

Public Document Pack

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Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Democraataidd



To:

Councillors: Chris Bithell, Stella Jones, Colin Legg
and Carolyn Thomas and 4 vacancies

CS/TAW

6 June 2012

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS:

**Mrs. H. Hughes, Mrs. R. Price, Mrs. D. Jones,
Mr. Gareth Wyn Jones, Ms. S. Jones,
Mrs. D. McIntyre and Rev H. Powell-Davies and
2 vacancies**

Tracy Waters 01352 702331

TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS:

**Ms. D. Westaway, Mrs. Y. Barker, Mr. D. Doran,
Mrs. L. Harkin, Mr. H.E. Jones,
Mrs. M. Madoc Jones and Ms. P. Walsh and 1
vacancy**

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Mr. D. Morgan

Mr. Philip Lord (Senior Learning Adviser RE.)

Dear Sir / Madam

A meeting of the **FLINTSHIRE SACRE** will be held in the **CLWYD COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNTY HALL, MOLD CH7 6NA** on **WEDNESDAY, 13TH JUNE, 2012** at **2.00 PM** to consider the following items.

Yours faithfully

Democracy & Governance Manager

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The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English
Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawau gohebiaeth yn y Cymraeg neu'r Saesneg

AGENDA

1 **REFLECTION**

2 **APOLOGIES**

3 **MINUTES** (Pages 1 - 6)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2012 (copy enclosed).

4 **ANALYSIS OF INSPECTION REPORTS SCHOOLS** (Pages 7 - 8)

To receive the analysis of recent Estyn Inspection Report (copy enclosed).

5 **PRESENTATION ON THE CURRENT ESTYN FRAMEWORK**

To receive a presentation.

6 **WASACRE** (Pages 9 - 18)

a) Nominations for WASACRE Executive (copy enclosed)

b) WASACRE AGM

c) To receive the minutes of the last meeting of the Association (copy enclosed)

7 **UPDATE ON LITERACY/NUMERACY WITHIN RE COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLS**

To receive an update.

8 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 17th October 2012 at 2pm in the Clwyd Committee Room, County Hall, Mold.

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

Agenda Item 4

Analysis of Inspection Reports Flintshire SACRE 13 June 2012

Inspected under the new Estyn Framework

4 Schools

School	Dates	Reporting Inspector
Flint High School	January 2012	Ray Owen
Maes Hyfryd Sp. School	January 2012	Sw Roberts
Lixwm CP School	February 2012	Stephen Dennett
St Ethelwold's CiW VA	February 2012	Liz Miles

POSTIVE COMMENTS

Key Question 2: How good is provision

2 Schools

Learning experiences:

- The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum, which meets statutory requirements and the needs of all pupils. (*Flint HS*)
- The promotion of global citizenship takes place within learning activities in some subjects. (*Flint HS*)
- The school places a good emphasis on global citizenship (*Lixwm CP*)

Care, support and guidance:

4 Schools

- The school promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well through subject lessons, the personal and social education programme, the 'thought for the week' and topical assemblies. This provision helps pupils to gain a better understanding of diversity and culture, and also provides them with an opportunity to reflect on their own beliefs. (*Flint HS*)
- Staff plan innovatively to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Pupils have valuable opportunities for reflection. (*Ysgol Maes Hyfryd*)
- Staff make sure that all pupils learn to treat each other with respect. (*Ysgol Maes Hyfryd*)
- There are good learning experiences to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, including effective opportunities to learn about other beliefs. (*Lixwm CP*)
- Pupils' personal and social development is promoted informally throughout the curriculum. As a result, most pupils demonstrate a good understanding of how to manage their feelings and know how to treat others fairly and with respect. (*St Ethelwold's*)
- Pupils' spiritual, moral and social development is adequately promoted. (*St Ethelwold's*)

Learning environment:**3 School**

- The school is an inclusive community, which promotes equality and diversity effectively. (*Flint HS*)
- Staff promote diversity and equal opportunities well within the curriculum and in wider school activities. (*Ysgol Maes Hyfryd*)
- Various cultural themes are threaded through the curriculum, such as a study of the Chinese New Year, which is written in Welsh. The school cultivates a tolerant attitude in pupils. (*Lixwm CP*)

Key Question 3: How good is leadership and management**Partnership working:****1 School**

- Pupils benefit from the school's well established links with the community, which includes their involvement in local projects and fund raising work for charities. (*Lixwm CP*)

NEGATIVE COMMENTS**KQ2 – Learning Experiences****3 Schools**

- Global citizenship is less well developed than sustainable development. (*Flint HS*)
- The school recognises the need to develop further the provision for global citizenship. (*Ysgol Maes Hyfryd*)
- The school's curriculum provision to enable all pupils to learn about global citizenship is weak. (*St Ethelwold's*)

KQ2 - Care, support and guidance:**1 School**

- Provision to develop pupils' cultural awareness is weaker. (*St Ethelwold's*)

KQ3 – Leadership:**1 School**

- The school has not fully implemented or furthered pupils' understanding of global citizenship well enough. (*St Ethelwold's*)

Enwebiadau ar gyfer Pwyllgor Gweithredol y CCYSAGauC (2011/2012) Nominations for the Executive Committee (2011/2012)

Mark Brown CYSAG Conwy

Graddiais o Brifysgol Cymru, Bangor, gyda gradd BEd, gan arbenigo mewn Addysg Grefyddol. Drwy gydol fy ngyrfa, rwyf wedi ystyried AG yn bwnc sylfaenol sydd yn hanfodol i gwricwlwm ein hysgolion. Bûm yn athro mewn amrywiaeth o ysgolion, rhai ohonynt yn enwadol a rhai'n fwy seciwlar. Rwyf yn arbenigo yn y Cyfnod Sylfaen, ac rwyf wedi cymryd rhan mewn sawl prosiect Cyfnod Sylfaen i ddatblygu AG fel pwnc integredig yn hytrach nag 'annibynnol' (fel sy'n ofynnol gan gwricwlwm y Cyfnod Sylfaen). Rwy'n mwynhau'r cyfle i eistedd ar GYSAG Conwy fel cynrychiolydd y Cyfnod Sylfaen (swydd yr wyf wedi ei dal ers bron i ddwy flynedd), ac yn ddiweddar yr wyf wedi ymgymryd â 'Chymrodoriaeth Farmington' er mwyn datblygu adnodd CA2 ar gyfer Cadeirlan Bangor. Drwy gydol fy ngyrfa rwyf wedi datblygu cysylltiadau cryf â grwpiau crefyddol lleol, ac mae'r cysylltiadau hynny yn eu tro wedi datblygu gwybodaeth a dealltwriaeth y plant o'r byd o'u cwmpas. Rwyf yn athro cynradd ymroddedig gyda chariad gwirioneddol at AG.

I graduated from the University of Wales, Bangor with a BEd degree, specialising in Religious Education. Throughout my career I have seen RE as a fundamental subject which is essential to our school curriculum. I have taught in a variety of schools, both denominational and more secular. I am a specialist in the Foundation Phase and have been involved in several Foundation Phase projects to develop RE as an integrated rather than 'stand alone' subject (as required by the Foundation Phase curriculum). I relish the opportunity to sit on the Conwy SACRE as the Foundation Phase representative (a post that I have held for nearly two years) and have recently undertaken a 'Farmington Fellowship' to develop a KS2 resource for Bangor Cathedral. Throughout my career I have developed strong links with local religious groups, which have in turn developed the children's knowledge and understanding of the world around them. I am a committed and dedicated primary teacher with a real love of RE.

Phil Lord CYSAG Sir Ddinbych

Graddiais ym 1999 â gradd BA (Anrhydedd) mewn Diwinyddiaeth ac Offeiriadaeth Gristnogol o Brifysgol Manceinion. Ar ôl cwblhau fy nghwrs gradd, ymrestrais ar gwrs dwy flynedd yn arwain at Dystysgrif Addysg Traws-Cyfnod i Raddedigion, ar gyfer Cyfnodau Allweddol 2/3, yn Didsbury, Manceinion. Cefais brofiad o addysgu dysgwyr mewn ysgolion cynradd ac ysgolion uwchradd. Ar ôl penderfynu fy mod yn dymuno canolbwyntio ar fy mhwnc gradd, trosglwyddais i gwrs Tystysgrif Addysg i Raddedigion a oedd yn canolbwyntio ar Addysg Grefyddol mewn Ysgolion Uwchradd. Cefais fy mhenodi'n athro AG yn ysgol bechgyn Sandbach yn 2002. Ddwy flynedd yn ddiweddarach, gwneuthum gais llwyddiannus am swydd Pennaeth Addysg Grefyddol yn Ysgol Uwchradd yr Esgob Heber, Malpas. Tra'n gweithio yn yr ysgolion hynny, cydweithiais yn agos â'r Ymgynghorydd AG, yn datblygu adnoddau TGCh ac yn cyflwyno HMS ar ran CYSAG Swydd Gaer. Ym mis Medi 2007 deuthum yn Bennaeth AG yn Ysgol John Bright, Llandudno. Yn ystod fy nghyfnod yn yr ysgol, cefais gyfle i weithio am gyfnod hir gydag ymgynghorydd AG sir Conwy, Gavin Craigen, yn datblygu deunydd cyfarwyddyd ynglŷn â chwricwlwm 2008. Bu hyn yn gymorth i mi greu cynlluniau gwaith Cyfnod Allweddol 3 yn fy adran fy hun, a chydabuwyd hynny gan Estyn ym Mawrth 2009 pan ddyfarnwyd 'Gradd 1' i ni. Gwneuthum gais llwyddiannus am swydd yr ymgynghorydd AG dros Gonwy, Sir y Fflint a Sir Ddinbych yn ystod tymor yr hydref, 2009. Ers hynny rwyf wedi cymryd rhan yn y gwaith o fonitro ysgolion ar ran CYSAG yn ogystal â darparu cymorth pynciol fel swyddog awdurdod lleol. Rwyf wedi darparu cymorth targed yn yr holl gyfnodau, gan gynnwys Arweiniad i'r Cyfnod Sylfaen, a diwrnodau Cyfnod Allweddol 2 yng Nghadeirlannau Bangor a Llanelwy, ac wedi creu uned bontio ar gyfer Cyfnodau Allweddol 2/3. Rwyf wedi cynorthwyo athrawon drwy'r broses Sicrhau Asesiadau Athrawon yng Nghyfnod Allweddol 3. Rwyf wedi trefnu ac wedi cyflwyno diwrnodau adolygu ar gyfer TGAU, a chynadleddau diwrnod ar gyfer Blwyddyn 12. Fel Swyddog i dri ChYSAG, ac Is-gadeirydd PYCAG, yr wyf yn mynychu cyfarfodydd tymhorol CCYSAGauC, ac rwyf wedi cyfrannu at nifer o'r rhain.

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

Rheinallt A Thomas (CYSAG Ynys Môn)

Cychwynodd Rheinallt ei yrfa fel Athro Addysg Grefyddol ac yna bu am 30 mlynedd yn hyfforddi myfyrwyr i fod yn athrawon addysg grefyddol. Cynhaliodd ganoedd o sesiynnau hyfforddiant mewn swydd i athrawon babanod hyd uwchradd. Ef oedd Cyfarwyddwr cyntaf Canolfan Genedlaethol Addysg Grefyddol ym Mhrifysgol Bangor a gwasanaethodd yno am 21 o flynyddoedd. Mae hefyd wedi bod yn aelod o Gymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru ers ei chychwyn – yn wir roedd yn rhan allweddol i'w chychwyn ac mae wedi bod yn aelod ddidor o'r Gymdeithas ac wedi gwasanaethu nid yn unig ar y Pwyllgor Gwaith ers blynyddoedd ond hefyd fel Cadeirydd Y Gymdeithas. Mae'n dal yn aelod ffyddlon o GYSAGau Ynys Môn a Gwynedd ac er wedi ymddeol yn dal yn weithgar mewn nifer o feysydd cysylltiol ag addysg ac addysg grefyddol e.e. mae'n Drysorydd MAGC; yn Ymddiriedolydd a swyddog ariannol Cyngor Ysgolion Sul Cymru; yn gyfrifol am faterion addysg i Eglwys Bresbyteraidd Cymru ac ef sy'n cynrychioli Eglwysi Rhyddion Cymru ar bwyllgorau addysg Eglwysi Prydain.

Rheinallt A Thomas (Anglesey SACRE)

Rheinallt commenced his career as an RE teacher and then for 30 years he trained students to be RE teachers. He has held hundreds of INSET course for teachers from Infants to Secondary levels. He was the Founder Director of the Welsh National Centre for RE at Bangor University where he served for 21 years. He has been a member of WASACRE from its outset – he was actually instrumental in its formation - has been a member throughout its existence and has served not only on the Executive for many years but is also a past Chairman. He is still a faithful member of both Anglesey and Gwynedd SACREs and although he is officially retired is still active in several areas linked with education and RE e.g he is Treasurer of REMW; Trustee and Finance clerk to the Welsh Sunday schools Council; is responsible for education matters for the Presbyterian Church of Wales and he represents the Welsh Free Churches on the UK churches education committees.



DRAFT

Cofnodion cyfarfod y CCYSAGauC, Neuadd
Cyngor, Ceredigion, 30 Mawrth 2012, 10.30am –
3pm

Minutes of the Wales Association of SACRE
meeting, County Hall, Ceredigion, 30 March 2012,
10.30am – 3pm

<p>Ynys Môn / Anglesey Rheinallt Thomas</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent Paula Webber Gill Vaisey</p> <p>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend Carys Pritchard Edward Evans</p> <p>Caerffili/ Caerphilly Vicky Thomas</p> <p>Caerdydd / Cardiff David Griffiths</p> <p>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire Meinir Wynne Loader Mary Parry Aled Jones</p> <p>Ceredigion Catherine J Hughes Lyndon Lloyd Vaughan Salisbury Carys Ann Joyce Howells</p> <p>Conwy Phil Lord</p>	<p>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire Phil Lord Brian Huw Jones Morfudd M Jones</p> <p>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire Phil Lord</p> <p>Gwynedd W M Meredith Debbie Humphreys</p> <p>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil Carys Pritchard</p> <p>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire Gill Vaisey</p> <p>Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot</p> <p>Casnewydd / Newport Vicky Thomas Hilary Evans Carmel Reynolds</p> <p>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire</p> <p>Powys John Mitson</p>	<p>Rhondda Cynon Taf Carys Pritchard</p> <p>Abertawe / Swansea Vicky Thomas Hilary Evans Carmel Reynolds</p> <p>Torfaen Vicky Thomas</p> <p>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan Vicky Thomas</p> <p>Wrecsam / Wrexham Libby Jones Tania ap Sion</p> <p>Sylwedyddion / Observers Leslie Francis (Canolfan y Santes Fair / St Mary's Centre) Tudor Thomas (CBAC / WJEC) Ben Wigley (MAGC / REMW) Geraint Hopkins (Cytûn)</p>
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Minutes of the Wales Association of SACRE meeting, County Hall, Ceredigion, 30 March 2012

1. Introduction and welcome Cllr Catherine Hughes from Ceredigion County Council welcomed members to Ceredigion and introduced pupils from two schools who had prepared presentations for the meeting. The Chair thanked the two schools for their enjoyable and thought-provoking presentations.

2. Quiet reflection The Chair led the reflection, which focused on the importance of not judging people on the way they look.

3. Apologies Chris Abbas, Susan Allan, Mark Brown, Susan Cave, Gavin Craigen, Rameez Delpak, Michael Gray, Bethan James, Jen Malcolm, Denize Morris, Janet Neilson, Brian Rogers, John Rogers, Nigel Steele-Mortimore, Dafydd Treharne, Helen Gibbon.

4. Minutes of the last meeting With a correction to page 1 for attendance, Meinir Wynne Loader, the minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

5. Matters arising Page 2, point 4: KS3 Moderation. TaS highlighted key points from the response from Leighton Andrews about KS3 Moderation. It was emphasised that it was not possible to extend the time for KS3 Moderation in RE. However, there were plans for a Welsh Government review of all subjects, including RE, in the near future. Concern was raised by some members about teachers coping with the pressure of preparing their portfolios. Mary Parry echoed the concern, but pointed out that nothing further could be done because the deadline for the portfolios was 30 March.

Paula Webber (Blaenau Gwent) expressed concern that when teachers level work, they normally use a ‘best fit’ approach, which is different to the requirements of the moderation process. The moderation process has also taken longer than has been anticipated by the moderation team. Joyce Howells (Carmarthenshire) expressed concern that time had not been given to individual staff or departments to complete the task and it is this that had largely contributed to the difficulties. Phil Lord (Flintshire) spoke about how the process had been largely positive in opening up a discussion about what is ‘good’ RE. Carys Pritchard spoke of the importance of Local SACREs and the support that they give to schools following the moderation outcomes. Concerns were also raised about how moderators would cope with the volume of applications that would be submitted. Phil Lord explained that WJEC were aware of the amount of applications and have arranged for an adequate number of moderators to cope with demand. Gill Vaisey and Vicky Thomas raised the concern of support for schools that do not ‘pass’. Suggestions were given of ‘up-skilling’ those teachers/departments in the same way that some of the moderators have been ‘up-skilled’ in order to moderate other schools effectively.

The Chair proposed that this issue be referred to the WASACRE Executive Committee and NAPfRE for further discussion. Gill Vaisey said that NAPfRE were currently looking at the level descriptors. Tania ap Sion said that WASACRE would work with NAPfRE on the issue of teacher support following the KS3 Moderation process. Rheinallt Thomas (Anglesey) raised the point that it would be helpful for WASACRE to ask Gavin Craigen (Chief moderator) to deliver a presentation of the moderation results at a future WASACRE meeting. Meinir Wynne Loader (Carmarthenshire) spoke from a teacher perspective and expressed concern about the stress incurred as a result of the process and associated lack of confidence and low morale. This was echoed by Joyce Howells (Ceredigion).

Page 3, point 6: the issue of representation on SACREs, with reference to the British Humanist Association correspondence. A response from the Welsh Government to WASACRE had been received; the WG was unable to advise WASACRE on this issue, but pointed to the existing legislation relating to the composition of SACREs. Tania ap Sion said that there had been no changes to current legislation, which stated clearly that Committee A was for representatives from religious faith communities; however, a representative of the BHA could be co-opted to local SACREs if this were considered appropriate.

Rheinallt Thomas spoke about the web-based collective worship petition on the Welsh Government website and asked whether all SACREs were aware of it. Tania ap Sion confirmed that all SACREs had been alerted to the petition supporting collective worship and to its context (that is, as a response to a petition placed on the site by a representative of the British Humanist Association supporting a review of the current legal requirements for collective worship).

6. Collective worship document The Chair explained the rationale behind the creation of the doc and thanked Tania ap Sion for her work in producing it. TaS introduced the draft copy of the document and explained its importance. The document, when completed, would be circulated to all SACREs for distribution to all schools. Members spoke in support of collective worship. Carys Pritchard thanked everyone concerned in the creation of this document, including the case studies and resources that will be available on WASACRE website.

The Chair emphasised that it was a draft document but would be circulated soon to SACREs.

Ben Wigley (REMW) emphasised the need for this document being in the public domain as soon as possible, with or without the case studies and other resources. He also asked for the document to be sent to the Heads of schools, as it is their responsibility. The Chair added that it should also be sent to each school's Chair of Governors, who also carries responsibility. Vicky Thomas proposed that a copy is sent to Estyn, so that they are aware of what guidance is being given to schools. Gill Vaisey and Phil Lord emphasised the need to get the case studies available as soon as

possible so that those teachers who will be working on Collective Worship over the summer will have access to them. Tania ap Sion said that the document could be put on the WASACRE website as soon as it is available. Mary Parry suggested that the document be placed on the website immediately and with case studies being added as and when completed. There were no objections to this proposal.

Related to collective worship, Rheinallt Thomas raised a concern that Estyn inspectors may be interpreting the standards and requirements for collective worship differently and this had an impact on individual schools.

7. REsilience Tania ap Sion reminded members that it had been agreed that a summarised version of the full REsilience report from a Welsh perspective would be created. This had been done and sent to Leighton Andrews (copies of the report were included in the papers for the meeting). The Minister has thanked WASACRE for the report and recognised the success and positive outcomes from the REsilience project in Wales. The next step would be to send the summary of the report to all SACREs. Members supported this. Mary Parry said that all schools in Wales would benefit from access to the REsilience project materials and not just the 40 schools who were involved in the process in Wales. Tania ap Sion responded by explaining that discussions were taking place in the RE Council concerning how to make these resources available. From a Welsh perspective, there were issues concerning how the resources would be updated and remain relevant to Wales and Welsh schools. As a Board member of the RE Council, Tania ap Sion would keep members up-to-date and that this was an area which would need further discussion in WASACRE and NAPfRE.

Questions were asked about how many Welsh-medium schools were involved and when the evaluation feedback would be shared. Tania ap Sion said that Welsh medium schools were involved, but could not give an exact figure without checking. There had been an attempt to retrieve evaluation forms from participating schools and more work was being done to retrieve more evaluation forms.

8. NAPfRE presentation: Changes to the GCSE RE Specification (Tudor Thomas). TT thanked WASACRE for inviting him to give the presentation and members were given a hand out of the PowerPoint presentation. Members were informed about the changes relating to the marking of spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as changes to assessment.

The Chair thanked TT for his presentation. Paula Webber raised the issue of pupils with dyslexia being penalised for their disability. Tudor responded, saying he was aware of this and understood the concern, but explained that under the current guidelines the WJEC would not be allowed to make special arrangements for pupils with dyslexia.

Mary Parry raised a concern about the difficulties accessing examination data this year. She emphasised that one of the SACRE's responsibilities is to monitor standards in examinations. The data is needed to provide a full and accurate analysis. Carys Pritchard echoed this concern and emphasised the need to compare standards in similar schools across the country and that this included the comparative data for boys and girls. Rheinallt Thomas asked for a letter to be sent to the Welsh government about this and the problems it has caused. Carys Pritchard and Mary Parry propose the letter is sent from WASACRE on behalf of the SACREs. This was agreed by members. The Chair emphasised that individual SACREs could still write to Leighton Andrews on this issue themselves. Tudor Thomas responded that the contract was now not with WJEC, but a company in Scotland. He will take this back to WJEC and ask how this could be rectified.

9. RE Council report Tania ap Sion referred to the WASACRE Executive meeting where it was proposed that there should be a reintroduction of the RE Council report at WASACRE meetings including items which are of relevance to Wales. This will now be a regular item on the WASACRE agenda.

REQM (RE Quality Mark): Tania ap Sion explained the purpose of the Quality Mark. It is an accreditation system, which recognises good practice in religious education in schools. Schools which gain the mark will be expected to share good practice with other schools, to support good quality provision of RE. The REQM is being developed in England this summer and autumn. WASACRE has been asked if Wales would be interested in being part of this initiative. Interest was shown by members and it was agreed that this should be explored further at the next WASACRE Executive meeting.

10. NAPfRE Presentation: Learning outside the classroom (Phil Lord, Debbie Humphreys, Owen Edwards) The presentation was concerned with a collaborative project comprising Bangor Cathedral, CYNNAL, Conwy Local Authority and the St Mary's Centre. The project set out to explore the impact of a cathedral activity day about Advent and Christmas on participating primary school children from seventeen local primary schools. An evaluation of the impact of the experience and a research report from St Mary's Centre discussed the impact in detail. Philip Lord (Conwy LA) introduced and described the project. Tania ap Sion (St Mary's Centre) presented the research findings of the project on behalf of Owen Edwards. Debbie Humphreys (Cynnal) spoke about curriculum support material created by Cynnal for 'What is the meaning of Christmas' which complements the work which had been done in Bangor Cathedral. This support material is available on Cynnal website.

They were thanked for sharing this project and the resources with members. The Chair emphasised the value of church buildings for educational purposes and the wealth of resources they hold.

11. Correspondence Most of the correspondence received had been dealt with under other agenda items. Correspondence had also been received from Jim Stewart, who had been responsible for putting the petition on the Welsh Government website.

12. Report from the Exec committee held on 27 February 2012, Cardiff The Chair went through the report and no points were discussed further.

13. Showcase RE resources Phil Lord drew members attention to a useful educational Facebook called Edmondo (similar to Moodle) where teachers could create a Facebook style page for students to access, with links to other relevant web pages, for example, WJEC etc.

14. A.O.B. There was no other business.

15. Date of next meeting 26 June 2012, Llandudno Junction Business Centre. (this is in walking distance from the railway station). However, if anyone requires transportation from the station, please let the Secretary know so that arrangements can be made.

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking Cllr Catherine Hughes for her welcome, the schools and colleagues who gave presentations, Denfer Morgan (Clerk to SACRE), the catering staff, Ceredigion Council and staff for their hospitality.