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**Date: 3rd June 2015**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Due to ongoing roadworks in the area, Members are requested to arrive at the school for 1.40 pm. Please report to Reception, which is located to the rear of the school and signposted accordingly. Parking is available in the school car park (to the rear of the school) and also in the adjacent leisure centre car park.**

A meeting of the **Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education** will be held at **Newbridge School, Bridge Street, Newbridge, NP11 5FR** on **Wednesday, 10th June, 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.	

**A greener place Man gwyrdach**

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



3 To appoint a Chair to Caerphilly SACRE.

To approve and sign the following minutes: -

4 Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) - 9th March 2015. 1 - 8

5 To receive a presentation from Miss Helen Bartley, Head of Religious Education, Newbridge School.

To receive and consider the following reports:-

6 SACRE Membership Update (verbal update - minute no. 6 refers).

7 Schedule of Meetings 2015-16 (verbal update) (provisional dates listed below - final dates/venues to be confirmed at the meeting):-

- Monday 2nd November 2015 at 2pm;
- Thursday 3rd March 2016 at 2pm;
- Tuesday 14th June 2016 at 2pm.

8 Feedback on Donaldson Review of the National Curriculum (report attached). 9 - 10

9 Feedback on WASACRE presentation: "Engaging boys in RE and raising their standards" (verbal update).

10 Correspondence (verbal update).

WASACRE:-

11 Feedback from the WASACRE meeting in Port Talbot - 6th March 2015 (report attached). 11 - 22

12 Representation at the next meeting of WASACRE in Mold, Flintshire - Thursday 25th June 2015 (verbal update).

13 Executive Voting for the Period 2015-2016 (report attached). 23 - 26

**Circulation:**

Councillors Mrs E.M. Aldworth, D.G. Carter, W. David, 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 PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON  
MONDAY, 9TH MARCH 2015 AT 2.00 P.M.

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PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

D.G. Carter, W. David, Mrs M.E. Sargent

Representing Teaching Organisations: Miss H. Bartley (ATL), Mrs N. Boardman (NUT), Mrs B. Davies (UCAC), Mrs L. Strange (NASUWT)

Representing Religious Organisations: Lieutenant C. Di-Palma (Salvation Army), Mrs E. Hawthorn (United Reform Church), Mrs J. Jones (Church in Wales), Mr M. Western (Roman Catholic Archdiocese), Rev E. Williams (Baptist Union of Wales)

Co-opted Members: Ms R. Bradshaw (St James' Primary School), Mr E. Mushayanyama (VALREC)

Together with:

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

Also present:

Mr K. Chamberlain (British Humanist Association)

### 1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and opened the meeting with a poem of reflection entitled "Mover of Mountains" by Helen Steiner Rice.

Introductions were made around the table, with recently appointed members Ms Rhianna Bradshaw, Mr Eddy Mushayanyama and Mrs Laura Strange attending their first meeting of Caerphilly SACRE.

### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs G.D. Oliver and Miss H. Marsh (ASCL), together with Mrs K. Cole (CCBC Manager for Learning, Education and Inclusion).

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement of the meeting. During the course of the meeting, a declaration of interest was received and is minuted with the respective item.

**4. MINUTES – 6TH NOVEMBER 2014**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Caerphilly SACRE meeting held on 6th November 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**5. ACTION PLAN RHYDRI PRIMARY SCHOOL – ACTS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

At the Autumn 2014 meeting of Caerphilly SACRE, Members considered the main RE findings derived from the Estyn inspection of fourteen Caerphilly schools between Autumn 2013 and Summer 2014. SACRE noted that Rhydri Primary School had failed to meet its statutory requirement for acts of collective worship. Members had requested that a copy of the school's action plan, detailing how they intended to meet this statutory requirement, be made available so they could monitor the progress being made.

A copy of the action plan was included with the meeting papers, and Mrs Vicky Thomas (RE Consultant to SACRE) explained that following contact between Mrs Keri Cole of Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC), the South East Wales Education Achievement Service (EAS) and Rhydri Primary School, the school were now complying fully with the statutory requirement and providing a daily act of collective worship.

Following discussion and consideration of the action plan, Members noted the progress made by Rhydri Primary School in respect of the statutory requirement for acts of collective worship.

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

During the course of the debate on this item, Councillor W. David declared an interest as the gentleman was known to him. Following advice and in noting that it was personal and not prejudicial, he remained in the meeting and took part in the debate.

At the Autumn 2014 meeting of Caerphilly SACRE, Members had been advised of a request received from Mr Ken Chamberlain, on behalf of the British Humanist Association. Mr Chamberlain had asked for the opportunity to address Members in order for his request for humanist representation within Caerphilly SACRE to be considered. It had been agreed by Members that Mr Chamberlain be invited to speak at this meeting, and a short summary paper that he had submitted which outlined the role of the British Humanist Association was attached to the meeting papers.

Mrs Thomas explained the current membership status of SACRE (a list of which was attached to the report) and composition of a SACRE to those Members present. SACREs in Wales are made up of three committee groups, and each committee has equal voting rights (one vote per committee). Caerphilly SACRE also has two additional co-opted Members who do not have voting rights, and both co-opted places are currently filled. SACRE were advised that if they were minded to agree that Mr Chamberlain be co-opted as an additional Member, due process would then have to be followed in line with the Constitution of Caerphilly County Borough Council. This process would include a request from SACRE to Council to agree that the Terms of Reference for Caerphilly SACRE be amended, in order for the amount of co-opted places to be increased.

Mr Chamberlain was welcomed to the meeting, and the Chair outlined the process that would be followed by Caerphilly SACRE during consideration of the request. Mr Chamberlain was then invited to present his case for humanist representation within Caerphilly SACRE.

During his representations, Mr Chamberlain outlined the reasons why his request to join Caerphilly SACRE should be considered, and referred to a number of English SACREs where humanists had been included as full voting members within Committee A.

Mrs Thomas sought clarification as to which of the committee groups within SACRE Mr Chamberlain was seeking to join. She explained that the situation regarding SACRE membership differed in Wales to that of English SACREs, and that in line with Welsh Government legislation 10/94, humanist representatives cannot not be considered for membership of Committee A (Christian denominations and other faith groups) within Welsh SACREs. However, they can still be considered for co-option to SACRE as additional members, which was the opportunity that would be afforded to Mr Chamberlain.

Discussion took place between SACRE Members and Mr Chamberlain regarding a number of matters, including the role of secular views and beliefs within religious education frameworks, and the act of collective worship in schools. Mr Chamberlain was also asked a number of questions relating to the role of a SACRE member and the qualities that he could bring to the committee.

Mr Chamberlain was thanked for his representations and he left the meeting room at that point to await the decision of Caerphilly SACRE.

After a lengthy discussion to consider the request for co-opted membership of SACRE by Mr Chamberlain, on behalf of the British Humanist Association, Members split into their three respective committee voting groups to discuss the matter further.

Upon regrouping, the Members of Caerphilly SACRE, voting within their three committee groups, unanimously agreed that they did not wish to offer a specific co-opted place to a representative of the British Humanist Association and therefore would not seek to increase the number of co-opted places available within SACRE.

The Chair, RE Consultant, and Clerk to SACRE left the meeting room for a brief period in order to inform Mr Chamberlain of Caerphilly SACRE's decision.

## **7. ANALYSIS OF EXAMINATION RESULTS 2014**

The report informed Members of the attainment at GCSE, AS and A Level of Caerphilly pupils in Religious Studies and Religious Education for 2014.

SACRE were advised that the figures represented raw scores and as such did not necessarily reflect the selectivity of the entry and in some cases the numbers were too small to be statistically significant. Further information detailing the attainment results for each Caerphilly school was also tabled to Members at the meeting.

The results for the GCSE (Full Course) were confirmed and it was noted that there were 656 entries from 14 schools. Entry numbers are below previous levels but the number of schools entering candidates have increased this year. A\*-A grades for Caerphilly are similar to 2013 but below the 2012 performance and the All Wales figure of 31%. Members were advised that the level of A\*-C grades at 73% was the best result of the last three years and above the Wales figure. 98.8% of pupils entered achieved a grade A\*-G, which is comparable with the previous two years' results and the All Wales figure of 98%.

The results of GCSE (Short Course) were confirmed and it was noted that there was a significant decrease in entries this year, with 866 entries from 13 schools. Unfortunately there

was a marked decrease in performance this year, with A\*-A grades and A\*-C grades falling below 2013 performance and the All Wales figure. However, the overall percentage of A\*-G grades was 95%, which is comparable with the All Wales figure of 94%. The findings are similar to the WJEC All Wales data which found that pupils perform better at Full Course than Short Course. Discussion ensued about factors that impact on this.

Mrs Thomas explained that an Estyn survey reported that those pupils following an examination course such as Short Course, as part of their statutory requirement at Key Stage (KS) 4, were more motivated than those who did not. Those not following an accredited course were found to lack motivation and be more disaffected with their statutory RE course of study. On a more positive note, a significant number of pupils continue to be entered for short courses, which is very encouraging because it provides the opportunity for accreditation at KS4. Members were also asked to bear in mind that pupils do not usually opt to follow the short course, in that it is delivered as part of the statutory requirement for RE. It was suggested that the examination results data be shared with schools to allow for self-evaluation and the opportunity to make improvements to course availability.

The results for A Level Religious Studies were confirmed, which showed a slight decrease on last year's performance at A\*-A grades, but is comparable with the All Wales figure. At A\*-C, candidates achieved a pass rate of 89.1%, which is the best result of the last three years and exceeds the All Wales figure of 79%. It was noted that 100% of the pupils entered at A Level achieved a grade at A\*-E, which is an excellent result and exceeds the All Wales figure of 98%.

The results for AS Level Religious Studies were confirmed and showed a decrease in entry levels for this year, with 19 entries from 6 schools. 21.1% of students achieved an A grade, which is the best performance of the last three years. 47.4% of students achieved A\*-C grades, which is below 2013 levels but an improvement on 2012 grades. It was noted that across A-E grades, there was a 100% pass rate which was the best performance of the last three years.

Members were asked to note that the AS Level data only includes those students who have cached in their results. For example, if a student sat an AS Level during 2014 but have not yet cached the result in, then they would be included in next year's data when the results have been cached in. This avoids the same results being counted twice.

Having fully considered the report, SACRE noted the analysis of examination results for Religious Education and Religious Studies for 2014.

## **8. WJEC PRESENTATION TO WASACRE ON 26TH NOVEMBER 2014 – “WHAT DOES THE DATA TELL US?”**

The report outlined the key points contained within a presentation that was made to WASACRE on 26th November 2014, which detailed the WJEC Religious Studies data feedback for GCSE, AS and A Level courses.

Mrs Thomas outlined the GCSE specifications and the requirements for short course and full course qualifications, together with the main data findings for both areas.

In the last three years there has been a move away from Specification A to Specification B, with a greater number of candidates being entered for a Full Course Specification B at GCSE, although this has seen a decrease in the percentage of candidates achieving each grade point A\*-C across this specification. There is an approximate 60/40 split in favour of girls studying across both specifications, with results indicating that that girls are achieving higher grades than the boys at A\*-C grades across both specifications. Religious Studies GCSE Full Course pass rates were equivalent to or higher than the national average A\*-C pass rate across all subjects, with the comparable pass rate across A\*-G grades slightly below average.

With regard to GCSE Short Courses, pass rates are below the national average A\*-C and A\*-G pass rates for all subjects, although this is less so in Specification B. However, it was found that a very high proportion of those pupils entered for either specification will end up taking the exam as planned.

Mrs Thomas then outlined the AS and A Level specifications and the subject areas for each qualification, together with the entry levels for each area across the last three years. The most popular subjects across AS and A Level were Eastern Religions, Religion and Ethics and Philosophy and Religion, with the number of students increasing year on year. At AS Level and A Level, there continues to be a move away from more traditional options (such as Christianity/Biblical Studies).

The entry profile across AS and A Level has changed slightly, with a higher percentage of further education and independent establishments now taking Religious Studies. There is an average 70/30 split across AS and A Level in favour of girls. Across the last three years, there has been a 10% increase in the number of AS Level entries and a 4.6% increase in the number of A Level entries. The figures indicate that WJEC Religious Studies AS and A Level candidates have generally performed above the national average pass rate across all subjects over the last three years

Teaching Union Members asked for it to be noted that the WJEC provide a wide range of data analysis for each Religious Education subject, which can be extremely helpful in terms of self-evaluation by teaching establishments.

Following consideration of the WJEC Religious Studies data feedback for GCSE, AS and A Level courses, SACRE noted the contents of the report.

## **9. REVISED CRITERIA FOR GCSE AND GCE SPECIFICATIONS: UPDATE**

The report advised SACRE that a number of changes were being currently being proposed to specifications and assessment practices for Religious Studies at GCSE and GCE (AS and A) Level, and Mrs Thomas provided an update in respect of this matter.

Members were informed that a number of meetings had already been held on these proposals and Mrs Thomas outlined the main proposed changes under discussion in further detail. These included a change to assessment objectives, changes to specifications at GCSE and GCE levels and the retention of a non-tiered system at GCSE level. Mrs Thomas also outlined the process and timescale by which consultation and implementation relating to these changes would take place. There will be a variety of models proposed at both GCSE and GCE Level and teaching establishments will be consulted on these.

The WJEC is due to circulate a questionnaire to all Welsh teaching establishments to consult on the specification proposals in the first instance, with a response time of 3-4 weeks, prior to a detailed development process relating to these new specifications. It is anticipated that the proposed changes will be implemented from Autumn 2016.

Mrs Thomas also explained that the Welsh Government and WJEC have agreed for a statement to be published in the first section of every new AS/A Level specification for Wales, which will allow for a Welsh dimension and perspective to be incorporated into the subject matter where appropriate.

Members noted the update relating to the revised criteria for GCSE and GCE specifications.

## 10. NATIONAL CURRICULUM REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

The report detailed a review of assessment arrangements and the National Curriculum in Wales, which was announced by the Minister for Education and Wales on 1st October 2012. The review includes two phases and is led by Professor Graham Donaldson, who recently reported his findings to the Education Minister regarding Phase 2 of the review.

This section of the review focused on curriculum design at each phase/stage of education to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum which is fit for the 21st century, and included consideration of the Basic Curriculum (which incorporates Religious Education).

Mrs Thomas updated Caerphilly SACRE on the main findings of the review applicable to Religious Education. The review recommended a radical change to the curriculum, and suggested six areas of learning and experience which would combine the core and non-core subjects currently in existence. Mrs Thomas explained that the review endorsed the position and significance of Religious Education in modern-day education in that it was included under the “Humanities” remit of the suggested curriculum.

The review also recommended replacement of the four key stages of education with a series of “progression steps” which would result in a pupil’s time in school becoming a more seamless process.

Mrs Thomas explained that following the publication of the review, the Welsh Government have launched a ‘Great Debate’ on the curriculum. The first phase of this Great Debate will include a series of events held across Wales, attended by Professor Donaldson, to allow the people of Wales to engage with the pressing issues outlined in his report. SACRE were also advised of an online resource produced by the Welsh Government which encourages educational organisations to have their own debate regarding the curriculum review.

Members noted the contents of the report.

## 11. ESTYN REPORTING OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The report summarised the background to this matter, when at the Autumn 2014 meeting of Caerphilly SACRE, Members considered the main RE findings derived from the Estyn inspection reports of fourteen Caerphilly schools between Autumn 2013 and Summer 2014. It was noted that two 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).

SACRE agreed at that meeting that the RE Consultant would write to Estyn to highlight these issues regarding reporting procedures within the inspection reports. It is important to SACREs that there is consistency in reporting and that all reporting inspectors make a comment on the contribution of SMSC.

A response letter had recently been received from Anne Keane, Chief Inspector at Estyn, and its contents summarised to Members by Mrs Thomas. A copy of this letter had also been circulated to SACRE Members via email. The letter assured SACRE that inspectors would be reminded to report on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development on pupils. The reminder from the Chief Inspector was evident in the latest bulletin sent to inspectors, which also offered advice regarding the SMSC requirement for Church of Wales and Catholic schools.

SACRE were pleased to note the report and the response from the Chief Inspector at Estyn.



**12. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk to SACRE advised Members of a number of recent correspondence items. In addition to the response received from the Chief Inspector at Estyn, Members were advised of two letters that had recently been sent on behalf of Caerphilly SACRE. These consisted of a letter to all secondary schools advising of the forthcoming revised specifications for GCSE and A Level, and a letter making all schools aware of the RE resources available via the Gwent Ethnic Minority Service (GEMS) website.

**13. WASACRE - FEEDBACK FROM THE WASACRE MEETING IN TORFAEN – 26TH NOVEMBER 2014**

Members were updated on the discussions and deliberation of WASACRE at its meeting in Torfaen on 26th November 2014. A copy of the draft minutes was included in the meeting papers.

Reference was made to three invaluable presentations given at the meeting (*WJEC Religious Feedback – Data Feedback, SACRE and Consortia Arrangements, and Monmouthshire SACRE – Celebrating RE Day*). Members were directed to the resources available on the WASACRE website and encouraged to view these presentations.

SACRE noted the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE at the Torfaen meeting.

**14. WASACRE - FEEDBACK FROM THE WASACRE MEETING IN PORT TALBOT – 6TH MARCH 2015**

Members were updated on the discussions and deliberation of WASACRE at its meeting in Port Talbot on 6th March 2015. Mrs Thomas attended this meeting and informed Members that she had observed two excellent presentations, one of which (*Raising the achievement of boys by engaging them in RE issues and using thinking skills approaches*) she hoped to share with Caerphilly SACRE at their Summer Term meeting.

SACRE noted the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE at the Port Talbot meeting.

**15. NOMINATIONS TO THE WASACRE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

SACRE were informed of the correspondence received from WASACRE in relation to nominations for new Members to the WASACRE Executive Committee.

It was noted that a nomination form for Councillor D.M. Gray (who had faithfully represented Caerphilly SACRE in the past) had been forwarded to WASACRE by the Clerk to SACRE.

**16. REPRESENTATION AT FORTHCOMING WASACRE MEETINGS**

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

With regards to the next meeting of WASACRE on **25th June 2015** (Flint), it was noted that Councillor D.M. Gray would be in attendance. Councillor J. Taylor advised that he might be able to attend, subject to other commitments. Members were asked to notify the Clerk to SACRE should they be interested in attending. They would then be contacted with the agenda papers nearer to the meeting date and asked to confirm attendance.

The Chair thanked the Members of Caerphilly SACRE for their attendance at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 4.03 pm

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2015, they were signed by the Chair.

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CHAIR

## CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

**DATE:** JUNE 10TH 2015

**SUBJECT:** FEEDBACK ON DONALDSON REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

### **Background**

On October 1st 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 has reported back to the Education Minister on Phase 2.

On April 15th 2015, the National Advisory Panel for RE (NAPfRE)/ members of WASACRE met to discuss the implications for RE of the Donaldson review and to formulate a response on behalf of the Panel and WASACRE.

SACREs also had the opportunity to respond - in order for a response to be sent on behalf of Caerphilly SACRE, a copy of the NAPfRE response was sent to all SACRE members for comment and a formal response to Welsh government was made from Caerphilly SACRE.

### **Main messages of the Donaldson Review (refer to presentation to be given at SACRE meeting):-**

#### **References to Religious Education in the Report:**

- Pgs 46-47 – RE should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience and should **remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception.**
- Pg 61 – Although young people will choose some of their courses for the period from **14-16** there are some aspects of the curriculum that all young people should continue to study regardless of those choices these include ....and **those such as RE** that are important to achieving some of the characteristics of the four purposes that would not be achieved otherwise....
- Pg 100 – It is therefore proposed that a general duty be placed on schools to organise and deliver a curriculum for all children and young people that is designed to meet the four purposes of education. In line with national policy, **specific duties may also be placed on schools in relation to the Welsh language and RE.**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

For SACRE to discuss and note the report

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Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru, NPT, 6 Mawrth  
2015 (10.30am – 3pm)

*Wales Association of SACREs meeting, NPT, 6 March 2015  
(10.30am – 3pm)*

<p><b>Ynys Môn / Anglesey</b> Bethan James Rheinallt Thomas</p>	<p><b>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire</b> Gavin Craigen</p>	<p><b>Powys</b> Margaret Evitts</p>
<p><b>Blaenau Gwent</b></p>	<p><b>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire</b></p>	<p><b>Rhondda Cynon Taf</b></p>
<p><b>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend</b> Edward Evans Vicky Thomas Lowri Florence Cathryn Davies-Jones</p>	<p><b>Gwynedd</b> Bethan James</p> <p><b>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil</b> Y Cyng./ Vicky Thomas Ernie Galsworthy</p>	<p><b>Abertawe / Swansea</b> Vicky Thomas Chris Mann Rachel Bendall (SMUTSD) Claire Foley Alison Lewis Helen-Marie Davies</p>
<p><b>Caerffili/ Caerphilly</b> Vicky Thomas</p>	<p><b>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire</b> Sharon Perry- Phillips Susan Cave Neeta Singh Baicher</p>	<p><b>Torfaen /Torfaen</b> Vicky Thomas Marilyn Frazer Helen Bevan</p>
<p><b>Caerdydd / Cardiff</b> Katherine Mayer</p>	<p><b>Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot</b> Jen Malcolm</p>	<p><b>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan</b></p>
<p><b>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire</b> Mary Parry Meinir Wynne Loader</p>	<p>Peter Rees Janice Dudley Rachel Samuel Gwilym Jones</p>	<p><b>Wrecsam / Wrexham</b> Tania ap Sion Libby Jones</p>
<p><b>Ceredigion</b> Lyndon Lloyd</p>	<p><b>Casnewydd / Newport</b> Vicky Thomas Andrew Powles Huw Stephens Neeta Singh Baicher Sally Northcott Amanda B. Davies Soam Sharma</p>	<p><b>Sylwedyddion / Observers</b> Leslie Francis (St Mary's Centre) Mark Champion (Estyn) Eldon Phillips (REMW)</p>
<p><b>Conwy</b> Nicholas Richter</p>	<p><b>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire</b> Huw George</p>	

## **Minutes**

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

Chair, Tania ap Siôn introduced Aled Evans, Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning for Neath Port Talbot, who gave the welcome address.

Aled Evans welcomed WASACRE to The Orangery in Margam. He commented that it is a good venue for a meeting focussed on religious education, with its 4000 years of continuous habitation which reminds us of the need to safeguard our heritage. The 850-acre estate is one of the major ancient settlements in Wales, a pre-historic site with evidence of bronze age, Celtic and Roman habitation. It also has particular religious importance as the site of a Cistercian Abbey, which was built in the Middle Ages and it has links across the whole of Wales. The Orangery itself was built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Neath Port Talbot has a pro-active SACRE, which is always searching for new ideas for monitoring standards in religious education and collective worship. SACRE has just begun a new monitoring process taking on the different approach of inviting secondary Heads of RE to present on their own departments at each meeting and sharing the plans they have put in place to ensure development, including their transition programme with feeder primary schools. Also, the Holocaust Memorial Day event is very special in Neath Port Talbot and one that the local authority and SACRE is very proud of. Aled Evans commented on the Donaldson Report which has just been published and said that it is very good to see support for religious education in the report and a recommendation to keep RE as a statutory requirement in Wales. He also commented that religious education helps to develop the important, lifelong skills that all learners need and provides them with a forum for thinking about the deep questions. He urged the need for safeguarding these skills, as they not only help to develop knowledge of different religions, but also help learners formulate ideas about the world we live in. Aled Evans described how his own daughters had benefited immensely from religious education in school and went on to say that we often underestimate the importance of religious education in helping learners to develop an understanding of different religions and promoting integration and a stronger sense of community. Wales, he explained, is good at this as we are not a country or a nation; we are a very big village or community. Mr Evans wished WASACRE a good meeting.

The Chair thanked Aled Evans for his words and welcomed Cllr Peter Rees and Cllr **Janice** Dudley (Chair of NPT SACRE), also from Neath Port Talbot to the meeting.

### **2. Adfyfyrion tawel / *Quiet reflection***

A reflective silence to prepare for the meeting ahead.

### **3. Ymddiheuriadau / *Apologies*** John Mitson, Cllr Michael Gray, Tudor Thomas, Cllr Deborah Wilcox, Helen Gibbon, Gill Vaisey, Christine Abbas, Arthur Threlfall, Ams Kingra, Farida Patel, P Harris, Wyn Meredith, Louise Thomas, Steve Price.

**4. Cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd yn Nhorfaen, 26 Tachwedd 2014 / Minutes of meeting held in Torfaen, 6 November 2014**

Following one amendment to the attendance list, the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**5. Materion yn codi / Matters arising**

P4. Item 5. It is noted in the Executive report that Wales is no longer represented on the RE Council for England and Wales. In the past Wales has had a co-opted place, but no secure place. The REC is offering WASACRE the chance to nominate a representative for the Board, however, the nominee may or may not be successfully elected. The Executive Committee agreed to write to REC expressing disappointment with this situation. Libby Jones will write the letter. Past Chair, Edward Evans expressed the importance of Welsh representation on the Board which has Wales in its title.

P7. Item 7. The presentation by WJEC ‘What does the data tell us?’ is on the WASACRE website to be shared with SACREs.

P8. Item 7. The presentation by Monmouthshire SACRE ‘Celebrating RE Transition Project’ is on the WASACRE website to be shared with SACREs.

P9. Item 7. The presentation by NAPfRE members ‘SACREs and consortia arrangements (feedback)’ is on the WASACRE website to be shared with SACREs.

Usually all NAPfRE presentations will be uploaded to the WASACRE website and this process is now protocol. [www.wasacre.org.uk](http://www.wasacre.org.uk)

Rheinallt Thomas queried whether this takes place of the REflections that used to appear in RENews. REflections are now Canolfan Peniarth’s responsibility and therefore a process needs to be agreed for the continuation of sharing this information with RENews online. Tania ap Sion responded by explaining that WASACRE has not yet looked at how this would work since RENews has moved to web-based publication only and so it needs to be raised at the Executive. Rachel Bendall is involved in supporting the new website and she also responded by explaining the current situation. Rachel offered to pass on any comments or questions to Peniarth. Tania ap Siôn reminded members that it is the responsibility of the presenter to write up a commentary for their presentation before it can be published on the website, but that WASACRE could facilitate this. The inclusion of PowerPoint presentations on WASACRE website does not take the place of written articles for presentations; these are two different kinds of resource.

A.O.B. An brief update was given on this project – that is, Professor Leslie Francis’ request for 6<sup>th</sup> forms willing to participate in his current Europe-wide survey ‘Religion, Values and Human Rights’. From this request two schools have responded. The survey is available in English only, there is still opportunity for participation, and it is open for 16-18 year olds, as well as year 11. In the Torfaen meeting it was described as 6<sup>th</sup> Form

only. Leslie Francis commented that through this survey he is listening to young people in order to gain an understanding of their views on religion, their values and their views on Human Rights. Part of the driver behind this survey is points of conflict between religious positions and Human Rights positions. Leslie Francis also pointed out that this is an empirical perspective and he offered some examples of survey questions for members to look at over lunch. Professor Francis said that he would welcome an opportunity to present and discuss the results of the Welsh survey in a future WASACRE meeting.

## **6. Diweddariadau/Up-dates:**

### **Bagloriaeth Cymru Newydd / *New Welsh Baccalaureate***

Libby Jones gave a brief overview of the new qualification. In response to the findings of the Review of Qualifications, the Welsh Baccalaureate is changing from September 2015. The core of the revised Welsh Baccalaureate will have a clear focus on the following skills: Literacy, Numeracy, Digital Literacy, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Planning and Organisation, Creativity and Innovation, and Personal Effectiveness. These skills will be developed, applied and assessed through the completion of four 'Challenges', which are: The Individual Project Challenge (50%), Global Citizenship Challenge (15%), Enterprise and Employability Challenge (20%), and Community Challenge (15%). These challenges make up the core aspect of the Welsh Bacc and form the Skills Challenge Certificate, which is a GCSE in its own right. The Welsh Baccalaureate qualification as a whole will be the key Performance Indicator for schools from 2018. Libby explained that schools have been informed that it should not be a 'bolt on' programme and should not be delivered mainly through 'blocks' of time (e.g. at the end of term), which raises issues for school in where they fit it into an already crowded timetable. This issue has raised concern for some Heads of RE who have experienced discussions about KS4 RE time being used for Welsh Bacc dedicated lessons in their schools. Libby urged members to be aware of this issue and to consider how individual SACREs can support RE in their Local Authorities. RE can easily contribute to the challenges within core RE time but how this is done without losing essential exam preparation needs to be thought about carefully. Vicky Thomas responded by saying that RE is still a statutory requirement, the Donaldson Report has strengthened that and schools should be reminded of this. Vicky's comments were reiterated by other members including the need for schools, especially RE departments, to be supported by SACREs at this time. Other questions were raised including where this support would come from, budgets etc, and where are the professionals to provide the support? Tania ap Sion thanked members for their important comments and raised the question of how WASACRE can help and work towards providing support for schools and SACREs. Vicky responded also by saying that Governing bodies need to provide support and this can be prompted by sending a Mailshot to them to say how RE can contribute.

### **Arholiadau Astudiaethau crefyddol / *Religious Studies examinations***



Vicky Thomas gave an up-date regarding the current situation. She explained that two stakeholder meetings have taken place. One in November 2014 which Tania ap Siôn attended on behalf of WASACRE and one in December which herself, Mary Parry and Phil Lord attended as representatives of WASACRE. Members were pointed towards the information sheet included in the papers for the meeting, from which Vicky wanted members to note the following:

There will be changes to the current specifications for Wales and a number of models will go out to all schools in Wales for them to respond to. Vicky urged members to encourage schools to respond as their voice is important. Vicky told members that there is a strong feeling within WJEC that Short Course Religious Studies will continue. At GCSE the study of two different religions will be made compulsory in England and therefore most likely in Wales too. There is also a possibility that Buddhism and Sikhism will be included in the GCSE specification.

At AS and A2 level the two qualifications will be stand alone in England (the AS will no longer link into the A2) and there will be no January examination and no synoptic option in England. However, in Wales students will be offered the choice of doing the synoptic option, but they will no longer be able to see the question before the exam. In Wales the AS will still link into the A2, but as in England there will also be no January exam. In Wales there will not be any prescribed content for Curriculum Cymreig, but local Curriculum Cymreig will be encouraged where appropriate.

Under Process and Timescale on the sheet Vicky pointed out that Welsh Government will be approached for accreditation of the specifications by 30 September 2015 and not the Summer as the sheet suggests, with implementation from Autumn 2016.

Following Vicky's report the following questions were raised:

Will the specification models sent to schools be in hard copy form or electronic? Vicky Thomas was not able to confirm this.

Will either of the two compulsory religions have to be Christianity? Vicky Thomas was able to confirm 'no'.

Tania ap Siôn thanked Vicky for the up-date.

### **Cysylltiadau Llywodraeth Cymru / *Welsh Government contacts***

Regarding the request for reinstatement of the meeting with the Minister for Education and Skills, Huw Lewis. Libby Jones wrote to the Minister to secure a suitable date for the meeting and a response was received on 11 December 2014 informing WASACRE that the Minister will not consider a meeting until after the publication of the Donaldson Report. Following this letter Libby Jones and Tania ap Siôn met with John Pugsley, Head of Subject Support 7-19 and Steve Price, responsible for RE and other non-core curriculum subjects, both from Welsh Government, on 20 January 2015. Louise Thomas

was not in attendance. They discussed how Welsh Government and WASACRE can work together in a mutually advantageous relationship. Both parties agreed to meet twice a year to discuss matters relating to RE and collective worship as well as other related matters. Tania ap Siôn commented that the meeting was positive and that WASACRE will maintain contact with Mr Pugsley and Mr Price in between the meetings. A further request for a meeting with the Minister was given at the meeting and WASACRE was advised to continue raising some specific issues directly with Huw Lewis.

### **Adolygiad cwricwlwm / Curriculum review**

Members were informed that WASACRE has been involved from the beginning of this review process, meeting with Professor Donaldson and responding to the initial consultation questionnaire.

Chair of NAPfRE, Bethan James presented a PowerPoint which had previously been discussed at the NAPfRE meeting on 5 March 2015 and which is now available on the Welsh Government website and the WASACRE website for members to access. The PowerPoint showed some of the main points of the recently published Donaldson Report, as follows:

Four purposes of education.

Six Areas of Learning and Experience.

Three cross-curriculum responsibilities.

Progression Steps at ages 5, 8, 11, 14 and 16 (including 'Routes').

Achievement outcomes.

A range of pedagogical approaches.

Refocusing assessment on learning, including learners' self- and peer-assessment.

Monitoring performance of the system at a national level through annual sampling.

A further questionnaire is now on the Welsh Government website which schools, other groups and individuals are being encouraged to respond to. However, before its completion these groups are also being encouraged to have the 'Great Debate' for which there are a series of resources available. These resources will act as prompts to stimulate and support the debate. E.g. film clips, questions etc.

Vicky Thomas informed members that there are four 'Major Debates' that they can be involved in across Wales as follows:

11 March - 16:00-18:00 - Neuadd Reichel, University of Bangor

12 March - 08:00-10:00 - Catrin Finch Centre (auditorium), Wrexham - CANCELLED

18 March - 16:00-18:00 - Liberty Stadium, Swansea

19 March - 08:00-10:00 - Coleg y Cymoedd, Nantgarw PLUS LIVE WEBINAR.

In order to secure a place at one of the debates members will have to submit their name via the Welsh Government website and wait for confirmation.

This whole process is called 'Phase 1' and runs from 4 March to 8 May 2015. After this all the views will be considered and a statement from Welsh Government will be published in the summer.

Bethan James assured members that the material is very current and most relevant to WASACRE. The questions for the 'Great Debate' are as follows:

Q1. In what ways do you agree or disagree that the existing national curriculum is no longer suitable for the needs of children and young people in Wales?

Q2. What are your views on the four broad purposes set out in the Report? Overall, do you think these provide the right basis for the future curriculum for children and young people in Wales? And, if not, why not?

Q3. Combining subjects and other aspects of learning into six Areas of Learning and Experience reaffirms the importance of subjects – and also recognises aspects of learning that are also important such as health and well-being. In what ways do you agree or disagree with this approach?

Q4. The Review recommends an approach to assessment that is primarily concerned with supporting children and young people's educational progression, and distinguishes between assessment to help progression and assessment to provide evidence for accountability. In what ways do you agree or disagree with this approach?

Q5. What is your initial response to the pedagogical principles outlined in Professor Donaldson's Report?

Q6. Professor Donaldson's Report proposes a significantly stronger role for schools/settings and teachers in shaping the curriculum. In what ways do you agree or disagree that this is desirable?

(This is very relevant. Teachers and schools have the freedom to develop a curriculum that is relevant to their own pupils. This question needs more discussion from SACREs)

Q7. How best can this process of involvement be continued and how would your school/setting like to be involved? Surveys, conferences, workshops, locally organised debates, social media, other (please specify).

Bethan James proposed that NAPfRE will respond as a group and because WASACRE and most SACREs will not meet before the deadline of 8 May the NAPfRE group (which will also contain WASACRE Executive members) will respond on behalf of WASACRE also, if members are in agreement. Members present agreed to this proposal. Rheinallt

Thomas asked for the response to be circulated to all members through SACREs and the Executive before it is sent to Welsh Government so that it may inform their responses as appropriate. This was also agreed at the meeting. Bethan urged individuals and SACREs to respond to the questionnaire so that RE was well represented.

Edward Evans asked for clarification on the statutory nature of RE being up to 16 and not further. Mary Parry responded by saying that the review was commissioned for the up to 16 age group only.

## **7. Cyflwyniad NAPfRE / NAPfRE presentation:**

Fframwaith Llythrennedd a Rhifedd ac Addysg Grefyddol / *The Literacy and Numeracy Framework and RE* Rachel Bendall

Rachel Bendall, Senior Lecturer Secondary PGCE Religious Education from University of Wales Trinity Saint David presented a PowerPoint showing the work her students have done to incorporate the LNF in their teaching of religious education. Rachel showed members a variety of example tasks that the students had successfully trialled during their placements.

The resources have been shared on the new RENews website. The correct address for this website is <http://www.religious-education-wales.org/> and also on the Hwb website <https://hwb.wales.gov.uk/>. The PowerPoint presentation will also be available on the WASACRE website.

Ennyn diddordeb bechgyn mewn AG a chodi eu safonau / *Engaging boys in RE and raising their standards* Mary Parry

Mary Parry explained that this specific issue is one that has been raised by Estyn across the curriculum but also in the 2012 Thematic Review of Religious Education and so it is very current. Mary shared a scheme of work for KS3 pupils that she has developed called 'Muslim Footballers in the Premier league'. The scheme aims to engage and motivate boys, raise standards, implement the LNF, develop religious education skills and to develop thinking skills.

Members were shown a PowerPoint presentation that could be used with pupils in class and were given copies of the tasks that accompany the PowerPoint to take back to their SACREs.

Members carried out one of the tasks in groups and fed back their responses and discussion ensued.

Meinir Loader said that she had trialled these tasks and has seen first-hand the benefits to her pupils and the high standard of the extended writing task among boys and girls.

Professor Leslie Francis welcomed the presentation. He commented that it is a good way in which male images can be used within RE and that men too can be religious. Leslie

Francis explained that current research indicates that religion has become feminised in that it appeals to those who have a particular disposition ('feeling types') and that it is important to widen the appeal of religious education to respond to the interests of 'thinking types' also. 'Thinking types' and 'feeling types' are not determined by sex (male and female) but research in many countries show that proportionally more males tend to be 'thinking types' and more females tend to be 'feeling types'. It is important to do some research which looks into this further.

Sharon Perry-Phillips commented that schools and especially RE departments have little or no funding to resource religious education and that as a teacher she is grateful to Mary Parry and WASACRE for sharing something that members can take back to their schools for free.

Unfortunately, due to copyright issues the resources will not be more widely available and will not be shared on the WASACRE website.

Neeta Baicher also shared information about a useful resource from the BBC called 'India's daughter' which is on iPlayer now.

#### **8. Adroddiad ar gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith a gynhaliwyd ar 2 Chwefror 2015 / *Report from the Executive Committee held on 2 February 2015***

P2 Item 8. Estyn reports. Vicky Thomas updated members on what Caerphilly SACRE had done with regard to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) comments in Estyn reports. The contents of Anne Keene's letter from Estyn was shared and members were very pleased with the response that inspectors would be reminded about the requirement to report on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils in their next e-shot to them. The WASACRE Executive Committee agreed to continue checking reports and to write again to Anne Keane to update her on any progress. Bethan James thanked Caerphilly SACRE for flagging it up and Mark Campion from Estyn reiterated this and asked WASACRE to contact him in the autumn term if there are any gaps relating to this in Estyn reports. Rheinallt Thomas reminded members that Anne Keene has been very supportive of RE and is retiring soon. He proposed that WASACRE send a letter of thanks to Anne for her support and also a letter to make contact with the current Strategic Director. Libby Jones will write and send both letters.

P3 Item 14. Phil Lord is at the EFTRE meeting in Dublin at present, but in his absence Tania ap Siôn informed members of the significant role he has played in developing the Wales REQM. He now feels that he has completed this important aspect of his work and that a link role is now needed, which will be filled by Libby Jones. Tania ap Siôn formally thanked Phil for his contribution to REQM Wales.

#### **9. Gohebiaeth /Correspondence**

Two items have already been covered elsewhere on the agenda. One under Item 6. Updates. Welsh Government contacts and the reinstatement of the meeting with the Minister

and the second under Item 8. The executive report from 2 February 2015. Estyn reports and the letter from Anne Keene.

A letter was received from Wrexham SACRE regarding the possibility of Estyn including a comment on collective worship in future reports. Vicky Thomas informed members that this was also included in Caerphilly SACRE's letter to Estyn.

Mark Champion (Estyn) informed the meeting that it is at the discretion of the reporting officer whether or not to include a comment about the quality of collective worship. It may appear to be inconsistent, however, if it does not appear the inspector is complying with Estyn guidance. Mark Champion read out an example from Newport High School which explicitly commented on collective worship and mentioned other schools like Ysgol Rhiwabon where positive comments had been included in the report. He explained that there was no appetite to change the current guidance from Estyn. During the inspection week inspectors will discuss with schools things that do not appear in the report, as they cannot include everything they would like to in it and therefore it is important for them to continue this dialogue. Gavin Craigen thanked Mark Champion for his clear explanation of Estyn's position and proposed that there would be no purpose in taking this forward. Members present agreed.

Libby Jones will inform Wrexham SACRE of this response.

Some members commented on the difficulty SACREs have in monitoring collective worship when Estyn reports do not include specific comments on it. The debate on this issue continues at NAPfRE meetings and in individual SACRE meetings and a presentation on the monitoring of collective worship and its provision in schools will be part of the WASACRE programme at the next meeting.

Christine Abbas sent members of WASACRE New Year greetings from the Baha'i community in Wales. (this email was received after the event due to problems with internet access at the time)

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

Chris Mann from Swansea SACRE offered leaflets from the Buddhist Centre in Swansea and Llandudno both of which welcome school visits. Members were invited to take a leaflet back to their own SACRE if they wished to. Chris Mann thanked WASACRE for drawing attention to the Centre and for an interesting meeting.

#### **11. Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf / Date for next meeting:** 25 Mehefin 2015, Sir y Fflint yn cynnwys AGM / 25 June 2015, Flintshire including AGM.

Dyddiadau cyfarfodydd yn y dyfodol / *Future meeting dates: 25 Tachwedd 2015 (Blaenau Gwent) / 25 November 2015 (Blaenau Gwent).*

Tania ap Siôn thanked all persons involved with the organisation and running of the meeting, with special thanks to SACRE Clerk Mary Mills, Systems Leader Jen Malcolm, the translation team, and the staff at the Orangery in Margam.

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## CAERPHELLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

**DATE: JUNE 10TH 2015**

**SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE VOTING FOR THE PERIOD 2015 - 2016**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

To discuss the nominations in respect of the Executive Committee and Vice-Chair of WASACRE and ensure WASACRE receive the voting preferences of Caerphilly SACRE (ahead of the WASACRE meeting on 25th June 2015).

### **Nominations for the Executive Committee**

There are **TWO** nominations for **TWO** positions on the Executive Committee:-

#### **1. Councillor Ernie Galsworthy, Merthyr Tydfil SACRE**

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

I was brought up in a Welsh Baptist environment and until the age of 5 lived with my grandmother, a Welsh speaker, who unfortunately did not teach Welsh to my mother although, did her best to teach me. Consequently after her death I lost the language and did not pick it back up again until the late 1990's when I attended a WPLAN course at Cardiff University.

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

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

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

#### **2. E.Ruth Davies, CYSAG Gwynedd**

I have been a member of SACRE Gwynedd for the last seven years as a representative of The Baptist Union of Wales. I am a deacon at my chapel and for many years have taken an interest in the work of the Sunday School, as a teacher and a co-ordinator. It was as a result of this work and my education background that I was asked to be the Baptist representative on the Gwynedd SACRE.

#### **Academic Qualifications**

- 1966 – 1970 Certificate in Education followed by B.Ed degree in Human Biology, Science, Home Economics and Education at Llandaff College of Education-Home Economics, Llandaff, Cardiff.

#### **Teaching Experience**

- 1970 - 1975 Teacher and subsequently Head of Home Economics Department, Ystalyfera Welsh Comprehensive School, West Glamorgan.

- 1975 – 1977 Lecturer at Llandaff College of Education- Home Economics, Llandaff, Cardiff.
- 1977 – 1980 Part-time lecturer in Home Economics Department at Normal College, Bangor
- 1983 – 2010 Lecturer in Art, Design and Technology Department, Normal College and later Education Department, School of Education, Bangor University

#### **Other relevant experience**

- Involved in several projects for the Centre for Educational Resources, University of Wales, Aberystwyth producing a number of textbooks for secondary schools.
- Qualified as a Registered Primary Inspector and led several school inspections on contract to Estyn.
- I am a school governor at Ysgol Gynradd Llandegfan, Isle of Anglesey.
- In 1991 appointed a magistrate and later became Bench Chairman for Isle of Anglesey for 3 years.

I have a wide perspective of education in Wales; it encompasses primary and secondary education, initial teacher training and experience of inspecting schools throughout Wales. The close links with education makes me realise the importance of ensuring a worthy place for Religious Education as a subject in the curriculum in primary and secondary schools as well as the need to ensure relevant and meaningful corporate worship sessions. I sincerely hope that my experience will be of value to the WASACRE Executive Committee and schools in order that pupils are well prepared for life as world-wide citizens.

### **Nominations for the position of Vice Chair for the Wales Association of SACREs:-**

#### **1. Phil Lord, Denbighshire SACRE**

I graduated in 1999 with a BA (Hons) degree in Theology and Christian Ministry from the University of Manchester. After completing my degree I enrolled on a two- year Cross Phase Key Stage 2 /3 Postgraduate Certificate in Education at Didsbury, Manchester. I gained experience teaching learners in both junior and secondary schools.

After deciding that I wanted to concentrate on my degree subject, I transferred to a PCGE concentrating on Secondary School Religious Education. I was appointed as a teacher of RE at Sandbach boys school in 2002. I applied and secured the post of Head of Religious Education in Bishop Heber High School, Malpas, two years later. While working in those schools, I worked closely with the RE Advisor, developing ICT resources and presenting INSET on behalf of Cheshire SACRE.

In September 2007 I became the Head of RE at Ysgol John Bright in Llandudno. During my time at the school I was able to work at length with Conwy's RE advisor, Gavin Craigen, developing guidance material relating to the 2008 curriculum. This helped me to create Key Stage 3 schemes of work in my own department, recognised by Estyn in March 2009 when we gained 'Grade 1'.

I applied for and secured the post of RE advisor for Conwy, Flintshire and Denbighshire in the autumn term, 2009. In that time I have been involved in monitoring schools on behalf of SACRE as well as providing subject support as a

local authority officer. I have provided target support at all phases, including Foundation Phase Guidance, Key Stage 2 days at both Bangor and St Asaph Cathedrals and the creation of a Key Stage 2/3 bridging unit. I have supported teachers through the Key Stage 3 Securing Teacher Assessment process. I have organised and presented GCSE revision days and Year 12 day conferences. I now work as a Systems Leader for GWE.

As Officer to three SACREs, member of the WASACRE Executive Committee and Vice Chair of NAPfRE I regularly attend the termly WASACRE meetings and have contributed to a number of these.

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