

FLINTSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
21 MARCH 2012

Minutes of the meeting of the Flintshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education held at County Hall, Mold on 21 March 2012

PRESENT:

Councillors: R.C. Bithell, F. Gillmore, S. Jones, C. Legg, E.W. Owen and N.R. Steele-Mortimer

Religious Denominations: H. Hughes and G.W. Jones

Teacher Associations: Y. Barker and H.E. Jones (Chairman)

APOLOGIES:

Councillors V. Gay and R. Hughes
E. Davies, D. Jones, S. Jones, M. Madoc-Jones, D. McIntyre, D. Morgan,
Rev. H. Powell-Davies and P. Walsh

IN ATTENDANCE:

Senior Learning Adviser RE and Committee Officer

19. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2011 were submitted.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20. ANALYSIS OF INSPECTION REPORTS SCHOOLS

The Senior Learning Adviser RE introduced the report on the analysis of inspection reports for five schools inspected under the new Estyn Framework between March and October 2011:-

Connah's Quay High School
St. David's High School
Southdown CP
Ysgol Bryn Garth
Ysgol y Foel

He detailed the positive comments made in Key Questions 1, 2 and 3 for all five schools and highlighted those made in the areas of wellbeing; learning experiences; care, support and guidance; learning environment and partnership working. He welcomed the comment in the inspection report on

collective worship and highlighted the negative comments which he felt did not relate to RE specifically.

Councillor R.C. Bithell asked if the locations of the schools could be included in future reports; the Senior Learning Adviser RE confirmed that this was possible. In response to a further query from Councillor Bithell, on the issue of wellbeing, the Senior Learning Adviser RE said that he would make further enquiries. The Chairman and Mrs. H. Hughes provided examples of the types of evidence that Estyn might seek as part of the inspection.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to the schools congratulating them on the positive outcomes of the inspections.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be received;
- (b) That the locations of schools be included in future reports; and
- (c) That a letter be sent to the schools congratulating them on the positive outcomes of the inspections.

21. MONITORING AND SUPPORTIVE REVIEW

The Senior Learning Adviser RE introduced the report and detailed the good features, areas for development and recommendations reported for each of the following schools:-

Argoed High School

Mynydd Isa CP School (Wat's Dyke Infants & Mynydd Isa Juniors)

In response to a question from Councillor R.C. Bithell on the monitoring procedures to ensure that collective worship was being done across the school, the Senior Learning Adviser RE explained that each area had its own system of monitoring which could include the Head of Year being encouraged to observe the collective worship. The Chairman provided details of how collective worship was undertaken in his school but said that he did not know whether other schools were carrying out collective worship which he felt SACRE should be concerned about. The Senior Learning Adviser RE commented on two schools where it was practiced and undertaken during the registration period and Mrs. Hughes explained that it was monitored each term at her school. She advised that Wrexham SACRE had been invited to join in with the monitoring and to provide feedback.

On the recommendation for Argoed High School to set up a meeting to go through the moderation portfolio, Councillor Bithell queried if this just applied to GCSE courses and the Chairman explained that it was only for Key Stage 3 entries. The Senior Learning Adviser RE explained that each school had to create a portfolio for submission to a moderator. Following a discussion, the Chairman said that he felt that the work submitted to the

moderator may not always be classed as good by the moderator which he felt could de-motivate some RE teachers. The Senior Learning Advisor said that each school would receive a moderators report relating to their portfolio. This report would also be sent to the Local Authority and as such he would be able to work with schools where there were issues.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

22. EXAMINATION RESULTS 2011

The Senior Learning Adviser RE introduced the report and circulated an updated copy of the summary of examination results for 2011 due to a slight amendment in the figures, which he detailed.

The Senior Learning Adviser RE advised that the statistics outlined the GCSE results for 2011 for all candidates/boys/girls who had taken Religious Studies at Full Course, Short Course and Advanced Level. He highlighted the entry for Connah's Quay where 91.1% of pupils entered had achieved A* to C grades which was an increase of 5.4% from 2010 and was 18.2% higher than the national average. He also highlighted St. Richard Gwyn school which reported a difference of -18% in the A* to C grades achieved in 2011 compared to 2010 which was -21.5% below the national average. Overall for Flintshire, the number of entries had reduced from 2010 and a difference of -1.1% was reported on those achieving A* to C grades which was 3% above the national average. The Senior Learning Adviser RE also provided details for the short course for all candidates/boys and girls and advanced level for all candidates. For the short course figures for all candidates, a difference at local authority level of -1.8% of those who had achieved A* to C grades in 2011 compared to 2010 was reported which was 1.9% below the national average.

Following a discussion, Councillor R.C. Bithell said that there were a number of schools which had not entered pupils at all and he welcomed the short course as it had increased the number of those undertaking RE. He added that there had been an increase in the number of boys taking the short course in Wales but a decline in Flintshire. The Senior Learning Adviser RE said that nearly 1300 pupils took GCSE RE examinations in 2011 and that only a small number of schools had not entered any pupils. In response, Councillor Bithell said that at A level, only five of the twelve schools listed had submitted pupils for exams in RE in 2011.

RESOLVED:

That the examination results for 2011 be noted.

23. PRESENTATION BY HELEN HUGHES, CIW REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. H. Hughes explained that she worked for the St. Giles RE Centre in Wrexham for one day per week along with two colleagues, on a project (funded by the Wrexham Parochial Trust) to promote RE in schools and the faith community. The director was Gavin Craigen and the project was for five years. She provided details of the resources which were for primary, secondary and sixth form pupils and were free for use either at the St. Giles RE Centre or in schools. She spoke of the dedication service which had been undertaken and explained that there was now a need to involve foundation phase pupils in the project.

Mrs. Hughes provided a presentation which detailed some of the works undertaken as part of the project and which had included a workshop on Easter reflection, a workshop for the faith community and one undertaken by pupils from Liverpool University. She explained about the Jesse Tree Service and a Gee Walker day which had been undertaken.

Councillor R.C. Bithell asked whether the schools in Flintshire were aware of the project and the Senior Learning Adviser RE confirmed that pupils from a Flintshire school had attended the Gee Walker day.

In response to a question from Councillor E.W. Owen, Mrs. Hughes confirmed that even though the project was funded by the Wrexham Parochial Trust, the information about the project would be available on the website for those who wished to use it. The Chairman and Councillors Owen and Bithell agreed that it was important for schools in Flintshire to be aware of the project and the website.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be received.

24. WASACRE

The Senior Learning Adviser RE introduced the draft minutes of the Wales Association of Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (WASACRE) which had been held in Cardiff on 24 November 2011.

He provided details of a presentation which had been undertaken by Steve Bowden on Respect and Resilience, stressing in particular the importance of education for creating community cohesion. The Senior Learning Adviser RE commented on initiatives described by Mr. Bowden to integrate the community and added that it had been a feel-good presentation which was very inspiring.

Councillor R.C. Bithell referred to page 37 and queried whether any information had been received on item 10 – Representation on SACREs. In response, the Senior Learning Adviser RE explained that WASACRE was seeking legal advice on this issue and until a response was received, any

applications to seek representation on SACRE from the British Humanist Association would not be pursued.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the WASACRE meeting held on 24 November 2011 be received.

25. NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE TO WASACRE

The Senior Learning Adviser RE sought nominations for the Executive to WASACRE. He indicated that he would be putting his name forward as a nominee.

RESOLVED:

That the Senior Learning Adviser RE be nominated for a position on the Executive to WASACRE.

26. LITERACY/NUMERACY WITHIN RE – COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLS

The Senior Learning Adviser RE suggested that a competition be arranged for schools to produce resources that would include Literacy and Numeracy in KS2 and/or KS3 Religious Education (RE).

He explained that the entries from schools could be judged by those on SACRE and added that there was a fund of £900 available to offer as prizes. The information produced could then form a file of RE ideas to encourage schools to develop lesson plans. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the categories for the prizes would be KS1/KS2 and High School. The Senior Learning Adviser RE advised that Denbighshire and Conwy SACREs had created a sub-group to work on the project. He explained that if the suggestion was agreed at this meeting, he would provide details to schools of the competition, the closing date and information on when judging would take place.

The Chairman suggested that it would be more beneficial if the documents were in 'word' rather than produced as PDFs. It was also suggested that the competition details could be sent to schools as soon as possible, preferably by email to give schools sufficient time to produce entries for the competition.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the update be received; and
- (b) That the Senior Learning Adviser RE email the competition details to schools.

27. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman informed members that the next meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday, 13 June 2012 at 2.00 p.m. in the Clwyd Committee Room, County Hall, Mold.

28. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting began at 2.00 p.m. and ended at 3.48 p.m.

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Chairman