



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

SUBJECT: WASACRE - EXECUTIVE VOTING

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 SACREs have been asked to vote for the three positions on the WASACRE Executive. Members are asked to note the nominations received and ensure the votes are cast at the WASACRE AGM meeting on the 19th June 2013.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Pen portraits of the 8 nominees have been compiled and presented to SACREs for their consideration.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The discussions and deliberations of WASACRE and the composition of its Executive 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 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 3 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.

4.2 Councillor Ernie Galsworthy Merthyr Tydfil SACRE

I have been a SACRE member since May 2012 after I was elected to council. I was previously a councillor from 1987 until 2004, and served on Merthyr Tydfil SACRE during this period and also attended WASACRE meetings.

I was brought up in a Welsh Baptist environment and until the age of 5 lived with my grandmother, a Welsh speaker, who unfortunately did not teach Welsh to my mother

although, did her best to teach me. Consequently after her death I lost the language and did not pick it back up again until the late 1990's when I attended a WPLAN course at Cardiff University.

I hold pacifist views and my great heroes are Mahatma Gandhi, John Lennon and Jesus Christ, All three were pacifists and met violent deaths. Being a pacifist is a dangerous way of living and sometimes courage is needed to live this life.

I am also the council representative on the Committee of Nuclear Free Local Authorities which I believe reflects how I wish to live in peace.

My three heroes were a Hindu, an atheist and a Christian. While I do not believe totally in the views of my heroes I have great respect for them and it is respect for all religions which I believe is fundamental for world peace.

4.3 Councillor D Michael Gray Caerphilly SACRE

I am a lifelong member of the Methodist Church, having been a Sunday school teacher I am an accredited local Preacher of the Methodist Church, church organist, and church officer at local, regional & national level, also area Christian - Aid Coordinator and past Secretary , Chairman of my 'ChurchesTogether' and affiliated to CYTUN .

I am a Caerphilly County Borough Councillor, Chairman of Caerphilly County Borough Council SACRE Committee and represented CCBC SACRE on WASACRE since 1996, up to the present date.

I am a past member of the WASACRE Executive Committee and also past Vice - Chairman (2008 - 2009) and Chairman of WASACRE (2009 - 2011), and wish to offer the WASACRE EXECUTIVE my long experience of supporting and projecting Religious Education throughout the schools of Wales.

4.4 Judy Harris Cardiff SACRE

I am currently working as the children and youth development officer with the United Reformed Church National Synod of Wales, within this role I cover all the United Reformed Churches in Wales, enabling them with their work in their local communities.

I am passionate about religious education in schools, having in the past served as a school chaplain in primary and secondary schools, in Scotland. Since moving to Wales I have worked as a Church Related Community Worker, and was connected to Coed Cae Secondary School in Llanelli, during my time there, when it started the Peace Mala project which has since grown to be a significant educational programme within many schools. I feel strongly that pupils are taught RE to enable them to understand the simple rule "Treat others as you would wish them to treat you." I feel I have a lot to offer WASACRE and feel my current role would enable me to contribute significantly.

4.5 Councillor Louise Hughes Gwynedd SACRE

As a practising Christian I am delighted to see that the Church schools in Gwynedd actively promote the Christian virtues of tolerance, forgiveness and love that Jesus himself preached. In today's increasingly secular world it is more important than ever that the word of God is still heard in schools and children are given the opportunity to explore their own faith without fear of derision. The Ten Commandments are as sound a basis for a civilised society today as they were two thousand years ago or even, it could be argued, more important as so many young people are seduced by the shallow world of image, celebrity and the acquisition of material things. Children today are vulnerable to pressures that previous generations were never exposed to and the innocence of childhood is being eroded on a daily basis. Being on the WSACRE committee is a wonderful opportunity to meet like-minded people of Faith who also believe that an education which includes Christian virtues can only be a positive thing in the lives of our children and I would be delighted to be given the chance to work alongside such people.

4.6 Wyn Myles Meredith Gwynedd SACRE

I wish to serve on the WASACRE Executive Committee as I am committed to the work of Gwynedd SACRE locally and have attended and supported the Welsh Association of SACREs since 1996 in my role as a Member of Gwynedd Council until my retirement in 2008. Since then, as part of my office as the Circuit Steward to the Meirion and Dyfi Area I have represented the Methodist Church as a denominational representative.

Whilst I was a member of Gwynedd Council I served on several committees. I feel that my experience on the Education Committee and as a School Governor means that I understand the challenges facing primary and secondary schools in the area. I admire the commitment of Religious Education Teachers and School Heads when they introduce meaningful Religious Education to children and young people. I am also aware of their praiseworthy efforts to ensure that corporate worship sessions are relevant to their world.

4.7 **Mary Parry Carmarthenshire SACRE**

I have been working in the field of Religious Education for many years and I am very passionate about the importance of the subject in developing well-rounded young people in Wales today.

I have been the Religious Education Associate Advisor for Carmarthenshire (and its predecessor, Dyfed) for 19 years, and with reorganisation I am now also a Consortium School Improvement officer in the SWAMWAC region (South, West and Mid Wales Consortium).

I am the professional officer to the Carmarthenshire SACRE. As such, I have been involved in drawing up the county's RE Agreed syllabuses and support materials and also, I have worked closely with external bodies such as DfES, WJEC and Estyn on matters relating to RE.

I advise and support teachers on implementing the county Agreed Syllabus and on teaching RE effectively. I have provided many bilingual courses and resources for schools – both in Carmarthenshire and in other LAs in Wales.

I have been an active member of the WASACRE executive committee for 17 years.

I have taken an active role in WASACRE meetings and its other activities since its establishment in 1995.

I have represented Wales on the AREIAC executive (the RE advisors' association in Great Britain) and currently represent WASACRE on EfTRE (the European forum for RE teachers).

I inspect schools under Estyn contract. I was one of the three inspectors who undertook the Estyn remit for the inspection of RE across Wales this year.

Before my present position, I was the head of RE and the head of lower school in Newcastle Emlyn Comprehensive school, Carmarthenshire.

With this experience, I feel that I can make a valuable contribution to the WASACRE executive and would find it a privilege to continue to serve on it.

4.8 **Dafydd Treharne - Vale of Glamorgan SACRE**

- 1966-1974 Head of RE and Humanities in a comprehensive school.
- 1974 -1996 Adviser for RE, Welsh medium education and Pastoral Care for South Glamorgan LEA and then the Vale of Glamorgan LEA.
- 1992- 2010 Team Inspector for ESTYN in RE, Welsh and Pastoral Care
- Currently Co-opted Member of Religious Education Movement Wales (REMW)
- 1996 Member of Vale SACRE
- 2010- 2013 Member of WASACRE executive nominated by Vale SACRE.
- 1996-2012 Chairman of Governor in Welsh medium primary school - presently deputy chairman.
 - a. Foundation Governor in CinW Primary school.
- Church (Rector's) Warden in St John the Baptist, Llanblethian, Cowbridge
- 2013 Vale of Glamorgan Governors Association representative on Governors Wales.

4.9 Nominations for the position of Vice Chair for the Wales Association of SACREs (19 June 2013)

Gavin Craigen (Denbighshire SACRE, REC representative)

Gavin Craigen retired in December 2012 from his post as Director of St Giles' Centre for Religious Education and Faith Development. Prior to that he was for 19 years Inspector/advisor for Religious Education for North East Wales (Conwy, Denbighshire and Flintshire) and for Wrexham for 5 years too. During that time he was also Chief Examiner for WJEC Religious Studies GCSE (Spec B). He was lead mentor in Wales for the Welsh Government and Home Office RESilience project, and was also appointed as Chief Moderator for the KS 3 Central Mid programme that was completed in June 2012. He has been a member of NAPFRE from 1992 to 2012, and served as its Chairperson for several years. He has been involved with WASACRE since its inception and was IRS first Secretary for five years. He has also been Vice Chair and Chair. Although retired, Gavin Craigen continues his involvement in RE matters through Denbighshire SACRE, as a member of the Board of the RE Council of England and Wales, and also as Chair of the Religious Services Committee of Christian Education and RE Today Services.

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 To discuss the nominations and ensure the votes are cast at the next WASACRE meeting on June 19th 2013 at the Dafydd Orwig Chamber, Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

Author: Vicky Thomas (RE Consultant to SACRE)