



Cofnodion cyfarfod CCYSAGauC a gynhaliwyd yng Nghaerffili ar 26 Tachwedd 2010 /

Minutes of the Wales Association of SACREs meeting in Caerphilly on 26 November 2010

<p>Ynys Môn / Anglesey Rheinallt Thomas Eurfryn Davies Bethan James</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent Gill Vaisey Paula Webster Chris Abbas</p> <p>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend Carys Thomas Edward Evans ??</p> <p>Caerffili/ Caerphilly Michael Gray Vicky Thomas John Taylor Helen Bartley</p> <p>Caerdydd / Cardiff Luisa Munro-Morris</p> <p>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire Meinir Wyn Loader Mary Parry Helen Gibbon</p> <p>Ceredigion</p> <p>Conwy Phil Lord Nicholas Richter</p>	<p>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire Brian H Jones Phil Lord Morfudd Jones</p> <p>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire Phil Lord</p> <p>Gwynedd Bethan James</p> <p>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tudful Carys Thomas</p> <p>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire Gill Vaisey Sharon Perry-Phillips</p> <p>Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot</p> <p>Casnewydd / Newport Vicky Thomas Sally Northcott</p> <p>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire Huw George Gwyn Rodgers</p> <p>Powys J M Pugh</p>	<p>Rhondda Cynon Taf Carys Thomas</p> <p>Abertawe / Swansea Vicky Thomas</p> <p>Torfaen Vicky Thomas</p> <p>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan Vicky Thomas Dafydd Treharne Ramiz Delpak</p> <p>Wrecsam / Wrexham Tania ap Siôn Helen Hughes</p> <p>Sylwedyddion / Observers Denize Morris (APADGOS / DCELLS) Leslie Francis (Canolfan St Mary's Centre) Gavin Craigen (Canolfan St Giles' Centre) Ben Wigley (REMW) Darren Wayne Ralph (VALREC) Ian Morgan (NGfL Cymru)</p>
---	---	---

1. **Introduction and welcome.** The meeting began with a period of silence in memory of former WASACRE Chair, Father Ieuan Wyn Jones. Members were formally welcomed to the meeting by the Mayor Cllr James Thistle and the Director of Education, who spoke about the value that the LA places on the work of SACRE and WASACRE.
2. **Quiet reflection.** The Chair led the reflection which included a prayer for Interfaith Week
3. **Apologies:** David Brookes (Caerphilly), Nigel Steele-Mortimer (Flintshire), Sue Cave (Monmouthshire), David Atwell (Newport), Susan Allen (RCT), Jane Ward (RCT), Eldon Phillips (Swansea), Janet Neilson (Swansea), Fred Gilmore (Flintshire), John Mitson (Powys), Tudor Thomas (WJEC), Jen Malcolm (NPT).
4. **Minutes of meeting held in Wrexham, 24 June 2010.** The minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.
5. **Matters arising.** There were no matters arising not covered in the agenda.
6. **NAPfRE presentation: Ian Morgan – NGfL Cymru.** Ian Morgan outlined and exemplified the teaching and learning agenda of NGfL Cymru in relation to RE and RS. The agenda focuses on supporting education policy in relation to developing Thinking and Assessment for Learning, the School Effectiveness Framework, and the Self-review Framework. It aims to create resources which are effective and interesting, targeted at the curriculum in Wales, and adaptable (i.e. they can be used with other resources currently available). The website is also fully bilingual. The Innovative Resources Fund is available to teachers who want to make their resources available on the website. There are also Professional Learning Communities which allow the sharing of resources, ideas, and experiences. The structure of the website was described to members, and included the subject and age group categories. The following RE resources were exemplified: the DCELLS funded Eclips; resources for the WJEC Short Course for RE; I.M.P.A.C.T. (prejudice and discrimination); the 'Big Questions' KS3 resource; and the Foundation Phase 'Anwen' resource. In total, there are around 50-60 resources which support RE across the age groups, which are freely accessible. Eight / nine teachers seconded to NGfL Cymru are available to provide free INSET to schools on the resources on the website. Through registering on NGfL Cymru website and selecting areas of interest, it is possible to receive updates and alerts of new resources. Teachers are able to suggest the resources they need through using the 'contact us' facility on the website, and if they want to contribute resources, they can use the 'contribute to NGfL Cymru facility'.
7. **Project updates:**
 - (a) **Celebrating RE** Gill Vaisey, a member of the WASACRE / NAPfRE Wales planning group for the RE Festival (Celebrating RE, www.celebratingre.org) updated members on the plans for the national launch event on 2 March, 2011 at Stanwell School, Penarth. Archbishop Barry Morgan will officially launch the festival and there will be significant contributions by Canon Roger Royle and India Dance Wales. It is hoped that a Minister will be able to attend. In addition, local schools will be performing in a variety of contexts. Members were asked to encourage their SACREs (a) to draw schools' attention to the WASACRE competition on the Celebrating RE website (b) to send a good number of representatives to the Wales launch of the festival on 2

March; an invitation will be sent out to SACREs shortly, asking for names of representatives.

- (b) **Website** Tania ap Siôn showed members the new bilingual WASACRE website www.wasacre.ac.uk. The aim of the website was described as two-fold: to provide SACREs in Wales with a useful resource and to advertise the work of WASACRE to the wider community. The website includes essential information about: WASACRE and its purpose; the Association's meetings; projects in which the Association is involved; relevant publications (including publications by WASACRE, SACREs – syllabi and annual reports, the Welsh Assembly Government); websites of other RE-related organisations. Members were asked to publicise the website to their SACREs and to send electronic copies of their Agreed Syllabi and Annual Reports to the Secretary, if they had not already done so. The Chair thanked Tania ap Siôn for her work organising and developing the website.
- (c) **WASACRE survey** The response to the SACRE questionnaire 'SACREs and the Local Community' was described as excellent, and SACREs were thanked for their participation. Almost all SACREs had completed and returned the questionnaire. The two responses still awaited were being followed up.
- (d) **RESilience** Gavin Gaigen, a lead RESilience mentor for the RESilience project (<http://www.re-silience.org.uk>), gave an update on developments in Wales. The pilot phase of the project, had been completed and it had been very successful. The 'Gateway' resource documents for the project had been finalised, and they were described as excellent resources. The importance of SACREs encouraging their secondary schools to participate in the project was stressed.

8. Presentation: Jo Malone – Face to Faith. Jo Malone, Face to Faith Facilitator, described the 'Face to Faith' programme as one of the three programmes supported by the Tony Blair Faith Foundation. The other two programmes are 'Faith and Globalisation (global university focus) and 'Faith PACT's fellows' (20 to 27-year-olds – pairing up young people of different faiths). The aim of the 'Face to Faith' programme is to connect young people (11 to 16-year-olds) of different cultures and faiths, learning with, from, and about one another. The programme is now active in 15 countries worldwide; however, this includes only one Welsh school. Underpinning the programme is RESPECT: Respect of diversity, Education not indoctrination, Safety to share with confidence, Perspective, Empathy, Celebration of difference, and Tolerance. In terms of process the internet is used to connect young people (carefully monitored and with controls in place), and there are a range of issue-based modules, which are explored through different faith lenses. Young people become peer educators / ambassadors of their own faith. Often heads of RE are the project leaders, and Jo Malone provides support to help them get started on the programme. Support generally is intensive. No cost is involved in joining the programme or accessing the training. The video conferences are held in other languages in addition to English and this can also include Welsh, if there is a teacher willing to provide translation. There are also 'lead schools' (currently two in the UK), and the programme is looking for lead schools in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The University of Warwick (WRERU) is involved in ensuring the quality of the programme. Schools which wish to register on the programme should contact Jo Malone (jo.malone@tonyblairfoundation.org). For more information about the programme, visit www.tonyblairfoundation.org

- 9. Presentation: Darren Ralph – Religion and Belief.** Darren Ralph from the Valley’s Regional Equality Council (VALREC) roles works as Trainer (Equality & Diversity, Religion & Belief), Caseworker (Equalities and Human Rights), and Development Officer (A Voice in the Valleys). The main aims of VALREC are: to be an independent advocate for equality and human rights; to reduce inequality, eliminate discrimination, strengthen good relations between people and protect human rights; to challenge prejudice and disadvantage and promote the independence of human rights; to use VALREC’s influence and authority to ensure equality and human rights remain a top priority for public service providers; and to provide advice and assistance to individuals and organisations. Currently, VALREC has service level agreements with the County Borough Councils of Bridgend, Caerphilly, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent. VALREC provides a platform through forums and networks which enable people to have a voice, and it provides a number of services which include: consultation and awareness raising; projects; training; and casework. At the centre of VALREC’s work is community cohesion, and this includes the Prevent agenda, hate crime, and forced marriage and HBV, for example. Darren Ralph cited a case work of a Muslim man and victim of hate crime as an example of how VALREC works with multi-agencies in their response to the situation. He stressed that Religious Education has a very important role to play in schools by exposing young people to that which they would not normally encounter, and this is significant in countering discrimination. The content of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003 and the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 were summarised in addition to the aims, objectives and content of the training offered by VALREC on ‘Religion and Belief’. After the presentation, Vicky Thomas noted that these issues were relevant to issues in the Short Course and also for schools exploring human rights in sixth-form conferences. More information about VALREC is available on: <http://www.valrec.org>
- 10. Correspondence** Included newsletters from the Interfaith Network for the UK; an email from Sali Robert’s (RE News) confirming that REflections could be included on the WASACRE website after their publication in the magazine; a letter from the Minister of DCELLS moving the date for the annual meeting with WASACRE to 23 March 2011; an email from Jacqui Hounsell (WAG, Department of the First Minister and Cabinet) informing WASACRE that WAG is jointly hosting with Cardiff Council a national service for Holocaust Memorial Day in City Hall, Cardiff on 27 January 2011 (if anyone knows of events being organised to commemorate the day, the Trust would be interested in publicising them on their website).
- 11. Report from the Executive Committee held on 15 October 2010** Attention was drawn to point 2 (Estyn’s new common inspection framework and guidance). Vicky Thomas suggested that this was an issue which should be raised in WASACRE’s meeting with the Minister in March. Rheinallt Thomas informed members about a related matter identified in a newsletter from Julie Grove – with reference to RE in England, it was claimed that the national profile of RE was at a low point. Concern was expressed that local determination of RE may be in jeopardy, although within the ‘Big Society’ context and the place of SACREs within it, this should not be the case. Eufryn Davies emphasised the importance of a strong Councillor presence at WASACRE meetings, and expressed disappointment with the number of Councillors in general attending these meetings.

Under 4, paragraph 2, remove ‘(post 16)’.

The meeting was concluded early due to worsening weather conditions. The next meeting will be held on **2 March 2011** at Stanwell School, Penarth.

12. Showcase of RE resources

13. A.O.B.

DRAFT