
**S.A.C.R.E. – STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
10-10-07**

Present:

Councillor Selwyn Griffiths (Chair)
Councillor Pat Larsen (Vice-chair)

Councillors: W. M. Meredith, Arwel Pierce, Arwel Jones

Christians and other religions: Mr Cynrig Hughes (The Independents), Mr Gwyn Hefin Jones (Presbyterian Church of Wales), Rev. Tegid Roberts (Church in Wales), Mrs Eirian Bradley Roberts (Catholic Church)

Teachers: Mr Noel Dyer (UCAC), Mr Dafydd Fôn Williams (SHA)

Co-opted Members: Mr Rheinallt Thomas

Officers: Mr John Blake (Education Officer), Miss Bethan James (Humanities Adviser), Barbara Owen (Committee Officer)

Apologies: Councillors Bill Lovelock, Glyn Owen; Mrs Ruth Davies (Union of Welsh Baptists)

1. PRAYER

The meeting was opened with a prayer from Mr Rheinallt Thomas.

2. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the meeting of this committee, held on 16 May 2007, as a true record, subject to the following amendment:

Page 2 in the English version: Item 6: Noted that the heading should be **WALES SACRE ASSOCIATION** rather than *Welsh* SACRE Association.

Matters Arising

a) The Humanities Adviser reported that she had been invited to give a presentation on Statutory Religious Education with KS5 (16+) Pupils, to the Anglesey and Gwynedd Headteachers.

b) Attention was drawn to point 7(c) in the minutes, and an apology was given for failing to include the item on the agenda. Members were assured that the matter was in accordance with what had been discussed in a) above.

3. GWYNEDD SACRE'S DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2006-07

Submitted – by the Humanities Adviser, the Gwynedd SACRE's Draft Annual Report 2006-07 for members' approval, prior to publishing the final copy. She explained that the report was part of SACRE's responsibilities when advising the Education Authority on matters involving the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship. The report was also a record of the year's work in the field of Religious Education. It included information under the following headings:

- SACRE's function in relation to Religious Education
- The Agreed Syllabus
 - It was noted that the Agreed Syllabus had been deferred, but that an Exemplar Framework was underway
- Standards of Religious Education
- The self-evaluation process
- Standards of attainment in external examinations, including details of the results of every Secondary school in Gwynedd
- The response of the Local Education Authority
- Report on In-service Training
- Religious Education and DELLS (formerly ACCAC)
 - A report was provided on the joint working with SACRE Anglesey, noting that there was agreement, in principle, to adopting the exemplar framework as an Agreed syllabus in Gwynedd and Anglesey.
- SACRE's function in relation to collective worship.

Members were given the opportunity to raise any points regarding the content of the report, and information was provided that only the schools which had not received an inspection earmarking Religious Education, would be invited to hold a self-evaluation.

RESOLVED to accept the report, and thank the officers who were involved with the work of preparing the report.

4. KS3 STANDARD RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RESULTS 2007

Submitted - a report providing information regarding the KS3 Religious Education examination results, noting that the information was provided for information only, as it was not possible to compare the performance of the various organisations, as the optional assessment materials had only been introduced to Religious Education departments fairly recently.

In response to a question by a member, the officer reported that Ysgol Tywyn had not been included in the results table as the data had not been received.

It was noted that many more applicants chose to follow the short course rather than the AS course.

KS4 – it was reported that the results of the colleges had not been included in the tables provided to members for information, but that it was proposed to include them in the future.

RESOLVED to accept the report and congratulate the teachers and pupils for their success.

5. SCHOOLS SELF-EVALUATIONS

Submitted – a report providing self-evaluation summaries of Religious Education held at four primary schools, namely Ysgol Edmwnd Prys, Ysgol Llangybi and Ysgol Corris and Ysgol Uwchradd Tryfan.

- Ysgol Edmwnd Prys – acceptable report.
- Ysgol Llangybi – details had not been received on the form, and it was decided to ask Ysgol Llangybi for a detailed report before the next meeting of this committee.
- Ysgol Corris – acceptable report.
- Ysgol Tryfan – a report from a general perspective rather than on a specific subject. It was decided to ask Ysgol Tryfan for a report specifically on Religious Education.

In response to a question regarding the purpose of the self-evaluation reports, it was noted that SACRE had a duty to monitor the development of Religious Education in the county.

Concern was expressed that reference had not been made to the aspect of collective worship in the reports, whilst also acknowledging that this was a difficult issue for the schools' headteachers. It was noted that the schools' guidelines offered guidance on this matter, and that schools, on the whole, realised that collective worship was separate from Religious Education.

RESOLVED:

i) to accept the report and thank the Humanities Adviser for her work in arranging and completing the final report;

ii) to ask Ysgol Llanybi and Ysgol Uwchradd Tryfan to submit a report from the school's self-evaluation on the RE and Moral and Spiritual Development of the school pupils by the next meeting of this committee.

6. WALES SACRE ASSOCIATION

Submitted – the draft minutes of the Wales SACRE Association meeting held in Llandrindod on 28 June 2007.

RESOLVED to accept and note the contents of the minutes.

7. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Following a request by the Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, nominations were invited for a representative of SACRE to serve on the above committee as a Co-opted Member without a Vote.

Mr Cynrig Hughes was nominated as a member to represent this committee.

RESOLVED to elect Mr. Cynrig Hughes to represent SACRE on the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee as a Co-opted Member without a Vote.

The meeting commenced at 2:00pm and concluded at 2.50pm

CHAIR