

# Public Document Pack

Penallta House,  
Tredomen Park,  
Ystrad Mynach,  
Hengoed CF82 7PG

Ty Penallta,  
Parc Tredomen,  
Ystrad Mynach,  
Hengoed CF82 7PG



[www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)  
[www.caerffili.gov.uk](http://www.caerffili.gov.uk)

For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Rebecca Barrett  
(Tel: 01443 864245 Email: [barrerm@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:barrerm@caerphilly.gov.uk))

**Date: 29th October 2014**

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education** will be held at **Ysgol y Lawnt, Surgery Hill, Station Road, Rhymney, NP22 5LS** on **Thursday, 6th November, 2014** at **2.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chris Burns'.

**Chris Burns**  
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## A G E N D A

- 1 To receive apologies for absence.
- 2 **Declarations of Interest**  
Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

To approve and sign the following minutes: -

- 3 Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) - 12th June 2014.
- 4 To receive a presentation from Ms Bethan Davies, RE Co-ordinator, Ysgol y Lawnt.

To receive and consider the following reports:-

**A greener place Man gwyrdach**

Correspondence may be in any language or format | Gallwch ohebu mewn unrhyw iaith neu fformat



- 5 Schedule of Meetings 2014-15 (verbal update).
- 6 Membership Update 2014-15 and Humanist Request for Co-option.
- 7 Caerphilly SACRE Annual Report for the Academic Year 2013-14.
- 8 SACRE Development Plan 2012 - 2015 : Progress Report (Please refer to Annual Report).
- 9 Analysis of Caerphilly School Inspection Reports Autumn 2013 - Summer 2014.
- 10 Holocaust Memorial Day 2015.
- 11 RE News Website.
- 12 Correspondence (verbal update).

**WASACRE:-**

- 13 Feedback from the Annual General Meeting at Powys - 2nd July 2014.
- 14 Appointments to the Executive Committee.
- 15 Representation at Forthcoming WASACRE Meetings (verbal update).

**Circulation:**

Councillors D.G. Carter, W. David, D.M. Gray (Chair), Mrs G.D. Oliver, Mrs M.E. Sargent and J. Taylor (Vice Chair)

And Appropriate Officers; Trade Union Representatives and Religious Organisations



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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT RISCA SALVATION ARMY CITADEL,  
COMMERCIAL STREET, RISCA CAERPHILLY ON THURSDAY, 12TH JUNE 2014  
AT 2.00 P.M.

---

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Taylor - Vice Chair

Representing Teaching Organisations: Miss H. Bartley (ATL) N. Boardman (NUT) and Mrs. B. Davies (UCAC).

Representing Religious Organisations: Mrs. J. Jones (Church in Wales), Mr. M. Western (Roman Catholic Archdiocese) and Lieutenant C. Di Palma (Salvation Army).

Together with:

V. Thomas (RE Consultant), K. Cole (Manager, Learning, Education and Inclusion) and E. Sullivan (Democratic Services Officer).

### APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D.G. Carter, D.M. Gray, Mrs. G.D. Oliver, Mrs. M.E. Sargent and Mrs. E. Hawthorn (United Reform Church).

In the absence of Councillor D.M. Gray (Chair), Councillor J. Taylor (Vice Chair) took the Chair for the meeting.

### WELCOME

The Chair thanked Lieutenant Carlo Di Palma for giving SACRE such a warm welcome and for providing Members with an interesting and informative introduction to the Salvation Army.

### 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 meeting held on the 5th March 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

Members were advised that all the actions arising from the last meeting had been completed. It was noted that letters had been sent to schools in relation to the Examination Results Data and the Religious Education Quality Mark programme.

Teaching Representatives expressed concern that information was not reaching the appropriate person. The Clerk to SACRE confirmed that she had contacted all schools requesting contact details for their Head of RE or RE Co-ordinator and had compiled a comprehensive distribution list as a result of their responses.

SACRE agreed that the information circulated on Examination Results Data, REQM and RE Quest be resent using this list in order to ensure that information from SACRE reached the appropriate person. Teaching Representatives were asked to monitor this process and feedback any further issues.

### **4. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2014-15**

The report presented Members with provisional dates for forthcoming SACRE meeting and sought nominations for suitable venues.

Members fully discussed the dates and venues offered and agreed the following: -

The Autumn Term meeting would be held on Thursday 6th November 2014 at Ysgol-y-Lawnt, Rhymney.

The Spring Term meeting would be held on Monday 9th March 2014 at Newbridge School, Newbridge.

The Summer Term meeting would be held on Wednesday 10th June 2014 at the Penallta House Offices, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach.

### **5. SACRE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

The report updated Members on the current membership of Caerphilly SACRE and highlighted the present position in terms of vacant places.

The efforts made to secure nominations from Teaching Trade Unions and Free Church Representation were noted. Members were referred to an email received from Rheinallt Thomas with regard to Church representation and during discussion Councillor J. Taylor confirmed that he would be able to provide a contact from the East Glamorgan Baptist Association should Cytun be unable to secure a nomination.

The Chair thanked the Officer and the RE Advisor for the update and full discussion ensued.

SACRE agreed that Cytun should be given a further two weeks to secure a nomination, in the event that this was unsuccessful that Councillor Taylor provide details of his contact in the East Glamorgan Baptist Association and a suitable nomination be sought from there.

In relation to Teacher representation SACRE agreed that Keri Cole, Manager for Learning, Education and Inclusion be contacted and asked to circulate a letter to Caerphilly Primary Schools seeking nominations.

SACRE agreed that no further action was required in relation to the current Co-opted vacancies.

SACRE noted the report.

## **6. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL OF ENGLAND AND WALES ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The report updated Members on the Religious Education Council of England and Wales Annual Conference on the 7th May 2014 and highlighted an excerpt from the speech given by Huw Lewis, Minister for Education as it related specifically to RE.

The key messages were detailed for Members information and noted the statements relating to the teaching of Religious Education and how this fits in to the changing educational landscape in Wales. It acknowledged that RE Teachers were already introducing and implementing the Literacy and Numeracy Framework in their lessons and confirmed the seriousness with which Welsh Government takes religion and the teaching of RE in society.

Reference was made to the positive nature of the Estyn report but acknowledged that more needed to be done to ensure good quality RE provision and highlighted areas for improvement. The statements regarding the value of professional development and sharing good practice were noted however Members felt that the current lack of any real opportunities to facilitate this required further discussion with the Minister. Although the role taken up by WASACRE in providing training was recognised there remained a huge training gap. As to engaging with key partners in assessing the quality of support provided by local authorities it was noted that SACRE achieved this through its annual report and further evidenced through Welsh Governments Review of SACRE Annual Reports. The review was discussed and the 4-year timeframe under which it was conducted was acknowledged as too long a time period. Members were also mindful that during this review period full-time RE Advisors were in place and this was no longer the case.

The speech also referred to Professor Graham Donaldson review of the Curriculum for Wales and the remit and scope of the review was confirmed for information. Members were pleased to note that part of that remit included the implications for the capacity of the workforce. The implications for Agreed Syllabus should the National Curriculum order be revised were discussed and SACRE emphasised the importance of providing appropriate training to teachers in relation to any change.

Mrs Thomas (RE Consultant) confirmed that WASACRE had requested an interview with Professor Donaldson as part of the call for evidence process and confirmed that she would be in attendance and hoped to be able to raise CPD and funding for training as a result of changes to the curriculum at this time.

The Chair thanked the RE Advisor for her report and full discussion ensued.

SACRE felt that the given the positive nature of the statements made within the speech and the implications for RE Teachers that the excerpt in the report be shared with schools.

SACRE agreed that a letter be sent to all schools sharing the relevant section of the speech with schools.

Having fully discussed its content SACRE noted the report.

## **7. RE QUEST RESOURCE FOR TEACHING CHRISTIANITY IN SCHOOLS**

The report informed Members of the updated RE Quest website that provided resources for teaching Christianity in schools.

RE Quest is one of the largest on line resources for teaching Christianity in schools in the UK. This free resource provides films, images, interactive features, lesson plans and

downloadable materials.

Members viewed a selection of introductory video clips that illustrated how to navigate the site and the different options available.

The Chair thanked the RE Advisor for the report and full discussion ensued.

SACRE agreed that a letter be sent to all schools informing them of the RE Quest resource and its updated website.

**8. WASACRE - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 27TH MARCH 2014 IN CAERPHILLY**

The report informed Members of the discussion and deliberations of WASACRE at its last meeting on the 27th March 2014.

The RE Advisor confirmed that the minutes noted within the report were in draft and provided a verbal update on any matters arising. Members were referred to the discussion in relation to the RE News e-Magazine and it was confirmed that this resource would now be made available to all schools free of charge.

A presentation given by Tudor Thomas on WJEC Developments was highlighted along with feedback from the training provided by Gavin Graigen on using levels in RE. Updates to WASACRE and RE Quest websites were also noted.

SACRE noted the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE.

**9. WASACRE - REPRESENTATION AT THE NEXT MEETING ON 22ND JULY 2014 AT LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS**

The report advised Members of the date and time of the next WASACRE meeting and sought nominations for representation from Caerphilly SACRE.

It was noted that the votes for the Executive Committee would be cast at this meeting and the RE Advisor requested that Members if possible make every effort to attend.

Councillor J. Taylor advised that he would try and rearrange his work schedule to allow him to attend but could not give a firm commitment at this time. It was noted that Councillor D.M. Gray and Mrs V. Thomas (RE Advisor) would be in attendance.

**10. EXECUTIVE VOTING FOR THE PERIOD 2014-2015**

The report provided Members with profiles of the seven nominees for the two vacant position on the WASACRE Executive Committee.

Having fully considered the list of nominees it was moved and seconded that Councillor D.M. Gray and Mrs V. Thomas be put forward as Caerphilly SACREs nominations to the WASACRE Executive Committee and that WASACRE be informed of the voting preference of Caerphilly SACRE and by a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

The meeting closed at 3.00 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 Thursday, 6th November 2014, they were signed by the Chairman.

---

CHAIRMAN

This page is intentionally left blank



## CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**DATE:** 6TH NOVEMBER 2014

**SUBJECT:** MEMBERSHIP UPDATE 2014 /2015

### **THE LOCAL AUTHORITY**

Councillor D.G. Carter  
Councillor W. David  
Councillor D.M. Gray, (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs. G.D. Oliver  
Councillor Mrs M.E. Sargent  
Councillor J. Taylor (Vice Chairman)

### **TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS**

Miss Helen Bartley (ATL)  
Mrs Nicola L Boardman (NUT)  
Mrs Bethan Davies (UCAC)  
Mrs Helen Marsh (ASCL)  
Vacancy (NAHT) Mrs Christine Thompson resigned October 2012  
Vacancy (NASUWT) Mrs Diane Williams resigned December 2012

### **CHRISTIAN AND OTHER RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS**

Rev Eryl Williams – (Baptist Church)  
Mr Martyn Western (Roman Catholic Church)  
Mrs Enfys Hawthorn (United Reformed Church)  
Mrs Janet Jones (Church in Wales)  
Lieutenant Carl Di -Palma (Salvation Army)

### **CO OPTED MEMBERS**

(1. Rhianne Bradshaw, St James Primary School)

### **OFFICERS**

Mrs Keri Cole (Manager Learning, Education and Inclusion)  
Mrs Vicky Thomas (Independent RE Consultant)

### **CLERK TO SACRE**

Rebecca Barrett  
Email barrerm@caerphilly.gov.uk

## **BRITISH HUMANIST ASSOCIATION**

The British Humanist Association (BHA) is a registered charity.

Its President is Jim Al Khalili Professor of Theoretical Physics University of Surrey, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is Andrew Copson.

Professor Richard Dawkins, Professor Brian Cox, Stephen Fry, Sir Terrance Pratchett and Polly Toynbee are a few of its many distinguished supporters.

The BHA is a focus of humanist beliefs and is the biggest humanist organisation in Britain. It exists to support and represent humanists. It is well organised and provides funerals, weddings, civil partnership ceremonies and namings attended by over 300,000 people a year. It is widely recognised as representing a considered, rational, non-religious perspective on current issues and is consulted by government bodies, quangos, and professional organisations, including the Department for Education, Home Office, Foreign Office, Department of Health, Department for Communities and Local Government, Government Equalities Office, Ofsted, BMA, and the Human Genetics Commission. There is an All Party Parliamentary Humanist Group and a Humanist Philosophers' Group and a Defence Forces Group.

The BHA has been actively involved in supporting education about religions and non-religious beliefs in our classrooms for over fifty years. The BHA was a founder member of the Religious Education Council for England and Wales in 1973, and was involved in the development of the 2004 English Religious education: The non-statutory national framework, to which we gave our named support. The BHA was involved in the steering groups that developed the further English non-statutory programmes of study and attainment targets for key stage 3 and key stage 4/5 RE in 2007; the abandoned level descriptions and key stage 1/2 non-statutory programme of learning in 2010; and the 2010 non-statutory guidance. The BHA dedicate significant resources to producing classroom materials to support RE (such as the website <http://www.humanismforschools.org.uk/>) and to training RE PGCE students at a number of initial teacher training (ITT) providers across England. The BHA was a donor to the Celebrating RE month in March 2011 and Chief Executive Andrew Copson is a serving director and trustee of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales as well as a Vice Chair of the National Council for Faiths and Beliefs in Further Education, as a result of his position with the BHA.

Humanists have an essential role to play in advising the local authority about RE and collective worship – in helping to ensure that the beliefs and values of pupils and parents who are not religious are included in RE. Inclusiveness is an important principle underpinning good RE, which usually sees itself today as concerned with a range of responses to ultimate questions and ethical issues, as well as offering pupils the opportunity to reflect on their own beliefs and values and to learn about those of others.

Amongst other references to non-religious and philosophical perspectives, page 6 of the 2002 National exemplar framework for religious education for 3 to 19-year-olds in Wales emphasises that learners 'plan investigations by gathering and utilising a range of religious and non-religious sources and use these to evaluate and justify their personal responses.' Page 8 adds that 'Religious education contributes to Wales, Europe and the World by raising challenging questions from religious and non-religious perspectives'. Page 13 encourages 'in-depth investigations of religion and religious/non-religious ideas evident in [learners'] locality in Wales.'

Page 8 of the 2011 Religious education Guidance for Key Stages 2 and 3: Key messages for planning learning and teaching emphasises that pupils should 'engage with fundamental questions to investigate interpretations of meaning and the purpose of existence as raised by religious and non-religious people alike.' Page 25 adds that 'In religious education, learners will have opportunities to plan investigations by gathering and utilising a range of religious and non-religious sources and use these to evaluate and justify their personal responses'.

The 2011 Exemplifying learner profiles at Key Stages 2 and 3 in religious education: Additional guidance also emphasises the importance of learning about non-religious beliefs, and cites a number of examples.

Amongst other references, page 70 of the 2009 Religious education Guidance for 14 to 19-year-olds explains 'Pupils should be given opportunities to investigate fundamental questions from a variety of informed religious and non-religious sources to evaluate a range of possibilities and begin to draw reasoned conclusions based on the evidence gathered.

There is a wealth of support for the teaching of humanism in schools from the 1989 Religious Education Council of England and Wales' Handbook for SACRE's, ASC's and Schools (1989), indicated that one generally accepted aim of RE would be, "To encourage knowledge and understanding of religions and similar world views." Humanism can be seen as such a world view.

In 2003 the Church of England supported teaching about atheism and Humanism in RE and in 2005. The Archbishop of Canterbury, in a talk to the RE Council in May 2005 (full transcript at [www.religiouseducationcouncil.org](http://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org)) said: "A good religious education assists a person in being serious..." and made useful distinctions between atheism and humanism: "Humanism, I regard as a much wider word. Which while it assumes that you can't talk with confidence or authority about the divine, is more interested in the innate capacities of human beings to make meaning and to sustain meaning together."

Five important humanist beliefs focus on morality, meaning and purpose, inspiration, knowledge and evidence:

- Humanists believe in shared moral values, based on human nature and experience alone. They take responsibility for their own actions, and believe that we should try to live good lives and help others to do so.
- Humanists seek to make the best of this life by creating meaning and purpose for themselves and by living life to the full.
- Humanists are inspired by art and culture and the rich natural world, and motivated by the desire for happiness and good relationships with others.
- Humanists look to experience, science and reason for their understanding of how the world works.
- Humanists do not believe in things for which there is no good evidence, such as gods or an afterlife, and they do not pray or worship or practice unnecessary self-denial

Ken Chamberlain 20/08/2014

This page is intentionally left blank

## CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**DATE:** 6TH NOVEMBER 2014

**SUBJECT:** CAERPHILLY SACRE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE  
ACADEMIC YEAR 2013 - 2014

### **A PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To offer to Members of SACRE the Annual Report for 2013 –2014.
2. To present a brief summary of this report.

### **B EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This is the Annual Report from Caerphilly SACRE and outlines the activities of SACRE during the academic year 2013/14. It follows the guidelines laid down by DFES.

### **C RECOMMENDATION**

Members of the SACRE are requested to **note** and **approve** the report prior to its submission to the Department for Education and Skills (DFES) by 30th December 2014.

### **D SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

SACRE Annual Report 2013-2014.

This page is intentionally left blank

# **APPENDIX 1**

**CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2013-2014**





**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**2013 - 2014**

**CONTENTS**

	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>SECTION 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1 Duty To Establish SACRE .....	1
1.2 Composition Of SACRE.....	1
1.3 Membership Of SACRE.....	1
1.4 Functions Of SACRE .....	1
1.5 Meetings.....	2
1.6 Development Plan .....	2
1.7 Circulation Of Report .....	2
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ADVICE GIVEN BY SACRE</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>SECTION 2: ADVICE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b> .....	<b>6</b>
2.1 The Locally Agreed Syllabus .....	6
2.2 Standards In RE .....	6
2.3 Methods Of Teaching, Teaching Materials And Teacher Training.....	8
<b>SECTION 3: ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP</b> .....	<b>9</b>
3.1 School Inspection Reports .....	9
3.2 School Self-Evaluation.....	9
3.3 Applications For Determinations .....	9
3.4 School Visits .....	9
<b>SECTION 4: OTHER ISSUES</b> .....	<b>10</b>
4.1 WASACRE .....	10
4.2 Holocaust Education.....	10
4.3 Welsh Government Review Of SACRE Reports .....	10
4.4 Welsh Government Foundation Phase Guidance .....	10
4.5 Welsh Government National Curriculum Review .....	11
4.6 WASACRE Conference 2013 .....	11
4.7 RE Council Of England And Wales National Conference.....	11
4.8 Estyn Thematic Review Of Re In The Secondary School.....	11
4.9 RE News .....	12
4.10 Training Of SACRE Members.....	12

<b>APPENDIX 1: SACRE MEMBERSHIP 2013-2014 .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2: SCHEDULE AND AGENDA OF MEETINGS.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>APPENDIX 3: CAERPHILLY SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012-2015 (ACADEMIC YEAR) .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>APPENDIX 4: EXAMINATION RESULTS ANALYSIS 2013 .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>APPENDIX 5: CIRCULATION OF REPORT .....</b>	<b>20</b>

# THE ANNUAL REPORT OF CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2013- 2014

## SECTION 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE

### 1.1 Duty To Establish SACRE

All Local Authorities are required to constitute Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) within their local area.

### 1.2 Composition Of SACRE

Representation on SACRE is required as follows:-

- Such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the Local Authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area
- Associations representing teachers
- The Local Authority

The Local Authority determined that the SACRE should comprise of six elected members, five representatives of religious bodies and six representatives of teachers' associations. In addition, the Authority allowed for two other individuals to be co-opted. Both co-opted places are currently filled.

### 1.3 Membership Of SACRE

The list of members of Caerphilly SACRE is set out in Appendix 1. Every effort has been made to seek representation from non-Christian communities but SACRE has experienced difficulties in finding such representation. SACRE commissioned the Clerk to SACRE to find out the composition of religions in Caerphilly County Borough Council and it was evident that statistically there are very few non-Christian religions represented in the area. The Clerk to SACRE contacted VALREC (Valleys Racial Equality Council) to see if a wider representation can be found. Mr Darren Ralph (VALREC) served as a co-opted member of SACRE to bring his experience of working with different communities to the work of SACRE but resigned in 2012/13 and a replacement is still being sought.

### 1.4 Functions Of SACRE

- To advise the Local Authority on worship and the religious education to be given in accordance with the agreed syllabus including methods of teaching, advice on materials and the provision of training for teachers
- To consider whether to recommend to the local authority that its current agreed syllabus should be reviewed by convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference.
- To consider whether the requirement that religious worship in a county school should be 'broadly Christian in nature' should be varied (determinations)
- To report to the Local Authority and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) on its activities on an annual basis.

## **1.5 Meetings**

SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2013-14.

Thursday November 14th 2013

Wednesday March 5th 2014

Thursday June 12th 2014

SACRE has resolved that, where possible, meetings will be held at alternative venues such as schools or places of worship. During the academic year 2013-2014 SACRE held one meeting at a primary school, one at a place of worship (Salvation Army Citadel, Risca) and one at the council offices.

## **1.6 Development Plan**

SACRE adopted a development plan as a basis for its activities for the period 2012 - 2015. A year on year progress report is included in the plan. The plan can be found in Appendix 3.

## **1.7 Circulation Of Report**

Copies of this report are circulated electronically to those organisations and establishments listed in Appendix 7. It is also available on the Local Authority and the WASACRE website.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ADVICE GIVEN BY SACRE**

Summary of the advice given to the local authority by SACRE

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

#### **Issue**

To monitor provision and standards in RE

#### **Action**

1. SACRE considers and analyses school inspection reports. If there are any issues regarding RE, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up. During the academic year 2013-2014 SACRE resolved to conduct annual analyses and this would take place in the autumn term of each academic year. The next review is Autumn 2014.
2. SACRE, in consultation with the local authority and its schools resolved to use school self-evaluation as a means of fulfilling its statutory responsibility to monitor provision and standards in RE. A review of school self evaluation reports took place in 2012/13 and a summary report was presented to SACRE at its Spring meeting. No further SE has taken place.
3. SACRE analyses examination results over a three-year period and identifies trends in performance benchmarked against all Wales data. Schools are informed of the outcomes of this analysis and SACRE raises any issues schools should be addressing as a result of this analysis. Last year SACRE were concerned about uptake at AS level and schools were asked to complete a pro forma for SACRE identifying future trends in take up for AS level which showed an upward trend. Members were pleased to note that following on from its audit there has been a significant increase in entries this year which endorsed the schools' predictions.

### **THE AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RE**

#### **Issue**

To fulfil the legal requirement to review the agreed syllabus for RE on a five yearly basis and ensure the agreed syllabus is being implemented in schools

#### **Action**

1. In 2008 Standing Conference endorsed and adopted a new agreed syllabus for the Authority's schools, which was implemented from September 2008.
2. In June 2013 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education with an understanding that the syllabus would be reviewed once further information is received in relation to the assessment and national curriculum review.
3. SACRE is still awaiting outcomes of NC Review. WASACRE, on behalf of all SACRE's, responded to Phase 1. Phase 2 is currently underway. WASACRE has met Professor Donaldson to discuss implications of the review on RE and agreed syllabuses.

## **TEACHING MATERIALS**

### **Issue**

To ensure that schools are informed of suitable resources

### **Action**

1. All schools were informed of the 2014 Holocaust Memorial Day theme '*Journeys*' and that free Holocaust resources can be found on their website [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk) – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.
2. Schools were informed of the online resources from RE Quest to support the teaching of Christianity in schools.

## **TRAINING FOR TEACHERS**

### **Issue**

To ensure that teachers are able to access appropriate CPD

### **Action**

All schools were offered subject specific training workshops as part of the WASACRE Conference in October 2013 '*Resourcing National Priorities in Wales*'. Teachers received an update from Estyn on the outcomes of the Estyn Secondary Thematic review and also attended an afternoon of CPD workshops on RE specific issues.

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **Issue**

To ensure that schools fulfil statutory requirements for collective worship and provide a worthwhile experience for pupils.

### **Action**

1. The local authority and its SACRE would normally scrutinise relevant sections of school inspection reports on a twice-yearly basis. It was agreed at its autumn meeting to conduct this scrutiny once a year in the autumn term so that an overall picture from the reports on Caerphilly schools can emerge. If any issues emerge regarding collective worship, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up by requesting their action plans.
2. SACRE received the action plans and an update on two schools that had been identified as not fulfilling statutory requirements in 2012/13. Both schools produced action plans demonstrating how they intended to meet the requirements and SACRE were pleased that the LA was working closely with Estyn to monitor that statutory requirements were met.

3. SACRE has resolved to use school self-evaluation as a means of fulfilling its statutory responsibility to monitor fulfilment of statutory requirements, provision and quality of collective worship. A review of school self evaluation reports took place in 2012/13 and a summary report was presented to SACRE at its Spring meeting. No further SE has taken place.
4. Schools have been informed by SACRE of appropriate resources and websites that support collective worship in schools e.g. HMD 2014.

#### **OTHER ISSUES:**

**Aim:** To ensure a more informed SACRE through providing regular updates on local and national issues.

1. SACRE has maintained its membership of WASACRE and receives termly feedback from the meetings of the Association.
2. SACRE has discussed the report 'Welsh Government Review of SACRE Reports 2008-2011' and members have given consideration to the recommendations.
3. Members have received presentations on a number of issues:
  - (1) *'The Role and Functions of a SACRE'* by Vicky Thomas, RE Consultant
  - (2) *'The History and Work of the Salvation Army'* by Lieutenant Carl Di Palma

## **SECTION 2: ADVICE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **2.1 The Locally Agreed Syllabus**

In the Spring Term 2008 the Standing Conference endorsed and adopted a new agreed syllabus for the Authority's schools, which was implemented from September 2008. The agreed syllabus closely relates to the National Exemplar Framework for RE. During the 2012/13 academic year SACRE was made aware of the announcement by the Minister of a pending review of assessment and the National Curriculum in Wales. This review would involve the introduction of the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework and the identification of revisions to the current assessment and curriculum arrangements. During the Summer Term 2013 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the current syllabus with an understanding that the syllabus would undergo review once the outcomes of the review of assessment, the National Curriculum and the Foundation Phase are made available. (Academic year 2014/15)

### **2.2 Standards In RE**

SACRE has adopted a number of strategies for monitoring standards being achieved in religious education in the Authority's schools that include the following.

#### **2.2a School Inspection Reports**

The local authority and its SACRE would normally scrutinise relevant sections of school inspection reports on a twice-yearly basis. It was agreed at its autumn meeting to conduct this scrutiny once a year in the autumn term so that an overall picture from the reports on Caerphilly schools can emerge. If any issues emerge regarding RE, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up. SACRE has been informed of the findings of the thematic review of secondary religious education by the school inspectorate Estyn (Autumn 2012). The LA and its SACRE are pleased that they have such information in order to use it as a benchmark against which to measure standards in RE.

#### **2.2b School Self Evaluation**

SACRE has resolved to use school self-evaluation as a means of fulfilling its statutory responsibility to monitor provision and standards in RE. Schools have been consulted on this and a time scale agreed. A review took place in the academic year 2012-2013. No further review has been undertaken.

#### **2.2c Examination Results 2013**

Examination results for GCSE and GCE AS /Advanced Level achieved by pupils at secondary schools within the Authority have been analysed and considered. A three-year analysis is conducted so that a comparison can be made and trends identified. Cohort entry numbers are also analysed and a comparison is made to All -Wales figures (where available).

In **GCSE Religious Studies** thirteen schools entered 699 pupils and this is comparable to 2012.

The overall % of **A\*-A** grades for Caerphilly was **27%** and is below previous performance and the All Wales figure of 33%.



The overall % of **A\*-C** grades for Caerphilly was **64%**. This is below previous performance for the LA and the All Wales figure of 73%.

The overall % of **A\*-G** grades for Caerphilly was **99%**. This shows year on year an excellent pass rate and is better than the All Wales figure of 98%.

SACRE although noting that results at A\*-C overall were down this year were pleased that over a quarter of pupils entered (27%) were still achieving the top grade of A\*-A and there was a consistent excellent pass rate of 99%

**At GCSE Short Course in Religious Education** numbers have significantly increased this year with a healthy entry figure of 1317 entries from 13 schools.

The overall % of **A\*-A** grades for Caerphilly was **25%** and is the best performance of the last three years and better than the All Wales figure of 17.9%

The overall % of **A\*-C** grades for Caerphilly was **59%** and is the best performance of the last three years and better than the All Wales figure of 50.6%

The overall % of **A\*-G** grades for Caerphilly was **97%** and better than 2012 and the All Wales figure of 93.4%

SACRE is very pleased with the outcomes of Short Course at all grade boundaries and that 97% of pupils receive some kind of accreditation for their studies at KS4, especially when this course is usually delivered as part of statutory requirements for RE rather than an option subject.

It should be noted that in some schools more able pupils are entered for two short courses - with their results being shown in the full course outcomes - and this does have implications for Short Course results at the top grades of A\*-A and A\*-C.

At **GCE Advanced Level** entry figures are comparable to last year with 67 entries.

Those pupils achieving **A\*-A** grade was **20%** and is comparable to previous performance and the All Wales figure of 20%.

The % pass rate for grades **A\* - C** was **72%** and is better than 2012 performance but below the All Wales figure of 79.8%.

The **100%** pass rate for grades **A\* - E** was again excellent this year and continues the excellent performance of previous years and is above the All Wales figure of 96.3%.

At **AS level** there was a significant increase in entry numbers this year with 100 candidates from 9 schools compared to 22 candidates from 7 schools in 2012. SACRE wrote to schools last year asking them to complete a pro forma identifying the take up for AS over concern about poor entry figures in 2012. The schools responded identifying an upward trend borne out by the significant increase in entry figures in 2013.

At grade **A** the pass rate was **16%** and this is better than previous performance

At **A-C** the pass rate was **56%** and this is better than previous performance

At **A-E** the pass rate of **92%** and the best performance of the last three years.

It should be noted that definitive conclusions couldn't be drawn because the figures represent raw scores and do not necessarily reflect the selectivity of the entry and in some cases the numbers are too small to be statistically significant.

A detailed table of examination results is found in Appendix 4.

SACRE resolved to write to schools informing them of the examination analysis.

## **2.3 Methods Of Teaching, Teaching Materials And Teacher Training**

### **Continuing Professional Development**

The local authority informed SACRE that the South East Wales Consortium advertises their courses through CPD online. With the current Welsh Assembly Government's emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy very little subject specific training is on offer. However, in Autumn 2013 teachers of RE were invited to attend the WASACRE Conference '**Resourcing National Priorities in Wales**' where they received an update from Estyn on the outcomes of the Estyn Secondary Thematic review and teachers also attended an afternoon of CPD workshops on RE specific issues.

### **Teaching Materials**

#### **Holocaust Memorial Day 2014 Resources**

All schools were informed of the 2014 Holocaust Memorial Day theme of '**Journeys**' and that further information about the theme and free educational Holocaust resources can be found on their website [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk) – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/assembly material and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.

#### **RE Quest Resources**

Following on from a demonstration of the RE Quest online resources at the WASACRE Spring meeting in Caerphilly a further demonstration of the resource was made to members of Caerphilly SACRE. RE Quest is one of the largest online free resources for teaching Christianity in schools, it is non-denominational in stance and provides films, images, interactive features, lesson plans and downloadable materials. SACRE resolved to inform schools of the resource to support the teaching of Christianity in schools.

## **SECTION 3: ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **3.1 School Inspection Reports**

The local authority and its SACRE would normally scrutinise relevant sections of school inspection reports on a twice-yearly basis. It was agreed at its autumn meeting to conduct this scrutiny once a year in the autumn term so that an overall picture from the reports on Caerphilly schools can emerge. If any issues emerge regarding collective worship, such as non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, then the LA follows this up by requesting their action plans.

SACRE received the action plans and an update on two schools that had been identified as not fulfilling statutory requirements in 2012/13. Both schools produced action plans demonstrating how they intended to meet the requirements and SACRE were pleased that the LA was working closely with Estyn to monitor that statutory requirements were met.

SACRE resolved to continue to use inspection reports to monitor that statutory requirements are being met and to use whatever comments are applicable. They also resolved to continue to request the action plans of any schools identified as not fulfilling statutory requirements.

### **3.2 School Self-Evaluation**

SACRE has resolved to use school self-evaluation as a means of fulfilling its statutory responsibility to monitor fulfilment of statutory requirements, provision and quality of collective worship. A review took place in 2012-2013 - no further review has been undertaken.

### **3.3 Applications For Determinations**

No applications were received from schools for determinations to be made on the lifting of the requirements for collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

### **3.4 School Visits**

SACRE appreciates the opportunities accorded to members to observe acts of collective worship in schools. Members had the opportunity to host their SACRE meeting at a primary school this year and attended an act of collective worship.

## **SECTION 4: OTHER ISSUES**

### **4.1 WASACRE**

SACRE has continued to affiliate to WASACRE and representatives have attended its meetings. Caerphilly SACRE was delighted to host the Spring meeting of the Association by kind invitation of the Chair of SACRE and Mayor of the Borough, Councillor Michael Gray. During the 2013-14 academic year issues considered at WASACRE meetings have been fully reported back to SACRE and full discussions have taken place. SACRE welcomes the pro-active work of WASACRE in taking up issues that have implications for RE and keeping member SACRE's fully informed. SACRE is represented on the WASACRE Executive committee by Councillor Michael Gray and their professional consultant Mrs Vicky Thomas and receive regular feedback from them. Mrs Thomas has been re-elected to serve for a further three years on the Executive Committee.

### **4.2 Holocaust Education**

Caerphilly SACRE was informed of the 2014 Holocaust Memorial Day theme *Journeys* and that further information about the theme and free educational Holocaust Memorial Day resources can be found on their website [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk). SACRE resolved to inform schools about the availability of these resources and encourage them to commemorate HMD in some way. SACRE discussed how some schools were embracing the issues raised by HMD very seriously and reference was made to some primary and secondary schools who were conducting activities and acts of collective worship to commemorate the day.

### **4.3 Welsh Government Review Of SACRE Reports**

The review analysed SACRE reports during the period 2008-2011. The analysis shows how SACRE's and local authorities have continued to develop ways of supporting schools and helping to raise standards in religious education and collective worship in Wales. Members discussed the recommendations made by DfES. The main responsibilities of SACRE were noted and discussion ensued regarding the extent to which SACRE was meeting those responsibilities. It was agreed that Caerphilly SACRE took these responsibilities seriously and the annual report/s evidenced that its monitoring role was being fulfilled. The issue of CPD was discussed and it was strongly agreed that WASACRE would be well placed to take a role in providing CPD for teachers as they had already done so through the KS3 training and the WASACRE Conference. It was agreed that a DfES two-year review would be more helpful for a SACRE to move forward than the current four-year review.

### **4.4 Welsh Government Foundation Phase Guidance**

SACRE were informed of the Foundation Phase guidance issued by Welsh Government in relation to religious education for 3 to 7 years olds in Wales. The guidance provides key messages for planning, learning and teaching and includes case studies illustrating good classroom practice, planning grids and suggestions regarding assessment. Members were pleased to note the guidance and agreed that the information be circulated to nursery, infant and primary schools with an accompanying explanatory letter.

#### **4.5 Welsh Government National Curriculum Review**

SACRE were informed of the progress of the National Curriculum Review. On 1st October 2012 the Minister for Education and Skills, announced a review of assessment and the National Curriculum in Wales. This review includes two phases.

**Phase 1** - focused on strengthening the teaching of literacy, numeracy and wider skills, ensuring continuity and progression from Foundation Phase to key stage 4. The consultation process on this has been completed and SACRE were informed of the response of WASACRE (on behalf of SACRE's in Wales) to this consultation

**Phase 2** - will focus on curriculum design at each phase/stage of education to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum fit for the twenty-first century. A review of the Basic Curriculum will be part of the scope of the review and this will have implications for the teaching of religious education and agreed syllabuses in Wales. WASACRE have been granted the opportunity of a meeting with Professor Donaldson in order to raise any issues they would like the review to consider.

SACRE have agreed that the agreed syllabus would be reviewed once the outcomes of the review of assessment, the National Curriculum and the Foundation Phase are made available.

#### **4.6 WASACRE Conference 2013**

Members were informed of the WASACRE Conference that took place on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2013. Members who attended the conference welcomed the programme for the day and particularly the training opportunities offered by the workshops, which were well facilitated. SACRE members reiterated the importance of opportunities for professional development with more time available for in depth discussions and opportunities to develop practical approaches in order to raise standards of achievement in the subject.

#### **4.7 RE Council Of England And Wales National Conference**

Members received an update on the Religious Education Council of England and Wales Annual Conference on the 7th May 2014. Excerpts from the speech given by Huw Lewis, Minister for Education were highlighted. Positive comments were made by the Minister about the Welsh Government's acknowledgement of the important role that RE plays in the school curriculum. It confirmed the seriousness with which Welsh Government takes religion and the teaching of RE in society. The speech also referred to Professor Graham Donaldson review of the Curriculum for Wales and the remit and scope of that review would include RE as part of the basic curriculum.

SACRE resolved that given the positive nature of the statements made within the speech, and the implications for RE teachers, that the Minister's speech be shared with schools.

#### **4.8 Estyn Thematic Review Of Re In The Secondary School**

SACRE have been informed of the outcomes of the Estyn Thematic Review of RE at KS3 and KS4 and received a copy of the full report. It was agreed that all headteachers and secondary Heads of RE were to receive a copy of this report from SACRE.

#### **4.9 RE News**

Members discussed developments in relation to RE News with future copies being published online and free of charge to schools.

#### **4.10 Training Of SACRE Members**

As part of its training for members SACRE proposed the following:

To keep members updated on developments in RE through regular presentations to SACRE members. This year SACRE received two presentations.

- (1) *'The Role and Functions of a SACRE'* by Vicky Thomas, RE Consultant
- (2) *'The History and Work of the Salvation Army'* by Lieutenant Carl Di Palma

SACRE, where possible, would hold meetings at places of worship in the Borough. This year a visit was made to the Salvation Army Citadel in Risca and SACRE wishes to extend their thanks to Lieutenant Di Palma for the kind invitation.

SACRE, where possible, would hold meetings at schools in Caerphilly for members to familiarise themselves with RE and collective worship in schools. A meeting was held this year at St Helen's Roman Catholic Primary School. SACRE wishes to extend their thanks to the school for hosting the meeting.

SACRE is very appreciative of these opportunities for training and visits and would like to extend their appreciation to all concerned. A special note of thanks is extended to the Clerk to SACRE (Emma Sullivan) for all her hard work in making such arrangements this year.

## **APPENDIX 1: SACRE MEMBERSHIP 2013-2014**

### **THE LOCAL AUTHORITY**

Councillor D.G. Carter  
Councillor W. David  
Councillor D.M. Gray (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs. G.D. Oliver  
Councillor Mrs M.E. Sargent  
Councillor J. Taylor (Vice Chairman)

### **TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS**

Miss Helen Bartley (ATL)  
Mrs Nicola L Boardman (NUT)  
Mrs Bethan Davies (UCAC)  
Mrs Helen Marsh (ASCL)  
Vacancy (NAHT)  
Vacancy (NASUWT)

### **CHRISTIAN AND OTHER RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS**

Independent - Vacancy  
Mr M. Western (Roman Catholic Church)  
Mrs Enfys Hawthorn (United Reformed Church)  
Mrs Janet Jones (Church in Wales)  
Lieutenant Carl Di -Palma (Salvation Army)

### **CO OPTED MEMBERS**

(1) Mr Phil Jones Headteacher of Heolddu Comprehensive School  
(2) Primary school representative (vacancy)

### **OFFICERS**

Mrs Keri Cole (Manager Learning, Education and Inclusion)  
Mrs Vicky Thomas (Independent RE Consultant)

### **CLERK TO SACRE**

Emma Sullivan

*SACRE has experienced difficulties in finding representatives from religious groups other than Christianity. SACRE had commissioned the clerk to SACRE to find out the composition of religions in Caerphilly County Borough Council and it was evident that statistically there are very few non-Christian religions represented in the area. The clerk to SACRE had contacted VALREC (Valleys Racial Equality Council) to see if a wider representation could be found. Mr Darren Ralph (VALREC) became a co-opted member of SACRE to bring his experience of working with different communities to the work of SACRE. He has since resigned and a new member is being sought from VALREC.*

## **APPENDIX 2: SCHEDULE AND AGENDA OF MEETINGS**

### **14th NOVEMBER 2013, PENALLTA HOUSE COUNCIL OFFICES**

#### **Main Agenda Items**

- Membership Update
- SACRE Annual Report 2012 -2013
- SACRE Development Plan 2012 – 2015 (see Annual report)
- Estyn Thematic Review: Religious Education in the Secondary School
- Welsh Government Foundation Phase Guidance
- Collective Worship Action Plans
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2014
- Report of WASACRE AGM at Caernarfon on 19th June 2013 and Representation at next meeting at Caerphilly in March 2014
- Feedback from WASACRE Conference October 2013
- Correspondence

### **5TH MARCH 2014, ST HELEN'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

An act of collective worship was observed

#### **Main Agenda Items**

- Membership Update
- Analysis of Examination Performance 2013
- National Curriculum Review and Assessment
- Welsh Government Review of SACRE Reports 2008-2011
- Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM)
- WASACRE representation at next meeting of WASACRE at Caerphilly
- Nominations to the WASACRE Executive
- Correspondence

### **12TH JUNE 2014, THE SALVATION ARMY CITADEL, RISCA**

- Schedule of Meetings 2014-2015
- SACRE Membership Update
- Religious Education Council of England and Wales Annual Conference
- RE Quest Resource for Teaching Christianity in Schools
- Report of WASACRE meeting at Caerphilly and representation at next meeting at Llandrindod Wells, Powys.
- Executive Voting for the Period 2014 –2015
- Correspondence



**APPENDIX 3: CAERPHILLY SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012-2015 (ACADEMIC YEAR)**

**Aim 1: To monitor standards in Religious Education and Religious Studies**

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
1.1 Monitor standards through regular review of inspection reports/ Estyn thematic reviews/ school self evaluation reports and recommend, where necessary, action by Local Authority.	Annual/termly agenda item	Full SACRE Adviser	Agenda time Adviser time for analysis	Advice to LA on trends across the county borough; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools; follow up through school visits and review of action plan where necessary.	<p><b>2012-2013</b> Considered 12.12.12 and 10.6.13. No issues relating to RE have been identified in the reports. A review of school self evaluation was considered on 28.2.13</p> <p><b>2013-2014</b> SACRE agreed an annual analysis would take place in autumn of each academic year. Next analysis autumn 2014</p>
1.2 Receive information on results of: Teacher Assessment at end of Key Stage 3; GCSE Religious Studies Full and Short Course; A/AS level Religious Studies.	Autumn/Spring Term	Full SACRE Adviser	Agenda time Adviser time for analysis	Advice to LA on trends; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools.	<p><b>2012-2013</b> Considered 12.12.12</p> <p><b>2013- 2014</b> Considered 5.3.14</p>
1.3 Identify INSET needs, monitor and offer advice on training.	Autumn Term	Full SACRE	Agenda time	Training programme received along with figures on uptake; advice to LA.	<p><b>2012-2013</b> Considered 2.10.12</p> <p><b>2013- 2014</b> No INSET provided by LA or SEWC Consortia. WASACRE provided subject specific training through their Conference Oct 2013</p>

**CAERPHILLY SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012 – 2015 (ACADEMIC YEAR)**

**Aim 2: To review the agreed syllabus (as appropriate) and support its implementation**

<b>Plan of action</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>People involved</b>	<b>Time and costs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Progress</b>
2.1 To review the agreed syllabus for Religious Education	Summer 2012 onwards (or as appropriate)	Full SACRE Adviser Working group NAPfRE	Advisory time to review the agreed syllabus. Establish a working group (if applicable). Convene a Standing Conference to adopt the syllabus Publication/ translation costs (as appropriate)	Agreed syllabus reviewed and adopted by Standing Conference. Agreed Syllabus training programme for schools (if required) Agreed syllabus to be implemented the Autumn term after adoption.	<b>2012-2013</b> Standing Conference was held on 10.6.13 and the syllabus was re-adopted and will be reviewed once the outcomes of the review of the national curriculum are known. <b>2013- 2014</b> Awaiting outcomes of NC Review. WASACRE has met Prof Donaldson to discuss implications of review on RE and agreed syllabuses.
2.2 Materials to support implementation of the agreed syllabus for RE	Ongoing	Full SACRE Adviser	Advisory time	Support materials available to schools and accessed through Consortium website.	<b>2012-2013</b> Not Applicable <b>2013- 2014</b> Schools informed of RE Quest resources

**CAERPHILLY SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012 – 2015 (ACADEMIC YEAR)**

**Aim 3: To monitor provision and provide support for collective worship.**

<b>Plan of action</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>People involved</b>	<b>Time and costs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Progress</b>
3.1 Monitor provision for collective worship through regular review of inspection reports/ school self evaluation reports; recommend, where necessary, action by LA.	Annual/ termly agenda item	Full SACRE and Adviser	Agenda time Adviser time for analysis	Advice to LA on trends across the county borough; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools; follow up through school visits and review of action plan where necessary.	<b>2012-2013</b> Considered 12.12.12 and 10.6.13. Action plans from two secondary schools have been requested. A review of school self evaluation was reported to SACRE at its meeting of 28.2.13 <b>2013- 2014</b> SACRE agreed an annual analysis would take place in autumn of each academic year. Next analysis autumn 2014. 14.11.13 SACRE considered the action plans of two schools not fulfilling statutory requirements.
3.2 To support the implementation of statutory collective worship	Ongoing	Advisory service	Advisory time	Provision of INSET (if applicable) Schools informed of resources and websites for collective worship. Schools informed of guidance materials available for collective worship	<b>2012-2013</b> Schools informed of resources to support HMD 2013 including resources for acts of collective worship. <b>2013- 2014</b> Schools informed of resources to support HMD 2014 including resources for acts of collective worship.

**CAERPHILLY SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012 – 2015 (ACADEMIC YEAR**

**Aim 4: To ensure a more informed SACRE through providing regular updates on local and national issues related to RE and collective worship in schools.**

<b>Plan of action</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>People involved</b>	<b>Time and costs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Progress</b>
4.1 To update members on the role of SACRE and its implications; recent developments in RE and collective worship; guidance materials from relevant bodies; input from practising teachers and outside providers	Annually as required	SACRE members, Adviser, practising teachers, outside providers	Member time; Adviser / Officer time	SACRE members fully aware of their responsibilities. SACRE and schools updated and informed of recent developments and initiatives, both local and national.	SACRE presentations 2.10.12 presentation on the work of the RE department from Cwmcarn High school. 28.2.13 presentation on the teaching of RE from an NQT perspective. <b>2013- 2014</b> SACRE presentations 12.6.14 presentation on the Role and Functions of a SACRE by V Thomas 12.6.14 presentation on the history and work of the Salvation Army and tour of Citadel by C Di-Palma
4.2 Programme of school visits.	Annually as required	SACRE members, Adviser/ Officers	Member time; Officer time to arrange visits	More informed SACRE on provision and practice regarding RE and collective worship in schools.	SACRE visited three schools this year, attended two acts of collective worship and received two presentations. <b>2013- 2014</b> SACRE visited one school this year and attended an act of collective worship.

## APPENDIX 4: EXAMINATION RESULTS ANALYSIS 2013

### GCSE Full Course Religious Studies 2013

	Caerphilly 2013	Caerphilly 2012	Caerphilly 2011	Wales 2013
A*-A	27%	35%	34.1%	33%
A*-C	64%	69%	73.7%	73%
A*- G	99%	99%	99.2%	98%
Entry Number	699 13 schools	697 14 schools	615 13 schools	11,414 students

### GCSE Short Course (Specification B) Religious Studies 2013

	Caerphilly 2013	Caerphilly 2012	Caerphilly 2011	Wales 2013
A*-A	25%	15%	16.4%	17.9%
A*-C	59%	47%	46.7%	50.6%
A*-G	97%	92%	97.3%	93.4%
Entry Number	1317 13 schools	949 13 schools	901 13 schools	12,765

### GCE A Level Religious Studies 2013

	Caerphilly 2013	Caerphilly 2012	Caerphilly 2011	Wales 2013
A*-A	20%	19%	19.8%	20%
A*-C	72%	67%	74.4%	79.8%
A*-E	100%	100%	100%	96.3%
Entry Number	67 8 schools	67 8 schools	86 8 schools	1,422 students

### GCE AS Level Religious Studies 2013

	Caerphilly 2013	Caerphilly 2012	Caerphilly 2011	Wales 2013
A	16%	9%	15.2%	N/A
A-C	56%	45%	50.0%	N/A
A-E	92%	77%	77.2%	N/A
Entry Number	100 9 schools	22 7 schools	92 8 schools	N/A

## APPENDIX 5: CIRCULATION OF REPORT

***Copies will be sent electronically to the relevant bodies. This report will be available on the Local Authority website and the WASACRE website for interested parties to download.***

Members of Caerphilly County Borough Council

Chair of Education Scrutiny

Regional Director of SEWC

Department for Education and Skills (DfES)

Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all County Borough Schools

All members of SACRE

Principals and Governing Bodies of all Tertiary Colleges within the County Borough

Wales Association of SACRE's (WASACRE)

Minister for Education, Welsh Assembly Government

ESTYN

## CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**DATE:** 6TH NOVEMBER 2014

**SUBJECT:** SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012-2015: Progress report  
(See Annual Report)

### **A PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform Members of the SACRE committee of progress made on issues identified in the Caerphilly SACRE Development Plan.

### **B BACKGROUND**

It is necessary for the Caerphilly SACRE committee to discuss the elements of the Development Plan in order to ensure that the business with which they deal is current and future developments are identified.

### **C RECOMMENDATION**

Members of the SACRE are requested to **discuss** and **note** the content of this Development Plan.

### **D SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

SACRE Development Plan for 2012-2015.

This page is intentionally left blank



## CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**DATE:** 6TH NOVEMBER 2014

**SUBJECT** ANALYSIS OF CAERPHILLY SCHOOL INSPECTION  
REPORTS AUTUMN 2013-SUMMER 2014

### **SACRE Synopsis: Main findings**

During the academic year Autumn 2013-Summer 2014 fourteen Caerphilly schools were inspected:-

- one infant school
- eleven primary schools
- two secondary schools

#### **Spiritual Development**

Comments in relation to spiritual development are evident in 12 inspection reports.

#### **Collective Worship**

##### **Meeting statutory requirements**

The Estyn Common Inspection Framework notes that inspectors should only report on instances where the school does **not** comply with statutory requirements. The inspection report for Rhydri Primary school states that the school does not comply with the statutory requirements. Two further schools (Markham Primary and Cefn Fforest primary) have no comment about acts of collective worship or the schools' development of SMSC. We can therefore assume – as Estyn has not noted any other instances of non-compliance - that all other schools inspected meet statutory requirements in relation to collective worship.

##### **Quality**

None of the reports made comment on the quality of collective worship

##### **Good features**

- Pupils develop respect for their own culture and for other cultures.
- Whole school assemblies celebrate pupils' progress and achievement well
- Whole-school assemblies provide suitable opportunities for pupils to reflect upon moral and spiritual issues.
- Assemblies give pupils a very good understanding of right and wrong and the school effectively instils a sense of fairness in the pupils.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. Request the action plan from Rhydri Primary school to show how they intend to meet statutory requirements for acts of collective worship.
2. Consider writing to Estyn to:-
  - Raise the issue of two school reports making no mention under the *Care Support and Guidance* section of the report on whether a school promotes SMSC and the contribution of acts of collective worship to SMSC.
  - Highlight the lack of comments on the *quality* of acts of collective worship.

Caerphilly Primary School Inspection Reports for Academic Year 2013/14: SACRE Synopsis

School	Spiritual Development	CW: meeting legal requirements	CW: quality	Other comments / issues
Aberbargoed Primary  November 2013	The school promotes pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development well.	Yes	No Comment	Current performance: Good Prospects for improvement: Good The curriculum meets statutory requirements and the needs of most pupils. The school's curriculum provides good opportunities for pupils to learn about sustainable development and global citizenship.
Abertysswg Primary  October 2013	A comprehensive programme of learning experiences promotes pupils' spiritual and moral development well.	Yes	Collective worship and circle time sessions enable pupils to consider their place in society and the wider world, and joint activities with local churches support the school's provision.	Current performance: Adequate Prospects for improvement: Adequate The school promotes pupils' understanding of sustainable development and global citizenship appropriately, e.g. by supporting Fair Trade products and links with a school in Uganda. Teachers' emphasis on values such as honesty, fairness and respect contribute to the caring and supportive character of the school Partnership with the local church supports pupils to understanding their place in the community. Regular use of the church and its grounds for services, concerts and sports events enriches their learning further.

School	Spiritual Development	CW: meeting legal requirements	CW: quality	Other comments / issues
Rhydri primary October 2013	The school promotes pupils' moral, social and cultural development appropriately. However, acts of collective worship do not meet statutory requirements.	<b>NO</b> - acts of collective worship do not meet statutory requirements.	No comment	Current performance: Adequate Prospects for improvement: Unsatisfactory The school promotes a good awareness of sustainable development and global citizenship in lessons.
Ysgol Gynradd Caerffili October 2013	The school provides opportunities for pupils to learn about various ways of worshipping and they have developed socially, morally and spiritually as a result of purposeful experiences that have been planned for them. Pupils develop respect for their own culture and for other cultures.	Yes		Current performance: Good Prospects for improvement: Good The curriculum meets the requirements of the NC, the Foundation Phase <b>and religious education</b> . Provision for teaching pupils about sustainable development and global citizenship is appropriate and permeates a number of areas of the curriculum.
Cefn Fforest Primary February 2014	<b>No comment</b>  Reporting Inspector Mervyn Jones	<b>No comment</b>	The school celebrates pupils' progress and achievement well, both in class and during whole school assemblies.	Current performance: Good Prospects for improvement: Good The support of a child's education in India gives the pupils a good understanding of global citizenship. There is a clear emphasis on recognising, respecting and celebrating diversity and creating an ethos that fosters care and tolerance.

School	Spiritual Development	CW: meeting legal requirements	CW: quality	Other comments / issues
Markham Primary February 2014	<b>No comment</b> Reporting Inspector Jayne McCarthy	<b>No comment</b>	No comment	Current performance: Adequate Prospects for improvement: Good The curriculum is broad and balanced and meets statutory requirements. Opportunities for pupils to develop their understanding of their role as global citizens are limited.
Pontllanfraith Primary March 2014	Whole-school assemblies and circle time provide suitable opportunities for pupils to reflect upon moral and spiritual issues.	Yes		Current performance: Adequate Prospects for improvement: Adequate The school provides a suitable range of learning experiences that meet the requirements of the Foundation Phase, National Curriculum <b>and religious education.</b> The school promotes the importance of sustainability and global citizenship appropriately. There is a clear emphasis on recognising, respecting and celebrating diversity.
YGG Ifor Bach March 2014	The school provides a variety of effective opportunities to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.	Yes	No comment	Current performance: Good Prospects for improvement: Good Strong links with schools in Kuala Lumpur promote pupils' awareness of their place in the world and of a variety of cultures.

School	Spiritual Development	CW: meeting legal requirements	CW: quality	Other comments / issues
Bedwas Infants May 2014	Provision for moral, cultural, social and spiritual development provides pupils with a wide range of high quality opportunities for personal development.	Yes	No comment	Current performance: Good Prospects for improvement: Good The school promotes pupils' understanding of other cultures very well through the curriculum and though links with local churches. The school supports a number of charities in different ways and this serves to raise pupils' awareness of other people's needs.
Crumlin High Level Primary April 2014	Teachers have good arrangements for ensuring they support pupils' social and moral development well. Through good links with a number of local churches, and reflective acts of collective worship, the school provides pupils with suitable opportunities to contemplate spiritual issues.	Yes	Acts of collective worship are reflective	Current performance: Good Prospects for improvement: Adequate Links with a school in Lesotho help to promote pupils' awareness of global citizenship.
Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary May 2014	Lessons and assemblies give pupils a very good understanding of right and wrong and the school effectively instils a sense of fairness in the pupils.	Yes		Current performance: Good Prospects for improvement: Excellent The school provides a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum that meets statutory requirements. There are good opportunities for pupils to reflect on the practices of different religions. Pupils' understand well their role as global citizens.

School	Spiritual Development	CW: meeting legal requirements	CW: quality	Other comments / issues
Ysgol y Lawnt May 2014	Staff use effective strategies and programmes to support pupils' needs, including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. In addition, the school's collective worship sessions and personal and social education programme contribute effectively to these areas.	Yes	No comment	Current performance: Good Prospects for improvement: Good The school provides a wide curriculum that meets the requirements of the National Curriculum and the Foundation Phase in full. They raise money for a number of charities, including supporting the Action Aid initiative in Zimbabwe. This develops their social skills and life skills effectively. There are few opportunities for pupils to develop their role as global citizens. Pupils at the school visit the nearby chapel and church regularly to hold concerts.

**\*Estyn monitoring**

**Fochriw Primary School – June 2014**

Estyn conducted a monitoring visit in June 2014 and as the school has made good progress has been removed from the list of Estyn monitoring.

Caerphilly Secondary School Inspection Reports for Academic Year 2013/14: SACRE Synopsis

School	Spiritual Development	CW: meeting legal requirements	CW: quality	Other comments / issues
Risca Community Comp  March 2014	The school promotes well pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in assemblies, through the whole school 'thought for the week' and through the personal and social education programme and religious education lessons.	Yes	No comment	Current performance: Adequate Prospects for improvement: Adequate The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum that meets requirements. There is a suitable range of provision for education for sustainable development and global citizenship
St Martins Comp  April 2014	The well-planned programmes of assemblies and for personal and social education promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well	Yes	No comment	Current performance: Adequate Prospects for improvement: Adequate The school provides an appropriate curriculum that meets statutory requirements in all key stages. Pupils have suitable opportunities to learn about global citizenship though the school's personal and social education programme, subjects and assemblies.



## CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**DATE:** 6TH NOVEMBER 2014

**SUBJECT:** HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2015

**PURPOSE:** TO INFORM THE SACRE OF HMD 2015

### **BACKGROUND**

Holocaust Memorial Day is an annual event that takes place on January 27<sup>th</sup> and was established in the UK in 2000. The first HMD was held in January 2001. January 27<sup>th</sup> marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp by Soviet troops in 1945. Holocaust Memorial Day seeks to change the future by learning from and remembering the past. Schools are encouraged to participate in Holocaust Memorial Day in order to remember the victims of the Holocaust and more recent genocides. It provides a framework to explore issues of morality, human reactions, individual experiences, responsibilities and larger questions of the role of governments and democracies. The government, including the Welsh Government, encourages schools and LAs to commemorate this event in some way.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust produces materials specific to the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day. ***The theme for 2015 is 'Keep the memory alive'*** by exploring and sharing the powerful stories of survivors in a year that marks two important anniversaries – the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia.

The theme will enable survivors to be at the heart of HMD, sharing their life stories and memories of their experiences of life before the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, as well as opening up the memories of the atrocities and memories of the aftermath as people rebuilt their lives. This theme will encourage us to learn from survivors whilst they are still with us and to consider our responsibilities for using and transmitting those memories.

The theme also challenges us to consider the relationship between history and memory. Memories can be 'inaccurate' when set against historical facts; they are coloured by subjectivities of perceptions at the time, emotions after the events, or simply the passage of time. Historical 'facts' too may not always be easily established. Both are heard and learnt with subjective influences, yet both contribute to our understanding. This theme prompts us to enquire about the nature of memorialisation itself. What does it mean to memorialise the past, and how should we do it?

### **Memories of survivors and other witnesses**

Preserving memories, keeping diaries and passing on memories all represent forms of resistance and ways of preserving the identity of both survivors and those who were murdered. Survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust or subsequent genocides have memories which are first-hand, personal testimonies that can educate us and inform our commemorations. They can share the memories of their lives before

genocide, their experiences during it and the process of rebuilding their lives afterwards.

Further information about the theme and free educational resources containing material suitable for primary to post 16 students is available online at <http://education.hmd.org.uk>

## **RECOMMENDATION**

To circulate to schools the information on HMD and reference the website for appropriate resources - [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk)

## CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**DATE:** 6TH NOVEMBER 2014

**SUBJECT:** RE NEWS WEBSITE

The Welsh National Centre for RE had previously administered the RE website  
<http://www.religious-education-wales.org>

RE News was supported by donations from Local Authorities, Bangor University and the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. However, from **September 1<sup>st</sup> 2014** the website will be funded by the two universities and it is no longer necessary for LAs to financially support the website.

The website will now be available free of charge to anyone who wishes to use it.

It is suitable for both primary and secondary schools and is fully bi-lingual.

SACRE has been asked to ensure that all members of SACRE and teachers in the LA are aware of this exciting new development.

Schools and SACREs are asked to continue to support the website by contributing articles, both large and small, about what is going on in the RE world in Wales and beyond.

**Rachel Bendall**, RE tutor of the PGCE Secondary Course at Swansea Metropolitan/ Trinity St David University will now take responsibility for the website by her email address [rachel.bendall@sm.uwtsd.ac.uk](mailto:rachel.bendall@sm.uwtsd.ac.uk)

All articles are to be submitted to **Sali Roberts**, editor at [Sali@patshyn.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:Sali@patshyn.fsnet.co.uk)

The last day of the month is the deadline for articles/ pictures/ reviews/ examples of good practice and if possible to be sent bilingually. (Bangor University can translate but this will result in a delay in the article reaching the website)

### **RECOMMENDATION**

For SACRE to inform all schools of the website and encourage schools to submit articles.

This page is intentionally left blank



**Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru,  
Powys (Siambr y Cyngor, Neuadd y Sir,  
Llandrindod Wells), 2 July 2014 (10.30am –  
3pm)**

*Wales Association of SACREs meeting, Powys  
(Council Chamber, County Hall, Llandrindod  
Wells), 2 July 2014 (10.30am – 3pm)*

<p><b>Ynys Môn / Anglesey</b> Bethan James Rheinallt Thomas</p> <p><b>Blaenau Gwent</b> Gill Vaisey</p> <p><b>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend</b></p> <p><b>Caerffili/ Caerphilly</b> Cllr John Taylor Vicky Thomas Ruth Gray Cllr Michael Gray</p> <p><b>Caerdydd / Cardiff</b></p> <p><b>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire</b> Mary Parry Helen Gibbon Gwyneth Thomas</p> <p><b>Ceredigion</b></p> <p><b>Conwy</b> Phil Lord</p>	<p><b>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire</b> Phil Lord Gavin Craigen</p> <p><b>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire</b> Phil Lord</p> <p><b>Gwynedd</b> Bethan James Miriam Amlyn</p> <p><b>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil</b> Cllr Ernie Galsworthy</p> <p><b>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire</b> Gill Vaisey</p> <p><b>Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot</b></p> <p><b>Casnewydd / Newport</b> Vicky Thomas Huw Stephens Sally Northcott</p> <p><b>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire</b> Huw George</p> <p><b>Powys</b> John Mitson Christine Robinson</p>	<p><b>Rhondda Cynon Taf</b></p> <p><b>Abertawe / Swansea</b> Vicky Thomas</p> <p><b>Torfaen</b> Vicky Thomas</p> <p><b>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan</b> Dafydd Treharne</p> <p><b>Wrecsam / Wrexham</b> Libby Jones</p> <p><b>Sylwedyddion / Observers</b> Tudor Thomas (WJEC)</p>
--	---	---

1. **Cyflwyniad a chroeso / Introduction and welcome**

Cllr Roche Davies gave members a warm welcome to Powys and said how delighted he was that the meeting was being held within his term of office. He emphasised how RE is a unique subject as it is locally determined and that he was pleased to say it is a popular subject in Powys schools, including at GCSE level. Cllr Roche gave his best wishes to members for the main meeting and the AGM this afternoon.

Vice Chair, Gavin Craigen chaired the meeting and thanked Cllr Davies for his words and for hosting the event.

2. **Adfyfrio tawel / Quiet reflection**

Gavin Craigen asked members to reflect on their role in ensuring quality religious education that is effective, and how vital RE is today in a time when so much violent extremism takes place.

3. **Ymddiheuriadau / Apologies**

Tania ap Sion, Jen Malcolm, Edward Evans, Sue Cave, Carys Pritchard, Ernie Glasworthy, Meinir Loader, Cllr Michael Williams, Wyn Meredith, Dave Mackie, Nicholas Richter, Tim Rowlands. (Mark Durbin)

4. **Cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd yng Nghaerffili, 27 Mawrth 2014 / Minutes of meeting held in Caerphilly, 27 March 2014**

P4. Item 6. A discussion regarding the new RENews website arrangements took place and questions were raised as to how the website will be publicised. It was confirmed that there will be no password from September and therefore anyone can access the website from then on. A link from the WASACRE website to the RENews website was suggested and well received by members. P6. Item 9. Phil Lord confirmed that flyers for REQM are ready and have been sent to SACREs. Phil is putting together a letter to explain how the quality mark can be used and encouraged other SACREs to do the same. Vicky Thomas and Gill Vaisey have already done this in the SACREs they service and Vicky highlighted the usefulness of the REQM as a self-evaluation tool for teachers even if they do not go for the mark and the importance of the information reaching the right person in school. Gavin Craigen pointed out how helpful feedback from schools would be about how useful the REQM is and how they have used it. This could then be shared with all SACREs for circulation to their schools. P7. Item 10. Libby Jones corrected the spelling of OFQUAL in the minutes.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. This was proposed by Phil Lord and seconded by Michael Gray.

5. **Diweddariadau/Up-dates:**

(a) **Cyngor AG yng Nghaerdydd / RE Council AGM in Cardiff**

In his feedback Gavin Craigen described the welcome speech given by the Minister for Education and Skills, Huw Lewis as being positively received by members of the RE Council (A copy of the speech was included in the WASACRE papers). The speech sent a positive message about Religious Education in Wales and as this was the Minister's first speech that included

anything about RE it was very encouraging. The Minister ended his speech by inviting a response from the RE Council to the current curriculum review in Wales. The REC agreed to liaise with WASACRE before sending a response to Welsh Government. Following that meeting a request was sent by WASACRE to the Minister's office asking to be part of that review. The request was granted and representatives from the WASACRE Executive committee were invited to a meeting on Friday, 20 June 2014, with Professor Graham Donaldson who is leading the review. Other key messages from the REC AGM included the ongoing issue about representation on the board for Wales. Currently the representatives are Tania ap Sion and Gavin Craigen, the REC are looking in to the possibility of securing a more flexible representation in future. WASACRE is in correspondence with the REC to ensure that a fair and effective representation for Wales is secured. Rheinallt Thomas told members that at the recent Free Church Council meeting members were motivated and encouraged by Huw Lewis' speech and as a result a letter was sent to encourage all Free Church members to write to Welsh Government to request better support for SACREs and to emphasise the need for RE advisors, pointing out that the principles in the Minister's speech are in danger of being lost owing to consortia changes. Rheinallt confirmed that many letters have gone from the Free Church Council. Vicky Thomas added that teachers have been encouraged by his comments, but Welsh Government needs to be reminded of them. High quality religious education only happens with good training, appropriate CPD and support provided by Local Authorities. A copy of the Minister's speech will be kept on file to be used at appropriate times. Gavin Craigen concluded the discussion by confirming that the letter of response from the Minister had answered WASACRE's request to meet with the minister annually, as we did with Leighton Andrews. The letter stated that Huw Lewis would like to give consideration to reinstalling that meeting after the review. Members agreed that WASACRE need to keep an eye on this situation and make sure it happens.

(b) *Adolygiad Donaldson / Donaldson Review*

Libby Jones gave a brief outline of the on-going Welsh Government curriculum review and WASACREs place within it, from the meeting in Dolgellau on 12 June at which the questionnaire was completed, to the meeting on 20 June involving representatives from the WASACRE Executive, (Tania ap Sion, Libby Jones, Mary Parry, Vicky Thomas, Professor Leslie Francis) and Professor Donaldson. Members were assured that the meeting was positive and the main points raised at the meeting with Professor Donaldson were shared. 1. The historical context of religious education and SACREs within Welsh education. 2. The current situation in Wales. 3. The importance of religious education and its contribution to the education of our young people, the three national priorities and community cohesion. 4. The importance of training for teachers, including Initial Teacher Training in religious education. Professor Donaldson raised the issue of negative comments about RE coming from some pupils that he had met with as part of the review. WASACRE representatives at the meeting agreed to send him a list of schools where he can find best practice in RE. Vicky Thomas, who attended the meeting, said that it was made very clear that a review of the curriculum would have implications for RE and the National Framework for RE. She felt that Professor Donaldson had received that message loud and clear and that any changes to the curriculum would need to be considered for RE. Bethan James

thanked those who attended both the meeting in Dolgellau and Cardiff and reiterated the importance of finding those schools that can provide rich examples of good practice in RE and urged members to look for such examples and ask their own SACREs to do the same.

(c) *EFTRE / EFTRE*

Phil Lord confirmed that the EFTRE report has been shared with the Executive committee. The main points from the report were as follows: The importance of the commitment of EFTRE members; the possible funding of some of the further Eastern European countries where there is commitment to RE and EFTRE but lack of money; the wealth of experience on the board and a commitment to make the board more visible. Phil urged members to look at the website for further information and explained that he has been asked to put something together to reflect the situation in Wales, which will be available on the website in the future. A newsletter will also be created including views of pupils and teachers in Wales. Gavin Craigen said that it is very important to have this representation and thanked Phil and WASACRE for the support. Phil concluded his report by saying that Wales was not mentioned in their gift to EFTRE as other countries were in the meeting, however it was confirmed in the Executive meeting by John Mitson that the £90.00 subscription for 2013 went to EFTRE from WASACRE. Rheinallt Thomas reminded members that there used to be a fund set up to support Eastern European countries which was based in Switzerland- The Walter Stenhouse Trust, and suggested that we need to look in to this.

(d) *Hyfforddiant CCYSAGauC / WASACRE training*

Bethan referred back to the conference in October 2013 and Gavin's KS3 training, both of which she felt established a good way to fill the gap in providing training for RE teachers no longer offered by local authorities and consortia. A paper has been created by NAPfRE outlining possible training ideas.

**6. Cyflwyniad NAPfRE: CYSAGau a'r trefniadau Consortia**

***NAPfRE presentation: SACREs and current Consortia arrangements***

Members were shown a PowerPoint which was presented by Mary, Gill, Bethan, Libby, Vicky and Phil. They described and explained the new arrangements for each consortia and how SACREs are supported now in each local authority as a result of the changes. Following the presentation Rheinallt Thomas asked whether SACREs monitor the training in colleges in their area because they should be doing so. That dialogue needs to be happening and can be facilitated through Rachel Bendall at Trinity college/Swansea. Vicky Thomas raised the issue of how SACREs can continue supporting local authorities in religious education and the current challenges SACREs face including personnel e.g. what happens when the current consultants are gone and the system leaders like Carys have the responsibility for SACRE taken away from them? The message from this suggested that SACREs need to be more proactive and less reliant on the LA/Consortia rep or consultant servicing their SACRE. An issue was raised by the Baptist representative for Powys SACRE that Faith groups don't know about SACREs and SACREs don't know about them. This needs to be addressed.

An activity followed this presentation which involved members working in groups to discuss the following questions:



1. How can members contribute to the work of SACREs?
2. How can we ensure regular attendance from the 3 groups and co-opted members?
3. How could you persuade people to become a SACRE member?
4. How can we monitor Religious Education and collective worship?
5. How can we support schools to deliver good RE and CW
6. How can we ensure that local authorities support the function of SACREs sufficient money/funding?

Some of the feedback from these questions included: Each representative on any SACRE should have in place a deputy who attends in their place when they are unable to attend themselves; SACREs need to be proactive in contacting faith groups and organisations by inviting them to send a representative of their choice to SACRE meetings. This can be done by writing letters to schools and local faith groups, actively encouraging their support. With regard to teacher representatives once a teacher has been selected for a SACRE the teaching union should be asked if they are happy for that person to represent their union on SACRE; Some SACREs including Powys offer members the opportunity to observe collective worship and visit schools on a regular basis to help the monitoring process.

Phil Lord encouraged members to take this activity back to their SACRE and to discuss the answers to these questions with careful consideration.

**7. Adroddiad ar gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith a gynhaliwyd ar 14 Mai 2014**  
***/Report from the Executive Committee held on 14 May 2014***

The date for the next Executive meeting is 26 September 2014 not 25 September 2014.

The report was amended by Libby Jones and was accepted as an accurate record.

**8. Gohebiaeth /Correspondence**

All covered within previous items or with the executive committee.

**9. Enwebiadau ar gyfer y Pwyllgor Gwaith / Nominations for Executive Committee**

Gavin Craigen reminded members that they are required to vote for two new members to the Executive committee and voting commenced.

**10. U.F.A. / A.O.B.**

**11. Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf / Date for next meeting: 26 November 2014, Pontypool.**

**Dyddiadau cyfarfodydd yn y dyfodol / Future meeting dates:**

Spring meeting- Neath Port Talbot, 6 March 2015

Summer meeting- Flintshire 25 June, 2015

Autumn meeting- Blaenau Gwent, 25 November 2015

## ***Annual General Meeting***

1. Cofnodion Cyfarfod Blynyddol a gynhaliwyd yng Nghaernarfon ar 19 Mehefin 2013  
*Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Caernarfon, 19 June 2013*

The title in Welsh at the top of the minutes needs to be amended. On page 3 of the minutes under Accounts, the figure of £418.00 should be changed to £417.00 to reflect the appropriate annual subscription per SACRE for membership of WASACRE during 2013/2014. With the appropriate changes members agreed that the minutes are an accurate record of meeting.

2. **Materion yn Codi / *Matters Arising***

None.

3. **Adroddiad CCYSAGauC am 2013-2014/*WASACRE Report for 2013-2014***

Gavin Craigen read through the report noting the key events for the year which included the National WASACRE Conference in October 2013, which addressed Welsh Government national priorities. Gavin explained that training is on our agenda today and is a very important issue, he also highlighted REQM, the Estyn Thematic review and the recent meeting with Professor Donaldson as part of the call for evidence for the Welsh Government Curriculum Review which had already been discussed. One amendment was made to the report under item 6. Accounts- the figure of £418.00 was changed to £417.00 to reflect the appropriate annual subscription per SACRE for membership of WASACRE during 2013/2014. Chair, Gavin Craigen asked members to accept the report and all agreed. Libby Jones assured members that a bilingual copy of the WASACRE Annual report for 2013- 2014 would be circulated to members in September 2014 for them to share with their SACREs accordingly.

4. **Adroddiad y Trysorydd /*Treasurer's Report***

Treasurer John Mitson presented the report and pointed out that the main source of income for the Association is from subscriptions. To date all subscriptions have now been received from the SACREs which is encouraging. In the future the intention is to link officers/advisors into the request going to local authorities so that they also know it has arrived. There have been two significant events in the last two years that account for the rise in expenditure. The National WASACRE Conference, which cost in the region of £4000 and the KS3 training from the previous year, both of which were really valuable. This spending is good and worthwhile. Other expenditure includes maintenance of the WASACRE website, Secretary's honorarium, meeting expenses which have gone up to £2000, visitor's and presenter's travel expenses, EFTRE and RENews subscriptions (although the RENews subscription is not expected to continue next year owing to the new arrangements), translation services and subscription to the RE Council for England and Wales, for which two were paid within the same year for different years. No payment has been requested from the Interfaith Network.

The Treasurer asked members to note that, during the year, expenditure exceeded income by £2831.80. However, at the end of the financial year, three subscriptions had not been received and, if they had been paid at that point, this would have reduced the overspend in year by £1251.00, leaving an overspend in year of £1580.80. This is the second year when expenditure has exceeded income while in the previous three years there have been substantial underspends. The last occasion, prior to last year when there was a substantial overspend in year was 2008/2009 and members will recall that, in that financial year, WASACRE met the majority of the costs of the National Post 16 Conference. The

financial year commenced with a balance of £17343.57 and ended with a balance of £14511.77. The finances of WASACRE, therefore, remain in a healthy condition, although they represent a reduction on the position at the end of 2012/2013 by £2831.80. WASACRE is, therefore, in a strong position to fund its planned activities.

It was recommended that subscriptions for the current financial year should rise by 1%, which raises subscriptions from £417.00 per SACRE to £422.00 per SACRE and all members present agreed to maintain the expenses amounts. John Mitson asked for the accounts to be accepted. Members accepted the accounts and the Chair thanked John Mitson for a clear and succinct report and for his work throughout the year.

Libby Jones assured members that a bilingual copy of the WASACRE Financial report 2013-2014 would be circulated to members in September 2014 for them to share with their SACREs accordingly.

- 5. Ethol aelodau i'r Pwyllgor Gwaith / Election of members to the Executive**  
Chair, Gavin Craigen announced that Vicky Thomas and Gill Vaisey are the newly elected members of the Executive. Gavin congratulated them both and welcomed them to the executive committee. Thanks were also given to the other members who had been being willing to stand in this year's election and for their continued support for WASACRE.

Cllr Michael Gray raised the issue of poor attendance to this meeting and others. Members agreed that to help raise attendance in future meetings Libby Jones would write to SACREs to give them the dates of the meetings for the year ahead and to suggest that if their usual representative cannot attend for them to send a replacement.

- 6. U.F.A. / A.O.B**

There was no other business

- 7. Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf / Date of next meeting**

25 June 2014 in Mold, Flintshire

Chair, Gavin Craigen thanked the following people for their assistance in making this year's AGM a success:

Cllr Roche Davies, John Mitson, Powys SACRE, Powys County Council, our translator, Mary Steele, Tudor Thomas (WJEC) for doing the telling (& Mary Steele)

This page is intentionally left blank



## LIST OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS SEPTEMBER 2014

Tania ap Sion- Wrexham (Chair)

Gavin Craigen- Denbighshire (Vice Chair)

Edward Evans- Bridgend (Past Chair)

Bethan James- NAPfRE

Libby Jones- Wrexham (Secretary)

Philip Lord- Flintshire

John Mitson- Powys (Treasurer)

Mary Parry- Carmarthenshire

Tim Rowlands- Conwy

Rheinallt Thomas- Anglesey

Vicky Thomas- Torfaen

Gill Vaisey- Monmouthshire

This page is intentionally left blank