

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.