

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
www.caerffili.gov.uk

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

Date: 2nd March 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education** will be held in the **Sirhowy Room, Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Monday, 9th March, 2015 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

	Pages
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) - 6th November 2014.	1 - 8

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



4	Action Plan Rhydri Primary School - Acts of Collective Worship.	9 - 12
5	Membership Update 2014-2015 and Humanist Request for Co-option.	13 - 18
6	Analysis of Examination Results 2014.	19 - 22
7	WJEC Presentation to WASACRE on 26th November 2014: "What Does The Data Tell Us?".	23 - 26
8	Revised Criteria for GCSE and GCE Specifications: Update.	27 - 28
9	National Curriculum Review and Assessment.	29 - 30
10	Estyn Reporting of Collective Worship.	31 - 32
11	Correspondence (verbal update).	

WASACRE:-

12	Feedback from the WASACRE meeting in Torfaen - 26th November 2014.	33 - 38
13	Feedback from the WASACRE meeting in Port Talbot - 6th March 2015 (verbal update).	
14	Nominations to the WASACRE Executive Committee (verbal update).	
15	Representation at the next meeting of WASACRE in Flint - Thursday 25th June 2015 (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 YSGOL Y LAWNT, RHYMNEY ON THURSDAY,
6TH NOVEMBER 2014 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor D.M. Gray - Chair
Councillor J. Taylor - Vice-Chair

Representing Teaching Organisations: Miss H. Bartley (ATL), Mrs B. Davies (UCAC)

Representing Religious Organisations: Mrs J. Jones (Church in Wales), Rev E. Williams
(Baptist Union of Wales)

Together with:

Mrs V. Thomas (RE Consultant), Miss R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer), Mrs E. Sullivan
(Democratic Services Officer)

Also present:

Mrs A. Godfrey (Caerphilly Schools Worker)

1. WELCOME

The Chair thanked Miss Bethan Davies, RE Co-ordinator at the school, for giving SACRE such a warm welcome to Ysgol y Lawnt, and opened the meeting with a poem of reflection entitled "Faith Is A Candle" by Helen Steiner Rice.

Introductions were made, with Reverend Eryl Williams, Minister for Zoar Baptist Church, Pontlloftyn, welcomed to the meeting as the newest Member of Caerphilly SACRE. A warm welcome was also extended to Mrs Alison Godfrey, who was attending the meeting in an observational capacity in her new role as a Caerphilly Schools Worker.

The outgoing Clerk to Caerphilly SACRE, Mrs Emma Sullivan, introduced the new Clerk, Miss Rebecca Barrett, to those present.

The Chair also voiced his appreciation to Councillor J. Taylor for chairing the previous meeting of Caerphilly SACRE in his absence.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Keri Cole, Manager for Learning, Education and Inclusion. It was noted that Mrs Cole conveyed her sincere apologies for being unable to attend the meeting but had not received advance notification of the meeting and was therefore unable to attend owing to a prior commitment.

Apologies for absence were also received from Councillors D.G. Carter, W. David, Mrs G.D. Oliver and Mrs M.E. Sargent, together with Mrs N. Boardman (NUT), Ms R. Bradshaw (Co-opted Member), Lieutenant C. DiPalma (Salvation Army), Mrs E. Hawthorn (United Reform Church) and Mr M. Western (Roman Catholic Archdiocese).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

4. MINUTES – 12TH JUNE 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Caerphilly SACRE meeting held on 12th June 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Mrs Thomas, RE Consultant to SACRE, referenced the recently compiled distribution list comprising of RE contacts for each primary and secondary school within the borough, explaining that this will assist in ensuring that the relevant information reaches the correct person.

Reference was made to the recent letter circulated to all schools that detailed the keynote speech made by the Minister of Education at the Religious Education Council of England and Wales Annual Conference 2014. It was noted that a number of positive comments had been received from schools in relation to this. Information relating to the RE Quest resource and website had also been circulated to all schools.

6. PRESENTATION – “RE AT YSGOL Y LAWNT”

Miss Bethan Davies, RE Co-ordinator and teacher at Ysgol y Lawnt, welcomed Members to the school on behalf of Mrs Sharon Davies (Head Teacher), and Miss Katherine Scott (Deputy Head Teacher).

With the aid of a slideshow presentation, Miss Davies delivered to SACRE Members an insight into the teaching of RE at the school, entitled “RE at Ysgol y Lawnt”. It was explained that the presentation would detail the school's links with the local community, share data derived from parent, teacher and pupil questionnaires, and share the school's vision for the future of RE at Ysgol y Lawnt.

The RE scheme of work taught at Ysgol y Lawnt was outlined to Members, which follows guidelines outlined in the Caerphilly Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. Subjects studied at Foundation Phase are Judaism, Christianity and a Christian Celebration (wedding or christening), with Judaism, Christianity and Islam studied at Key Stage 2. In addition to these, many different religious and traditional festivals are also celebrated by the school throughout the year, including Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Diwali, St David's Day, Chinese New Year, Ramadan and Rosh Hashanah.

In regard to the specific subjects studied at Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2, it had been felt that one lesson a week was not conducive to learning about these religions, and hence a schedule of themed study “weeks” had been arranged, with pupils studying the subject over three RE lessons during the course of that week. This is in addition to their timetabled RE lessons and enriched the curriculum for pupils. The school had recently completed a successful “Judaism Week” in September, with examples of topics covered and the work completed by the children displayed to SACRE. It was explained that “Christianity Week” is scheduled for late March 2015.

Miss Davies informed SACRE that daily acts of collective worship were held in the school hall, with a class assembly for parents arranged on a termly basis, providing the opportunity for parents to attend to observe the children participating in this event.

The links between RE and the local community were outlined, with it explained to SACRE that Ysgol y Lawnt have very strong links with St David’s Church, Penuel and Moriah Church in Rhymney. A generous Harvest collection had been undertaken for the Rhymney Valley Food Bank, and the school had received a visit from the Bible Explorers team. Key Stage 2 pupils had also undertaken a trip to a synagogue, mosque and cathedral in Cardiff.

Details of a parent questionnaire circulated in May 2014 and the results of this were outlined to Members. The questionnaire covered a number of areas relating to Religious Education, including the school’s communication with parents, satisfaction levels regarding the syllabus, availability of parents to attend acts of collective worship, satisfaction levels relating to religious and community links, and pupil reference to RE lessons when at home. The results of the questionnaire (with a 40% response rate) were generally very positive and staff were able to identify a number of areas for improvement as a result. The pupils had also received a questionnaire, which indicated that they wanted more RE experience and had enjoyed the themed weeks to date.

With regards to the way forward, it was explained that the school intends to produce a termly RE newsletter to inform parents of what is happening within the school. The school will continue to work toward the RE Quality Mark (REQM) Bronze Award, and will provide more opportunities for pupils to develop their role as global citizens, in line with Estyn 2014 requirements.

Discussion of the presentation ensued and Members were pleased to note the questionnaires as an excellent example of school and subject self-evaluation, together with the follow-up actions derived as a result. SACRE were also pleased to hear the news that Ysgol y Lawnt were striving to achieve the REQM Bronze Award

With regards to the themed weeks, it was suggested that photographs could be taken during these to document examples of how the themed weeks are administered. It was also suggested that details of the themed weeks be submitted to the RE News website as an example of good practice in RE and to exemplify how Caerphilly schools are delivering the RE syllabus.

SACRE thanked Miss Davies for her informative and interesting presentation.

7. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2014-15

In order to accommodate a request from a member of the public to attend the next meeting and address SACRE, it was agreed that the venues for the March 2015 and June 2015 meetings be switched over. The following dates and venues were agreed, with details of these to be sent to the relevant persons:-

The Spring Term meeting will be held on Monday 9th March 2015 at Penallta House Council Offices, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach.

The Summer Term meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th June 2015 at Newbridge School, Bridge Street, Newbridge.

8. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE 2014-2015 AND HUMANIST REQUEST FOR CO-OPTION

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

The efforts made to secure nominations from Teaching Trade Unions were noted. In regards to Teacher representation, a letter recently circulated to Caerphilly primary schools seeking nominations had resulted in Ms Rhianne Bradshaw (RE teacher at St James' Primary) securing a vacant co-opted position as a primary school representative to SACRE.

With regards to the other co-opted position, it was noted that this had previously been held by Mr Darren Ralph of VALREC, who brought his experience of working with different communities to the work of SACRE. He has since resigned and a replacement VALREC representative is currently being sought.

Reference was made to a request received from Mr Ken Chamberlain in regards to Humanist representation on SACRE, with a supporting paper attached to the report. The RE Consultant explained that as Humanism did not fall under the Group A section of SACRE membership consisting of faith representatives, it would thus fall under the co-opted section, which is currently filled. It was advised that Mr Chamberlain had asked for the opportunity to address SACRE in order for his membership request to be considered.

Discussion of the report ensued and SACRE agreed that Keri Cole, Manager for Learning, Education and Inclusion, be asked to take the matter of Teaching Trade Unions representation to her next head teacher meeting to request a NAHT representative to SACRE. It was also agreed that the Clerk to SACRE would send a letter to schools seeking a NASUWT representative to SACRE.

With regards to Mr Chamberlain's request for Humanist representation within Caerphilly SACRE, it was agreed that he be invited to speak at the next meeting, and that his supporting information would be resubmitted within the agenda papers for that meeting.

SACRE noted the contents of the report.

9. CAERPHILLY SACRE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2013-14

Mrs V. Thomas, RE Consultant to SACRE, presented the draft SACRE Annual Report for 2013-14 for Members' consideration and approval prior to its submission to the Welsh Government's Department for Education and Skills (DfES) by 31st December 2014.

The Annual Report outlined the activities of SACRE during the academic year 2013-14 and Members' comments and amendments were welcomed. The RE Consultant referred Members to the Executive Summary of advice given by SACRE, and highlighted specific issues and the actions taken by SACRE to ensure it met all its statutory requirements.

Members were asked to check the Annual Report for accuracy and amendments were noted to the Membership of SACRE listed within Section 1 of the report. It was agreed that the final version of the Annual Report be submitted to DfES and circulated electronically to WASACRE (who will include the Annual Report on their website), together with schools and other relevant parties.

Subject to the above amendments, it was unanimously agreed that the SACRE Annual Report for 2013-14 be approved.

10. SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012-2015

The report detailed the Caerphilly SACRE Development Plan for the academic years 2012-2015, with the actions required, outcomes and progress made outlined for Members' information.

Members were referred to the action plan as detailed in the SACRE Annual Report and the progress that SACRE had made in relation to the different elements contained therein were examined. SACRE's monitoring of standards through the reviewing of inspections reports and school self-evaluation was summarised and the progress made was outlined.

Having fully considered the report, Members noted the content and progress of the Development Plan 2012-2015 to date.

11. ANALYSIS OF CAERPHILLY SCHOOLS INSPECTION REPORTS AUTUMN 2013 - SUMMER 2014

The report outlined the main RE findings derived from the Estyn inspection of fourteen Caerphilly schools between Autumn 2013 and Summer 2014. The analysis focused on comments in relation to spiritual development and collective worship. The context of the report was explained to SACRE in that it only focuses on RE findings and not the general inspection results of the school, which could significantly vary in other areas.

The RE Consultant provided a detailed summary of the findings for each of the inspected schools, including details relating to spiritual development, the quality of collective worship and whether the school met statutory legal requirements in relation to collective worship. Other comments and issues were also outlined in the findings.

The report explained that the Estyn Common Inspection Framework notes that inspectors should only report on instances where the school does not comply with statutory requirements relating to collective worship. The inspection report for Rhydri Primary School stated that the school does not comply with the statutory collective worship requirements. It was thus assumed that all other schools inspected met statutory requirements in relation to collective worship.

Two further schools had no comment made by the reporting inspector regarding acts of collective worship or the schools' development of SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development). A number of positive outcomes were derived from the analysis and detailed to SACRE Members, including the finding that pupils develop respect for their own cultures and other cultures. School assemblies also provide a wide range of benefits, namely the celebration of pupil progress and achievement and the opportunity for pupil reflection, and an understanding of morality and sense of fairness.

The report made two key recommendations:-

- (i) The action plan from Rhydri Primary School be requested to show how they intend to meet statutory requirements for acts of collective worship;
- (ii) That SACRE consider writing to Estyn to raise the issue of two school inspection reports making no mention under the Care Support and Guidance section of the report of whether a school promotes SMSC and the contribution of acts of collective worship to SMSC, and also about the lack of comments regarding the quality of acts of collective worship.

Consideration of the report ensued and discussion took place in relation to a number of the inspection findings detailed within the analysis regarding religious and community links.

Members noted the analysis of the inspection reports and it was agreed that the Clerk to SACRE would ask Keri Cole for an update in relation to the action plan for Rhydri Primary. It was also agreed that the RE Consultant would write to Estyn to raise the issues outlined regarding reporting procedures within the inspection reports.

12. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2015

The report informed Members of the resources available to schools in order to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day 2015.

The RE Consultant advised that the theme for 2015 is “Keep The Memory Alive” and confirmed that further information on the theme and free educational resources were available through the Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) website at www.hmd.org.uk/content/for-educators.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Auschwitz-Birkenau liberation and Members were advised that 70 special candles will be sent out to 70 selected HMD activities across the country. Schools were encouraged to access the website and nominate their HMD activity to host a candle.

Members noted the theme and resources available to schools in order to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day 2015 and it was agreed that the Clerk to SACRE would write to all schools to make them aware of these resources and encourage them to commemorate the event.

13. RE NEWS WEBSITE

The report outlined details of the RE News website, which was previously administered by the Welsh National Centre for RE. The website had been supported by contributions from Local Authorities, Bangor University and the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. However, from September 1st 2014, the website will be solely funded by the two universities, and will now be available free of charge to anyone who wished to use it.

All articles for inclusion on the website are to be submitted to the editor, Sali Roberts (Sali@patshyn.fsnet.co.uk). The last day of the month is the deadline for all submissions, with articles to be sent bilingually if possible. Bangor University will translate the articles if required but this will result in a delay in the article being published on the website.

Members noted the contents of the report and it was agreed that the Clerk to SACRE would email schools with a letter containing details of the website and arrangements for article submission. It was explained to SACRE that a direct link to the RE News website would also be included in the email to schools.

14. CORRESPONDENCE – FARMINGTON FELLOWSHIPS FOR TEACHERS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND HEAD TEACHERS ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-16

Members noted the correspondence with regard to the Farmington Fellowships offered by the Farmington Institute, Oxford.

Details of the eligibility and composition of the Fellowships were outlined and Members agreed that this information be circulated to all schools in order to raise awareness of the opportunities provided by the Institution. It was agreed that the Clerk to SACRE would circulate a PDF version of the information leaflet to all Head Teachers and RE contacts.

15. WASACRE – FEEDBACK FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT POWYS – 2ND JULY 2014

Members were updated on the discussions and deliberation of WASACRE at its Annual General Meeting at Powys on 2nd July 2014.

Reference was made to the Donaldson Review outlined at the AGM, together with the presentation given by NAPfRE, which explained the new arrangements for each consortia and how SACRE are now supported in each Authority as a result of the changes. An activity took place following this presentation which involved Members working in groups to discuss a number of issues relating to SACRE membership. It was explained that the feedback from these questions was in the process of being collated and sent to each SACRE clerk for wider distribution.

SACRE noted the discussions and deliberations of SACRE at the AGM.

16. APPOINTMENTS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members were provided with a list of appointments to the WASACRE Executive Committee as of September 2014.

At the SACRE meeting of 12th June 2014, it had been moved and seconded that Councillor D.M. Gray and Mrs V. Thomas be put forward as Caerphilly SACRE's nominations to the WASACRE Executive Committee. At the WASACRE Annual General Meeting of 2nd July 2014, Mrs V. Thomas was elected to serve on the Executive Committee for another three years.

Members noted the list of WASACRE Executive Members as of September 2014.

17. REPRESENTATION AT FORTHCOMING WASACRE MEETINGS

Members were advised of the dates and times of forthcoming WASACRE meetings and sought nominations for representation from Caerphilly SACRE.

With regards to the WASACRE meeting of **26th November 2014** (Pontypool), Councillor J. Taylor advised that he might be able to attend, subject to other commitments. It was noted that Councillor D.M. Gray and Mrs V. Thomas would be in attendance. Mrs J. Jones and Rev E. Williams also expressed an interest in attending and it was agreed that the Clerk to SACRE would contact them with the agenda papers nearer to the meeting date and to confirm attendance.

With regards to the WASACRE meeting of **6th March 2015** (Neath Port Talbot) Councillor D.M. Gray advised that he might be able to attend, subject to confirmation at a later date. Mrs Thomas confirmed that she would be in attendance. Mrs J. Jones and Rev E. Williams again expressed an interest in attending, with it agreed that the Clerk to SACRE would contact them nearer to the meeting date to confirm attendance.

The RE Consultant added that WASACRE were looking for schools to pilot Religious Education learning materials at Foundation Phase, and Miss Davies confirmed that her school was participating in this scheme.

The Chair thanked the Members of Caerphilly SACRE for their attendance at the meeting and thanked Miss Bethan Davies for her kind hospitality and informative presentation.

The meeting closed at 3.35 pm

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2015, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) - 9TH MARCH 2015

**SUBJECT: ACTION PLAN RHYDRI PRIMARY SCHOOL - ACTS OF COLLECTIVE
WORSHIP**

REPORT BY: VICKY THOMAS - RE CONSULTANT TO CAERPHILLY SACRE

- 1.1 At its meeting on the 6th November 2014, SACRE noted that Rhydri Primary School had failed to meet its statutory requirement for acts of collective worship. Members requested that a copy of the school's action plan, showing how they intended to meet this statutory requirement be made available so they could monitor the progress being made.
- 1.2 The action plan is attached at Appendix 1 for Members information.

Author: E. Sullivan, Democratic Services Officer, Ext 4420.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Action Plan for Assemblies at Rhydri Primary School.

This page is intentionally left blank



Assemblies at Rhydri Primary School

Week beginning	Monday 10.30-10.45	Tuesday 10.30-10.45	Wednesday 10.30-10.45	Thursday 10.30-10.45	Friday 10.20-10.45
	Whole school assembly	DHT welsh assembly KS2	FP Welsh assembly JC	Class assembly	Whole school celebration
	Whole school assembly	DHT welsh assembly KS2	FP assembly KB	Class assembly	Celebration assembly
	Whole school assembly	DHT welsh assembly KS2	FP Welsh assembly JC	Class assembly	Celebration assembly
	Whole school assembly	DHT welsh assembly KS2	FP assembly KB	Class assembly	Celebration assembly
	Whole school assembly	DHT welsh assembly KS2	FP Welsh assembly JC	Class assembly	Celebration assembly
	Whole school assembly	DHT welsh assembly KS2	FP assembly KB	Class assembly	Celebration assembly
13.10.14	Whole school assembly	DHT welsh assembly KS2	FP Welsh assembly JC	Class assembly	Celebration assembly
20.10.14	Whole school assembly	DHT welsh assembly KS2	FP assembly KB	Class assembly	Celebration assembly

<u>Assembly Format</u>
Pupils walk quietly into assembly accompanied by the class teacher to music
Song
Story
Prayer
<u>Celebration Assembly Format</u>
Pupils walk quietly into assembly accompanied by the class teacher to music
Song
Celebrations – HT award, achievements, birthdays
Prayer

Assemblies meet the statutory requirement- pupils are removed at the parents request i.e. religious beliefs



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) - 9TH MARCH 2015

**SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE 2014-15 AND HUMANIST REQUEST FOR CO-
OPTION**

REPORT BY: VICKY THOMAS - RE CONSULTANT TO CAERPHILLY SACRE

- 1.1 At its meeting on the 6th November 2014, Members considered a request from Mr Ken Chamberlain of the Humanist Association to speak at its next meeting with regard to Humanist representation on Caerphilly SACRE.
- 1.2 SACRE agreed the request and resolved that the supporting information received from Mr Chamberlain be resubmitted for their consideration on the 9th March 2015.
- 1.3 The current membership of Caerphilly SACRE is attached at Appendix 1 and the supporting information received from Mr Chamberlain is attached at Appendix 2 for Members information.

Author: E. Sullivan, Democratic Services Officer, Ext 4420.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Membership of Caerphilly SACRE 2014-2015

Appendix 1 Supporting Information from Mr K. Chamberlain - Humanist Association

This page is intentionally left blank

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

DATE: 9TH MARCH 2015

SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE 2014-2015

THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

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

TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS

Miss Helen Bartley (ATL)
Mrs Nicola L Boardman (NUT)
Mrs Bethan Davies (UCAC)
Mrs Helen Marsh (ASCL)
Mrs Laura Strange (NASUWT)
Vacancy (NAHT) - Mrs Christine Thompson resigned in October 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 – 2 PLACES

- (1) Mrs Rhianne Bradshaw (St James' Primary School)
- (2) Mr Eddy Mushayanyama (VALREC)

OFFICERS

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

CLERK TO SACRE

Miss Rebecca Barrett
Email barrem@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 SACREs, ASCs 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), 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: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 9TH MARCH 2015

SUBJECT: ANALYSIS OF EXAMINATION RESULTS 2014

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform members of the attainment at GCSE and A/AS level of Caerphilly pupils in Religious Studies and Religious Education for 2014.

B BACKGROUND

The information for 16 year-olds currently relates to those electing to follow a course in religious studies in Years 10 and 11 or A/ AS level and to those following GCSE short course in Religious Studies as the schools' provision for RE as part of the basic curriculum.

It should be noted that definitive conclusions cannot 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- That SACRE note and discuss the examinations results 2014.
- To consider circulating the findings to secondary schools in the Authority.

PLEASE NOTE:

THE RESULTS RECORDED HERE ARE FOR THOSE PUPILS ENTERED FOR THE EXAMINATIONS. THEY DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE NUMBER OF PUPILS FOLLOWING THE EXAMINATION COURSE NOR DO THEY INDICATE HOW WELL PUPILS ARE PERFORMING RELATIVE TO THEIR ABILITY.

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES (FULL COURSE)

	Caerphilly 2014	Caerphilly 2013	Caerphilly 2012	Wales 2014
A*-A	25.6%	27%	35%	31%
A*-C	73.0%	64%	69%	72%
A*-G	98.8%	99%	99%	98%
Entry Number	656 14 schools	699 13 schools	697 14 schools	11,368

- There were **656 entries** from 14 schools. Entry numbers are below previous numbers but number of schools entering candidates has increase this year. 13/14 schools have entries in double or triple figures. In Wales the entry figure was 11,368 which is an increase on previous entry figures.
- The overall % of **A*-A grades was 25.6%** and is similar to 2013 but below the performance of 2012 and the All Wales figure of 31%.

- The overall % of **A*-C grades was 73%** and is the best results of the last three years and slightly better than the All Wales figure of 72%.
- The overall % of **A*-G grades was 98.8%** and is comparable with the previous two years' results and the All-Wales figure of 98%.

Conclusions

- Results are good this year particularly at A*-C.
- Figures compare with All Wales figures at A*-C and A*-G.

GCSE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SHORT COURSE)

	Caerphilly 2014	Caerphilly 2013	Caerphilly 2012	Wales 2014
A*-A	10.8%	25%	15%	15%
A*-C	49.7%	59%	47%	53%
A*-G	95.0%	97%	92%	94%
Entry Number	866 13 schools	1317 13 schools	949 13 schools	12,191

- Thirteen schools in the Authority entered pupils for the short course and there was a significant decrease in entries this year. 3/13 schools have entry numbers in triple figures and thus enter a significant percentage of the cohort and pupils of all ability levels. Some schools enter pupils for two short courses and their performance has been reflected in the full course results. However, it is important to bear in mind that those pupils entered for two short courses will be mainly the more able and this will reflect on the A*-A and A*-C results for Short Course.
- The overall % of **A*- A grades of 10.8%** and is below 2013 the performance of the last two years and the All Wales figure of 15%.
- The overall % of **A*-C grades was 49.7%** and is below 2013 performance and slightly better than 2012 performance. It also falls below the All Wales figure of 53%.
- The overall % of **A*-G grades was 95%** and is comparable with the All Wales figure of 94%.
- A significant number continue to be entered for short course and this is very encouraging because it provides pupils with the opportunity for accreditation for their KS4 study. We must also bear in mind that pupils do not usually opt to follow the Short Course but it is delivered as part of the statutory requirements for RE.

GCE RELIGIOUS STUDIES (A LEVEL)

	Caerphilly 2014	Caerphilly 2013	Caerphilly 2012	Wales 2014
A*-A	17.2%	20%	19%	18%
A*-C	89.1%	72%	67%	79%
A*-E	100%	100%	100%	98%
Entry Number	64 8 schools	67 8 schools	67 8 schools	1,432

- There were 64 entries from 8 schools and the entry figures and number of schools entering is consistent with previous entry figures. 3/8 schools have entry numbers in double figures.
- A*-A was achieved by **17.2%** of students and is below previous performance and comparable with the All Wales figure of 18%.

- At A*-C candidates achieved a pass rate of **89.1%** which is the best result of the last three years and better than the All Wales figure of 79%.
- The pass rate for grades A-E of **100%** is excellent and continues the excellent performance of previous years and exceeds the All-Wales figure of 98%.

GCE RELIGIOUS STUDIES (AS LEVEL)

	Caerphilly 2014	Caerphilly 2013	Caerphilly 2012	Wales 2014
A	21.1%	11.5%	9.1%	N/A
A-C	47.4%	53.8%	45.5%	N/A
A-E	100%	69.2%	77.3%	N/A
Entry Number	19 6 schools	26 7 schools	22 7 schools	N/A

Please Note:

Data includes only those who have cached in their results. For example if a pupil sat an AS Level during 2014, but have not yet cached the result in, then they should be excluded from this year's data and included next year when the results have been cached in, otherwise this will result in results being double counted.

- There were 19 entries from 6 schools and the entry figures and number of schools entering has decreased this year.
- Grade A was achieved by **21.1%** of students and is the best performance of the last three years
- **47.4%** of students achieved A*-C which is below 2013 but slightly better than 2012.

100% pass rate for grades A-E of 100% is excellent and the best performance of the last three years.

This page is intentionally left blank

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 9TH MARCH 2015

SUBJECT: WJEC PRESENTATION TO WASACRE ON 26/11/14:
“WHAT DOES THE DATA TELL US?”

GCSE Specifications

Those studying **ONE** unit can achieve a **Short Course** qualification. Those studying **TWO** units can achieve a **Full Course** Qualification.

SPECIFICATION A

SPECIFICATION B

Unit 1	Christianity	Unit 1: Religion and life	Unit 2: Religion and Human experience
Unit 2	Christianity and the Gospels	Relationships- love marriage and divorce	Religion and conflict- issues of peace, forgiveness and conflict
Unit 3	Roman Catholicism	Is it fair- issues of justice and equality	Religion and Medicine –issues of medical ethics and sanctity of life
Unit 4	Roman Catholicism 2	Looking for meaning – issues about God, life and death	Religion and Expression- issues of expressing one’s faith
Unit 5	Philosophy and Ethics	Our World- exploring creation and our place in the world	Authority, Religion and State- issues of law and order in religion and state
Unit 6	Hinduism		
Unit 7	Islam		
Unit 8	Judaism		

GCSE Specification A FULL COURSE

- In the last 3 years there has been a move away from the Spec A by some centres to Spec B. There are no longer any independent schools doing the GCSE Spec A short course. The entry is entirely from secondary schools.
- On average the male/female split at GCSE Spec A is 40% male/ 60% female.
- Girls achieve better than boys at the higher grade A*-C. On average over the last 3 years in Spec A Full Course the girls have achieved a 11.7% Higher A*-C rate (71.9%) than the boys (60.2%).

GCSE Specification B FULL COURSE

- More candidates are being entered for a Full Course Spec B GCSE (approx. 1100 more).
- On average the male/female split at GCSE Spec B is 39% male/ 61% female.

- Girls achieve better than boys at the higher grade A*-C. On average over the last 3 years in Spec B Full Course the girls have achieved a 14.1% Higher A*-C rate (78.3%) than the boys (64.2%).
- The % of candidates achieving each grade point in Spec B Full course A*-C has dropped by 5.5% in the last three years from 75.5% to 69.0%. (But there have been 1100 more entries).
- Pass rates for Religious Studies GCSE FULL COURSE either matched or were better than the National Average A*-C pass rate FOR ALL SUBJECTS but the A*-G were slightly below.

GCSE Short Course

- Pass rates for Religious Studies GCSE SHORT COURSE are below the National Average A*-C FOR ALL SUBJECTS and A*-G rates (but less so in Specification B).
- A very high proportion of those entered for either specification actually sit the exams (for example 97% - Spec A entries and 98% of Spec B entries) (short).

AS and A Level Specifications

A Level	2012	2013	2014	AS Level	2012	2013	2014
Eastern Religions	482	542	599	Eastern Religions	901	910	1491
Religion and Ethics	463	515	470	Religion and Ethics	960	948	1275
Philosophy of Religion	308	259	300	Philosophy of Religion	766	688	891
Contemporary Society	136	133	146	Contemporary Society	550	362	826
Western Religions	142	81	96	Western Religions	384	473	523
Biblical Studies	15	18	21	Christianity	51	28	31
Christianity	10	11	6	Biblical Studies	42	64	27
Religion & human experience	1550	1565	1626				

AS and A Level

- Entry profile has changed slightly with a higher % of FE/Tertiary and Independent Schools now taking Religious Studies.
- On average the GCE split (both at AS/A2 level) is a 70% female and 30% male.
- There has been a 10%+ increase in the number of WJEC **AS** entries in the last 3 years. There has been a 4.6% increase in WJEC **A2** entries in the last 3 years.

- The figures show that WJEC candidates have generally performed above the national figures in all areas in the last 3 years. Including at A-C and A-E at AS and A Level.
- At AS level there continues to be a move away from more 'traditional' options such as Christianity/Biblical studies towards other options such as Eastern Religions, etc. The A2 take up pattern almost mirrors the AS one, but there are some differences e.g. a drop in the numbers for Western Religions and a slight increase in the take up for Biblical Studies.

RECOMMENDATION

For SACRE to note the report

This page is intentionally left blank

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 9TH MARCH 2015

SUBJECT: REVISED CRITERIA FOR GCSE AND GCE SPECIFICATIONS: UPDATE

There are a number of meetings that have already been held on proposed changes to specifications and assessment practices for GCSE and GCE - Stakeholders and WG meeting (November 2014) and RS Subject Pane Meeting (December 2014).

Main proposed changes under discussion

Change to assessment objectives

There will still be two assessment objectives of AO1- knowledge and understanding of religion and AO2 -using skills such as evidence, reasoning and analysis to produce balanced arguments.

English model does appear to put more specific emphasis on impact on individuals, communities and societies. The Subject Panel did stress the importance of stressing *impact* or else it becomes just a study of religion. WJEC may well take the English AOs as their model.

Changes to specifications

There will a variety of models proposed for both GCSE and GCE and schools will be consulted on these.

GCSE

- To retain a Full Course and Short Course option – great consensus that a Short Course route be continued.
- English proposed specifications ensure that another religion in addition to Christianity is studied. WJEC is giving consideration that specifications should ensure that another religion in addition to Christianity is studied.
- Issue of whether RC schools will still be able to do 2 RC options as they currently do. This looks unlikely if there is a requirement to study two religions. It may be possible in an updated form to include elements of the two RC Christianity units currently available within Specification A.
- To consider the introduction of 2 new units of study at GCSE (Buddhism and Sikhism) to widen the choice of religions available to study. England already includes these religions in their proposed specifications.

GCE (A and AS)

- In England AS and A2 will be stand alone qualifications whereas in Wales AS will still feed into A2
- No exam in January in England or Wales.
- England is moving away from having a specific **synoptic unit** but that the synoptic element will be brought into papers generically. If Wales retains the current synoptic unit then *titles* will not be given in advance of the exam as currently is done.

Tiering

RS at GCSE has never offered tiered papers and the proposal is that the **current position is retained with non-tiered papers at GCSE.**

Welsh perspective

Welsh Government and WJEC have agreed that there will a statement appearing in the first section of every new AS/A level specification for Wales. It will read:

“In following this specification, learners should be given opportunities, where appropriate, to consider a Welsh perspective if the opportunity arises naturally from the subject matter and if its inclusion would enrich learners’ understanding of the world around them as citizens of Wales as well as the UK, Europe and the world”.

Some examples of where it could fit in will be provided to schools but there will be no prescribed content on Welsh dimension.

Process and Timescale

- Subject Panel will comment on models proposed.
- Questionnaire will be sent to schools early in New Year 2015 for comment.
- There will be 34 weeks to respond.
- Comments will be fed back to the subject Panel.
- A Subject Development Group will be set up to write the specifications and specimen materials.
- Draft specimen materials and specifications will be sent to the Subject Panel for comment.
- WAG approached for accreditation- Summer 2015.
- Implementation from Autumn 2016.

RECOMMENDATION

For SACRE to note the report

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION

DATE: 9TH MARCH 2015

SUBJECT: NATIONAL CURRICULUM REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

Background

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 - will focus on strengthening the teaching of literacy, numeracy and wider skills, ensuring continuity and progression from Foundation Phase to key stage 4.

Phase 2 - will focus on curriculum design at each phase/stage of education to ensure that we have a broad and balanced curriculum which is fit for the twenty-first century. It will include consideration of the Basic Curriculum which is where RE sits within the curriculum.

Professor Donaldson will be reporting back to the Education Minister on Phase 2 and the outcomes are due out in February 2015 and if available by the time of the meeting will be reported upon orally.

This page is intentionally left blank

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 9TH MARCH 2015

SUBJECT: ESTYN REPORTING OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Background

One of the functions of SACRE is to monitor the fulfilment of statutory requirements for collective worship. SACREs, complete this task by examining Estyn inspection reports and looking for comments made on the development of spiritual and moral education and the contribution made by acts of collective worship.

In the Estyn document *Supplementary guidance on inspecting collective worship in non-denominational schools* - published in September 2010 there is helpful advice which states:

“In judging the quality indicator 2.3 (Care, Support and Guidance) inspectors **will consider the quality of collective worship** and whether the school meets the relevant legal requirements”. It also states that “**Collective worship** ... may still make a **significant contribution to pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development**”.

In the majority of reports that are scrutinised by SACRE inspectors are heeding that advice and a comment is made, under 2.3 *Care Support and Guidance* section of the report, on the contribution the school makes to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. However, an increasing number of inspectors are failing to make such a comment. It is important to SACREs that there is consistency in reporting and that all reporting inspectors make a comment on the contribution of SMSC.

SACRE is appreciative of those inspectors who make very helpful comments on the **quality of collective worship** as this enables SACRE to identify the good features and areas for development when supporting schools with collective worship and its contribution to spiritual and moral development. However, we note that each year there is a reduction in any kind of comment by inspectors upon this.

Response from Estyn

Caerphilly SACRE took this issue up with Estyn and the response of Anne Keane, Chief Inspector at Estyn was that she would be reminding inspectors to report on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils in their next e-shot. See below the update for RIs.

Reporting on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development on school inspections

*This is just a reminder to RIs that **every school inspection report should contain an evaluative comment on the quality of provision for pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. This is a statutory requirement.** The evaluation should appear in every school inspection report under section 2.3 (care, support and guidance).*

Sometimes RIs have asked whether this requirement still applies during inspections of Church in Wales schools or Catholic Church schools or whether this is an area solely for the section 50 (denominational) inspection team. The answer is that the requirement still pertains even when the school is a church school. However, in these cases, the evaluative comment on pupils' spiritual development should be in general terms rather than specific to the denomination of the school. Section 50 inspectors may report specifically on the denominational aspect, if they choose.

Please Note:

Estyn has a remit to inspect acts of collective worship in all schools that do not provide denominational education and ensure that statutory requirements are met. Inspectors are required to only report on instances where the school **does not** comply with statutory requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

For SACRE to note the report



**Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru, Torfaen
(Canolfan Byw Egnïol, Pont-y-pŵl), 26 Tachwedd 2014
(10.30am – 3pm)**

***Wales Association of SACREs meeting, Torfaen (Pontypool
Active Living Centre, Pontypool), 26 November 2014
(10.30am – 3pm)***

<p>Ynys Môn / Anglesey Bethan James Rheinallt Thomas</p>	<p>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire Phil Lord</p>	<p>Rhondda Cynon Taf</p>
<p>Blaenau Gwent Gill Vaisey Elizabeth Arthur</p>	<p>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire Phil Lord</p>	<p>Abertawe / Swansea Vicky Thomas</p>
<p>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend Edward Evans Vicky Thomas</p>	<p>Gwynedd Bethan James</p>	<p>Torfaen /Torfaen Vicky Thomas Margaret Oelmann Marilyn Frazer Paul Cameron Ian Thomas Helen Bevan Ken Jacobs Ruth Frost</p>
<p>Caerffili/ Caerphilly Vicky Thomas Eryl Williams</p>	<p>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil Y Cyng./ Vicky Thomas</p>	<p>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan Ramez Delpak</p>
<p>Caerdydd / Cardiff</p>	<p>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire Gill Vaisey Sharon Perry Phillips Sue Cave Neeta Singh Baicher Soam Sharma</p>	<p>Wrecsam / Wrexham Tania ap Sion Libby Jones</p>
<p>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire Mary Parry</p>	<p>Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot Rachel Samuel</p>	<p>Sylwedyddion / Observers Tudor Thomas (CBAC/WJEC) Andrew Pearce (CBAC/WJEC) Eldon Phillips (REMW)</p>
<p>Ceredigion</p>	<p>Casnewydd / Newport Vicky Thomas Huw Stephens Neeta Singh Baicher Sally Northcott Amanda B. Davies Soam Sharma</p>	
<p>Conwy Phil Lord Nicholas Richter</p>	<p>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire Huw George</p>	
	<p>Powys John Mitson</p>	

Minutes

1. Cyflwyniad a chroeso / *Introduction and welcome*

Chair, Tania ap Sion, introduced the Chief Executive Officer of Torfaen County Council, Alison Ward and thanked her on behalf of WASACRE for hosting the meeting.

Alison Ward welcomed members to Pontypool and thanked the Choir who sang during the arrival of members and guests to the meeting. She commented how good it was to see young people committed to the arts. Alison Ward went on to thank members of Torfaen SACRE and teachers and pupils for the work in religious education in Torfaen schools. Thanks were also given to the SACRE Clerk for Torfaen, Debbie Cummings for the huge amount of work that she put into the organising the meeting. Alison Ward wished members an enjoyable meeting and expressed her hope that all present would contribute in order to make it worthwhile. It was acknowledged that RE is in a different position than other subjects and that it is the responsibility of each Local Authority to ensure RE is taught well and that effective support is there for teachers and pupils. Members were assured that Torfaen Local Authority takes this responsibility very seriously and that RE greatly enriches the life of all pupils. Members were reminded that in this time of austerity it is important to develop moral values, which is something that RE helps to do. Alison Ward officially welcomed WASACRE on behalf of Torfaen SACRE and applauded the work that WASACRE has recently been involved in with regard to the current Curriculum review in Wales and its meeting with Professor Donaldson who is leading the review. She finished by pointing out that even though Local Authorities in Wales are facing difficult financial situations the national agenda needs to be continued and as SACREs we can help to do that. WASACRE was thanked for its work and achievements.

Tania ap Sion thanked Alison Ward and the Deputy Mayor, Ken Jacobs and Head of Education in Torfaen who were present at the beginning of the meeting, and echoed thanks to the Choir of St Albans and the displays of work from Torfaen schools. Tania ap Sion also extended an official welcome to Eldon Phillips representing REMW as REMW's new Chair.

2. Adfyfyrion tawel / *Quiet reflection*

The Chair led members in a quiet reflection.

3. Ymddiheuriadau / *Apologies*

Fiona Thomas, Gavin Craigen, Jen Malcolm, Miriam Amlyn, Wyn Meredith, Cllr Michael Gray, Rachel Thomas, Margaret Evitts, Christine Robinson, Leslie Francis, Helen Gibbon, Meinir Loader.

4. Cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ym Mhowys, 2 Gorffennaf 2014 / *Minutes of meeting held in Powys, 2 July 2014*

Minutes were accepted as a correct record. Proposed by Rheinallt Thomas and seconded by Phil Lord.

5. Materion yn codi / Matters arising

P2. Item 4. Tania ap Sion confirmed that the link from the WASACRE website to *RENews* will be created and this is in the process of being done. Gill Vaisey raised the concern that the link from Google to the English *RENews* page is not working. Libby Jones will email Rachel Thomas about this.

P4. Item 5. Updates- REC representation. We are currently looking at WASACRE representation at board level on the RE Council for England and Wales and this needs to be clarified. Eldon Philips was at the last REC meeting and a report was on the agenda from Wales but not given. Libby Jones has contacted REC to clarify this representation so that we can move forward. Tudor Thomas (WJEC) said that it is very important to have representation from WASACRE so that we can keep REC informed of developments and opinions in Wales, because the REC is the main influence in England on RE in schools.

P4. Reinstatement of meeting with the Minister for Education and Skills. Vicky Thomas raised this as an important issue and one that must be pursued. It is important that we keep it on the agenda as we have achieved a great deal as a result of this annual meeting in the past, for example, the Estyn Thematic Review and the 6th Form Holocaust trip.

P6. (d) Training. Bethan James, Chair of NAPfRE confirmed that the group is looking at different models for training. The main discussion at the NAPfRE meeting on the preceding day was how to respond to the agreed syllabus review. We have agreed to meet in February following the Donaldson Report publication, so that we can work out what the needs are in relation to this.

The venue for next meeting was confirmed as the Orangery at Margam Park in Neath Port Talbot.

6. Diweddariadau/Up-dates

Tudor Thomas- WJEC

Tudor Thomas drew members' attention to a stakeholders' meeting on Thursday, 27 November 2014, which Welsh Government had asked WJEC to convene. The meeting would discuss changes in the RS examinations and would involve members of different faith bodies, higher education and WASACRE. Tania ap Sion would be attending on behalf of WASACRE.

The current picture is complex in England and Wales where there is a split in the curriculum. First teaching 2016 in England will be changed at all levels and Wales will follow suit.

The England review is out for consultation and Welsh Government will adopt the changes as in England. However, in England the AS and A2 will be stand-alone qualifications whereas in Wales AS will still feed into A2. There will be no exam in January in England or Wales. With GCSE RS in England the main change is that students must study two different religions in order to avoid a narrow study. Humanism may also appear and there is a possibility that the British Humanist Association will lobby for this.

Wales will have more freedom than England. Wales can either adopt the English model and change completely, or just slightly change the existing WJEC model in order to update it. Mark Champion from Estyn spoke at the WASACRE conference (October 2013) about the RS GCSE being very good/ popular and worthwhile/successful. Wales will also be able to continue the modular route instead of having to move towards linear exams like England. WJEC will have to decide if they are going to enforce the study of two religions like England.

Members were encouraged to feed their views to Tudor, Andrew Pearce and/or Tania ap Sion in time for the meeting the next day and were told that there would be a broader consultation in the near future.

Chair, Tania ap Sion thanked Tudor for his update. A discussion ensued regarding Humanism and issues surrounding the study of two different religions. Members agreed that we need a syllabus that serves the pupils well and prepares them for their future life in a multi-cultural society. Tudor Thomas felt confident that the standards at GCSE level in Wales are comparable to England. Four hundred schools in England follow the WJEC RS Specifications, so there is a demand for them and they are valued. RS results in Wales are also very high and this is something that we should be proud of. He felt that Wales is in a position to cherry pick the best of the changes from England. Vicky Thomas commented that Wales designed the Short Course that was taken up by England and Wales, and we must not lose sight of the importance of the contemporary society aspect of the current specification. The proposed changes in England have less focus on this. A Monmouthshire teacher commented that by entering students for the linear examinations it allows for the full development of the pupils' subject knowledge and skills. Pupils who achieve a B in year 10 could achieve an A* in year 11. Tudor Thomas responded by saying that WJEC would always push for pupil/teacher choice. Parents value provision now and it is important to listen.

Phil Lord noted that the England consultation closes on 29 December 2014. As there would be no SACRE meetings before then, it is important for individuals to respond to the consultation.

Neeta Singh Baicher commented that we would welcome all major religions to be taught in schools. Pupils would not get that broader perspective if only one religion were studied.

7. Cyflwyniadau / *Presentations:*

NAPfRE: Cyflwyniad gan CBAC – Beth mae'r data yn dysgu i ni / *A presentation by WJEC- What does the data tell us?*

Andrew Pearce shared with members the WJEC Religious Studies data feedback for GCSE, AS and A2. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available on the WASACRE website for members to view. Members present were pleased to note that the Religious Studies results were very good and some members felt that the flexibility with entries should be retained in order to retain a pupil-centred qualification process in the future.

Vicky Thomas asked whether some schools are now moving from Religious Studies short course to Religious Studies full course in the same lesson time in order to improve the schools' capped points scores and is this because the results have been so good? Andrew Pearce confirmed that the Religious Studies full course is more important to schools with regard to statistics and also helps students in achieving their Welsh Baccalaureate qualification. Andrew Pearce went on to say that in schools where more time is being sought for maths and science, at the risk of losing Key Stage 4 RE, teachers can argue that full course Religious Studies results are valuable and higher than other non-core subjects, but need less time to achieve than others. GCSE Religious Studies can help with easing timetabling difficulties with the new curriculum changes, count towards statistics and help pupils to achieve the Welsh Baccalaureate. Andrew urged members to take the presentation back to their own SACREs and use it to compare with the Religious Studies results in their own local authorities.

CYSAG Sir Fynwy / *Monmouthshire SACRE: Celebrating RE Transition Project (year 6 pupils)*

Members of Monmouthshire SACRE described their part in this successful Transition event where pupils from year 6 and year 11 were involved in a variety of workshops, delivered by different faith group representatives, which allowed pupils to learn about and experience a number of different faiths in a fun and dynamic way. A copy of the presentation is available on the WASACRE website for members to view, and to share with their SACREs as an example of the kind of work SACREs could do to support RE in their local schools.

NAPfRE: CYSAGau a'r trefniadau consortia (adborth) / *SACREs and consortia arrangements (feedback)*

Members of NAPfRE, Bethan James, Gill Vaisey, Vicky Thomas, Mary Parry, Phil Lord and Libby Jones presented some of the feedback received from WASACRE members from their involvement in the NAPfRE activity at the last meeting. Members were asked to present the questions from this activity to their own SACREs and to feedback their

own answers to Libby Jones. The presentation is also available on the WASACRE website for members to view and the questions are below:

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 RE and CW?
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 giving them sufficient money/funding?

8. Adroddiad ar gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith a gynhaliwyd ar 26 Medi 2014 / Report from the Executive Committee held on 26 September 2014

The Chair commented that this shows the considerable work that the Executive does for WASACRE.

9. Gohebiaeth /Correspondence-

None in addition to what has already been included.

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

Professor Leslie Francis requested that attention be drawn to a survey (received by members at the meeting), concerning 16-18 year old students across Europe, religion and human rights. This survey would continue to help build our body of data on and for young people in Wales. Professor Francis invites those who know or have access to any 6th formers who may be willing to participate in this study to let Libby Jones (WASACRE Secretary) know. The survey is open to all 6th formers, not just those studying RS.

11. Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf / Date for next meeting: 6 Mawrth 2015 (Castell-Nedd) / 6 March 2015, Neath Port Talbot. The Orangery, Margam.

Dyddiadau cyfarfodydd yn y dyfodol / Future meeting dates: 25 Mehefin 2015 (Sir y Fflint, yn cynnwys AGM) / 25 June 2015 (Flintshire, includes AGM); 25 Tachwedd 2015 (Blaenau Gwent) / 25 November 2015 (Blaenau Gwent)

Tania ap Sion gave thanks to Debbie Cummings and Vicky Thomas, Stephan the translator, all our presenters, and WASACRE members for their contributions.