



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) - 12TH JUNE 2014

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE VOTING FOR THE PERIOD 2014-2015

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the nominations received for the two vacant positions on the WASCARE Executive Committee.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides Members with short biographies of the seven nominees for the two vacant positions of the WASACRE Executive Committee.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 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. THE REPORT

4.1 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.

4.2 **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.

4.3 **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.

4.4 **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.
2010 Foundation Governor in CinW Primary school.
2010 Church (Rector's) Warden in St John the Baptist, Llanblethian, Cowbridge
2013 Vale of Glamorgan Governors Association representative on Governors Wales.

4.5 **Revd. Roy Watson Blaenau Gwent SACRE**

Rev. Roy Watson is a Methodist Minister covering Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent.

Rev. Watson's previous and current experience is as follows:-

- Head of RE, Willows High School, Splott, Cardiff – 1976 – 1996
- Member of South Glamorgan SACRE 1992 – 1996
- Member of Blaenau Gwent SACRE 1996 – present
- Chair of Governors, Coed y – Garn Primary School, Nantyglo 1996 – present
- Welsh Football Association. Soccer Referee 1980 – 2003
- Part of Chaplaincy Team, 6th Form, Coleg Gwent, Ebbw Vale

4.6 **Gill Vaisey Monmouthshire SACRE**

Gill Vaisey, Religious Education Consultant.

Gill Vaisey is a qualified teacher and Religious Education Consultant specialising in primary and early years education.

After studying for her B.Ed. Hons. Degree, with Religious Studies as her specialist subject, she taught primary age children before taking up a post as Advisory Teacher for Religious Education in Gwent followed by a similar post with Mid Glamorgan. Since 1996, Gill has been a successful freelance consultant providing training and support for LAs, Dioceses and schools across Wales and England and is now a nationally known figure for her work with Early Years children.

Gill is the professional consultant to Blaenau Gwent and Monmouthshire SACREs and is being nominated by Monmouthshire for a place on the WASACRE Executive Committee.

Relevant experiences include:

- An active member of the Welsh Association of SACREs since its inception
- Providing professional expertise to Blaenau Gwent and Monmouthshire SACREs since 1996
- Writing Agreed Syllabuses for RE and accompanying comprehensive teachers' support, planning and assessment material for several Local Authorities in Wales
- Regular training and consultancy for primary teachers and early years practitioners across both Wales and England
- Providing training and advice to Local Authorities and Church Dioceses across Wales and England
- A member of the National Advisory Panel for Religious education, of which she was chairperson for three years
- Producing Key Stage 1 books and teachers' resources commissioned by ACCAC
- Direct involvement and support with various DfES projects
- Producing and publishing free and purchasable resources (Books at Press) to support the Foundation Phase Curriculum in Wales and the EYFS and KS1 curriculum in England
- Close links with a wide range of faith communities and individual representatives
- A member of the UK Association of RE Advisers, Inspectors and Consultants (AREIAC) and executive committee member representing Wales for four years and regularly providing seminars for its members

The ethos behind her consultancy is to promote and support excellence in religious education in schools and educational establishments. Gill would be pleased to support and share her expertise with the WASACRE Committee.

4.7 **Vicky Thomas Torfaen SACRE**

- I have served on the Executive committee for a number of years and wish to continue as an Executive member because I strongly believe that I still have much to offer the Association and the SACREs of Wales. The Association is the voice of SACREs in Wales who are fighting hard to retain and improve the position of RE and Collective worship in schools. The school curriculum is rapidly changing and I believe that my experience can be of benefit to the Association in serving the interests of SACREs and schools.
- I have been an RE Adviser for over 20 years and since early retirement in Summer 2012 act as a Consultant Adviser for Caerphilly, Newport, Torfaen and Swansea SACREs.
- I have taken an active role in WASACRE activities since its inception making a number of presentations to WASACRE. I have represented the Executive in their annual meeting/s with the Minister for Education or WG representatives. In fact the two

- questions that I have put to the Minister - namely Wales' pupils to receive funding for the annual Lessons from Auschwitz visit and the Review of Secondary RE by Estyn (Autumn 2013) – both secured Welsh Government support.
- I represent the Executive on the Estyn Stakeholders group, attend meetings and report back to WASACRE.
 - I have been very involved in the writing of agreed syllabus documents and support materials and advise teachers on implementing the agreed syllabus and on teaching RE effectively.
 - I have served on a number of working groups that work collaboratively with DfES and served on the working party for REsilience which helps to increase teacher confidence in dealing with contentious issues.
 - I am a qualified inspector of schools and have conducted a number of inspections both primary and secondary under Estyn contract.
 - I continue to be passionate about Religious Education as a subject and what it can bring to the curriculum and the understanding of children and young people.

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. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been reflected in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 SACRE discuss the nominations and ensure WASACRE receive the voting preferences of Caerphilly SACRE for the two people chosen to stand on the Executive Committee.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To establish and inform WASCRE of the voting preference of Caerphilly SACRE.

Author: Vicky Thomas (RE Consultant to SACRE)
Consultees: Keri Cole (Manager Learning Education and Inclusion)
Councillor D.M. Gray (SACRE Chair)