical application of RE in the Foundation Phase in the classroom.

Stimulus - Story book *Salamati and Kandoni Go Missing*.

They had used this to discuss life in Ghana. The religion of the village is Islam and this gave an opportunity to look at religion, food and cultural practices. These were linked to craft activities, making food, weaving and role- play. Linked to Fair Trade Wales as they made cakes from Fair Trade chocolate and the money raised went to Oxfam's 'Buy a Goat' appeal.

Stimulus: Photograph of mother and baby wrapped in a shawl 'Welsh fashion'

They had looked at the work of raising babies / Christening customs and ceremony. Mary mother of Jesus - looked at stained glass pictures of mother and child (Mary and Jesus) in local Church. They further explores stories of babies such as Jesus & Moses, Mothering Sunday and saying thanks to mothers, and providing opportunities for children to express feelings and opinions. They had also used another book as a stimulus ***A Ride on Mothers Back- a day of baby carrying around the world*** by Emery and Durga Bernhard.

The **second presentation** was by Phil Lord, RE Adviser/ System Leader working with three local authorities in N Wales. A document has been produced on *RE in the Foundation Phase* and demonstrates the contribution of RE in a thematic approach. Much of this work will be available on HUB- the replacement for NGfL.

he **third presentation** was by Gill Vaisey, RE Consultant. She outlined the *Think Topic Approach* which was a collaborative approach between Gill and some local authorities in the SE Consortia. She outlined the range of themes that had been planned where RE could contribute to, or even lead, the theme. This material has been used by schools and collated into one central resource.

4.5 **Correspondence**

RE News will soon be received in online format and not in hard copy. It will be password protected for those contributing SACREs. Discussion ensued about the advantages and disadvantages of an online resource and members asked if this could be raised with the RE

News team. Some alternatives were suggested such as keeping it in hard copy form but having a less glossy format costing less to produce. Another suggestion was that as an interim measure RE News could be provided in both hard copy and online versions.

New Year greetings have been sent to WASACRE by representatives of the Baha'i community.

4.6 **Report from the Executive Committee held on February 6th 2013**

The Executive Committee Report was received.

4.7 **Updates**

There were four updates

- **WASACRE Conference**

This will be held on 10/10/13 in Cardiff with a venue yet to be arranged. The focus will be RE and its relationship to the Literacy and Numeracy Framework. Guest contributors will be Leighton Andrews, Education Minister and Mark Campion from Estyn.

- **The Curriculum Review and Agreed Syllabuses**

This had already been extensively discussed under matters arising. WASACRE issued some guidance to SACREs in regard to the revising of agreed syllabuses for RE. They suggested that SACREs call a Standing Conference that reinstates the current agreed syllabus until ready to conduct a review. This is in order to wait until the outcomes of the National Curriculum Review are known and also that a response is received from Welsh Government regarding the position of the National Exemplar Framework for RE in the review process. WASACRE will write to all SACREs outlining this advice. Some main messages that arose from the discussions of members are that RE will remain a statutory responsibility for LAs and this will continue within a regional Consortia structure. Schools must continue to follow their locally determined agreed syllabus unless they are following a Diocesan Syllabus. Local authorities may commission support for subjects or curriculum areas, including R.E

- **Religious Education Quality Mark**

Phil Lord informed members of the pilot work on the RE Quality Mark and that a full feedback will be given at the summer meeting of WASACRE in Caernarfon.

- **Review of SACRE annual reports**

The Welsh Government though DFeS will be appointing a person to undertake this task and LAs are to submit their reports by the designated date (Dec 31st of each year).

4.8 **Showcase of Resources**

None

4.9 **AOB**

None

4.10 **Date Of Next Meeting.**

The next meeting will be held on **June 19th 2013** at Dafydd Orwig Chamber, Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

5. **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 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.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications attached to this report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no personnel implications attached to this report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 SACRE note the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE.

Author: Vicky Thomas (RE Consultant to SACRE)