



Cyfarfod CCYSAGauC, Merthyr Tudful, 23 Tachwedd
2012, 10.30am-3pm

Wales Association of SACREs meeting, Merthyr Tydfil,
23 November 2012, 10.30am-3pm

<p>Ynys Môn / Anglesey Rheinallt Thomas Eurfryn Davies Bethan James</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent Christine Abbas</p> <p>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend Edward Evans Dhira Bhakta Dasa Carys Pritchard</p> <p>Caerffili/ Caerphilly Vicky Thomas Michael Gray Enfys Hawthorn Helen Bartley</p> <p>Caerdydd / Cardiff Carys Pritchard David Kitchen Katherine Mayer</p> <p>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire Meinir Wynne Loader Valerie Davies Aled Jones</p> <p>Ceredigion</p> <p>Conwy Phil lord</p>	<p>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire Phil Lord</p> <p>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire Phil Lord</p> <p>Gwynedd Nicholas Richter W M Meredith Bethan James</p> <p>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil J Symes Ernie Galsworth Carys Pritchard</p> <p>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire Sue Cave Sharon Perry-Phillips</p> <p>Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot Jen Malcolm</p> <p>Casnewydd / Newport Vicky Thomas Tracey Pead P.T. Williams</p> <p>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire Huw M. George</p> <p>Powys John Mitson</p>	<p>Rhondda Cynon Taf Gethin Rhys Carys Pritchard</p> <p>Abertawe / Swansea Janet Neilson Vicky Thomas Claire Fraser Lynda Maddock</p> <p>Torfaen Vicky Thomas Margaret Oelmann</p> <p>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan Carys Pritchard</p> <p>Wrecsam / Wrexham Libby Jones Tania ap Siôn</p> <p>Sylwedyddion / Observers Leslie Francis (Canolfan y Santes Fair / St Mary's Centre) Jonathan Martin (Merthyr Tydfil College) Andrew Morton (FE Chaplaincy)</p>
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1. **Cyflwyniad a chroeso / Introduction and welcome-**
Madame Mayor, Lisa Mytton, welcomed members to Merthyr Tydfil. She thanked WASACRE for the support and guidance it provides to local SACREs and gave recognition to the role of WASACRE as the voice of SACREs in Wales. Chair, Edward Evans, extended a special welcome to Twynirodyn Primary school and thanked them for their presentation on the Golden Rule and echoed their message- 'It starts with me.'
2. **Adfyfrio tawel / Quiet reflection-**
The Chair spoke about the courage of solo sailors and what inspires them to do it. Would we have the courage?
3. **Ymddiheuriadau / Apologies** Cllr Graham Davies, Mary Parry, Tudor Thomas, Rameez Delpak, Gill Vaisey, Helen Gibbon, Cllr Kate Moran, Cllr J. Dudley, Gwyn Rogers, Dafydd Treharne
4. **Cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd yn Llandudno Junction, 26 Mehefin 2012**
Minutes of meeting held in Llandudno Junction, 26 June 2012-
Minutes were accepted as true record of the meeting. The correct Attendees list from the meeting was distributed.
5. **Materion sy'n codi / Matters arising**
Item 8 of Item 5. Matters arising- Examination data- Carys Pritchard confirmed that the national picture is not available until May 22nd. This raises an issue for SACREs in comparing the LA figures with national figures. NAPfRE proposes a request to Welsh Government for SACREs to have access to the data earlier. It was decided that this will be a joint letter with WASACRE-
Item 6. Collective Worship document- Libby Jones confirmed that the Collective Worship guidance document has been sent out electronically to all SACREs and is available bilingually on the WASACRE website. As proposed by Vicky Thomas Estyn will also receive a copy of the Collective Worship document.
Item 7. SACREs survey report- Libby Jones confirmed that the report had been sent out electronically to all SACREs and all other recipients listed in the report.
6. **Cyflwyniad gan PYCAG/NAPfRE presentation:**

*Addysg Bellach: Caplaniaeth ac Addysg Grefyddol/ Further Education:
religious education and chaplaincy (Jonathan Martin and Andrew Morton)*

Jonathan showed members a bilingual powerpoint presentation on the College Merthyr Tydfil, which will become a tertiary college from September 2013. He confirmed that the new college curriculum will offer A/AS level qualifications in Religious Studies and that all pupils will have an RE element to their education, through RE within the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification in tutorials.

Andrew began by offering a Welsh copy of his own presentation to those who required one, to be arranged via email. He confirmed that there is a strong chaplaincy presence in FE colleges in Deeside, locally around Merthyr and in many other areas of Wales. However, there are some areas that do not have chaplaincy within FE at all. Andrew welcomed this opportunity to bring the FE agenda to WASACRE and noted

that there is no designated person in Wales with the responsibility of moving this forward. Andrew sign-posted members to the booklet *Challenging Voices* and asked members to contact him if they know of any colleges which need further information about Chaplaincy in FE. Rheinallt Thomas raised the point that SACREs also have a responsibility for the FE sector and not just the school sector. Members agreed to take this back to their individual SACREs, to make it an agenda item and to push this issue of the need for Chaplaincy in FE colleges across Wales. Phil Lord raised the question of whether there are many instances of co-opted members of local SACREs from FE. Merthyr, Cardiff and Wrexham do have this provision. The Chair proposed that SACREs consider appointing a member from FE.

6. Adroddiad Cyngor AG / RE Council Report- Tania ap Sion presented.

Tania's presentation concentrated on 4 areas-

1st Area- publication of the guidance booklet *Challenging Voices* as a resource for FE colleges, in handling contentious issues with post 16 - this is a continuation of the REsilience project.

2nd Area- Representation of Wales on the REC Board- WASACRE was invited to offer two nominations to REC. Two names were put forward from the WASACRE Executive meeting in October, Gavin Craigen and Tania ap Sion. It is hoped that by the WASACRE Executive meeting in February the REC Board will have accepted the nominations. Members agreed that this is a positive step forward and endorsed the proposed representatives for REC.

3rd Area- Tania attended the launch of the APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) in the House of Commons in June 2012. The APPG has been established in England to support and fight for the position of RE in the school curriculum in England. The English Baccalaureate is viewed as a serious threat to RE. One of the roles of the APPG is to conduct an enquiry about the supply and support of RE teachers. This is to be sent out to all organizations concerned with RE. A call has been made for evidence that can be presented to the Government and a questionnaire has been sent out. Other possible evidence is research findings, personal experiences and case studies. It is an England issue in many ways and is centered on the affect it is having on RE in England. Our question is what we can do to help? There are two possible contributions. 1. The presentation by Leslie Francis at the 2012 WASACRE AGM looked at data from the Welsh perspective on religious diversity. Data from England only could also be made available. 2. It was proposed that WASACRE write a letter to describe the support we have from the Welsh Government for RE and stating our concern at what is happening in England. Tania proposed that WASACRE includes in the letter our support for the enquiry. Members agreed that a letter should be sent on the condition that our colleagues in England think it would be useful and not detrimental.

4th Area. – RE subject review. England is currently undergoing a curriculum review. The RE council has been asked by the Government to conduct the RE review, which has to be complete by September 2013. They have identified areas e.g. aims, good practice and assessment and qualifications. Tania confirmed that she has looked at RE being omitted from the EBACC and has expressed its concerns. Rheinallt Thomas confirmed that there is feedback available maintaining that there is a deficiency in the EBACC, because it does not include RE. Vicky Thomas raised the point that there is also an intention to carry out a

curriculum review in Wales and urged WASACRE to consider this issue and the huge implications it has on RE. The Chair agreed to agenda this issue at the next Executive meeting in February.

7. Gohebiaeth /Correspondence There was no correspondence that was not discussed elsewhere in the meeting

8. Cyflwyniad gan PYCAG/ NAPFRE presentation:

Addysg Grefyddol yn y sector Addysg Uwch / Religious Education in the Higher Education sector (Lynda Maddock and Sue James)

The first presentation covered the Primary PGCE RE provision at University of Wales Trinity St David Swansea Metropolitan, on behalf of Sue James. The presentation focused on the subsequent changes to the provision for 2012/13 following the revalidation of the Primary PGCE, which took place summer 2012. Information on the following 5 areas was shared:

1. Course structure - Due to students spending more time on school-based placement RE sessions have been reduced to 4.5 hours from 12 and with only the possibility of a visit to a place of worship.
2. Course aims – These are: to explore RE in the curriculum, to express a range of different world religions through story, to engage with a range of pedagogic strategies which facilitate learning- through RE.
3. RE programme - This is now condensed into 3 sessions from a previous total of 8 sessions. These are: Session 1- Introduction to RE within the curriculum. Session 2- scaffolding and modeling through RE. Session 3- Active Learning in curriculum context.
4. Assessment procedures – Within this was described a portfolio of 5 separate tasks and a presentation identifying opportunities for skills development in a cross-curricular unit of work, which could be in RE (optional).
5. Hope for the future – This included: promotion of RE, collaboration with Secondary schools and continuing professional development.

Phil Lord shared his concern that there is no time for students to become familiar with the 3 RE skills: ‘engage’, ‘explore’ and ‘express’, and their importance and inter-connectedness. Lynda confirmed that students are asked to do their own research and study to enhance their own teaching and performance. Other questions raised were: if every teacher is a teacher of Literacy and Numeracy, where does this leave RE? Can teachers come back to Swansea Met to ‘up-skill’? Lynda confirmed that the later is not currently available to teachers, but has been discussed within the professional development portfolio.

The second presentation focused on the RE PGCE (Secondary) and covered the following areas:

1. Entry requirement.
2. The interview process.
3. Subject knowledge audit.
4. Funding and target numbers.
5. Course details including content.

6. School based experience.
7. Assessment.

Ben Wigley raised concern that academy schools in England employ teachers who do not have Qualified Teaching Status (QTS) and the possibility that students will go over the border to avoid having to pay for a PGCE in Wales. Also, some academy schools do not teach RE.

Vicky Thomas thanked Lynda for her presentations and for her work and emphasized that there are lots of good RE departments in Wales that can help with training our new teachers and work with PGCE providers.

10. Adroddiad ar gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith a gynhaliwyd ar 16 Hydref 2012 / Report from the Executive Committee held on 16 October 2012

The Executive Committee meeting report was presented to members for information.

All members present agreed that Mary Parry should be nominated as the EFTRE representative for WASACRE

11. Newyddion diweddar/Update:

(a) Adolygiad thematig (Estyn)/ *Thematic review (Estyn)*

This was presented by Tania ap Sion.

Context: This was introduced in response to WASACRE's proposal to the Minister in 2010. Changes to the Estyn Inspection would impact on RE and WASACRE pushed for it to be included in the thematic review process. A number of representatives from WASACRE met with Mark Campion (who is leading the thematic review of RE at Estyn) in October 2012. Tania gave a summary to members of the significance of this meeting with Estyn for WASACRE and Religious Education in Wales:

1. The importance of RE being included in the thematic review process. It is rare for a 'subject' to be included in this way.
2. The recognition by Welsh Government and Estyn that WASACRE is a significant national voice for RE in Wales.
3. The significance of WASACRE being consulted and being able to make a difference in areas which affect RE in Wales.
4. The significance of the presence of Estyn and Leighton Andrews at the WASACRE national conference being arranged for autumn 2013, which raises the profile of RE.

Ann Loader expressed concern that one of the inspectors is not a subject specialist. Vicky Thomas confirmed that Mark Campion has offered to send a list of the schools involved in the process and that this should be followed up. Tania ap Sion emphasized that Mark Campion (who is leading the thematic review) is a subject specialist. Rheinallt Thomas commented on the points made relating to the significance and purpose of WASACRE demonstrated by the thematic review process, and emphasized that this is an indication that WASACRE is a very important body for RE in Wales and it achieves a great deal for RE. Members were asked to share this with their individual SACREs.

The Chair thanked the WASACRE representatives who were involved in the visit to Estyn in October 2012 (Tania ap Sion, Gavin Craigen, Libby Jones, Mary Parry, Vicky Thomas – as well as Bethan James and Carys Pritchard for their input prior to the meeting).

(b) *Safoni CA3/ KS 3 Moderation*

Libby Jones presented a powerpoint on behalf of Gavin Craigen outlining the key messages from the Chief Moderator's report, following the completion of the KS3 moderation process. It was suggested that a course could be offered to teachers across Wales through WASACRE, focussing on developing an understanding of the process of assessing pupils' progress in Religious Education. This would help raise standards across Wales and assist teachers and departments in implementing the Chief Moderator's recommendations. The Chair proposed the endorsement of the training offered by Gavin Craigen. All members agreed. Libby and Gavin will consult as appropriate to make arrangements for this, and the Treasurer, John Mitson, would be sent proposed costings.

(c) *REQM/ Religious Education Quality Mark*

Phil Lord reported his experience of the REQM training and summarised NAPfRE's recommendations. Levels of award available are Bronze, Silver and Gold. The Bronze is a sign of a very good department, the silver and gold being more aspirational (possibly sector leading practice). Specific criteria can be found on the REQM website. It will cost £475.00 for a school to go for the award. Some, but not many, changes would need to be made to the current English criteria. After making the appropriate changes to make it suitable for use in Wales, NAPfRE proposes that the REQM is piloted in Wales and the results would be presented to WASACRE so that an informed decision may be made. A member raised the question of the need for this award and expressed concern that teachers are under enough pressure. The importance of departments concentrating on providing and delivering exciting RE, rather than trying to achieve the quality mark was also expressed. Phil Lord assured members that an integral part of the REQM is to drive up standards throughout the school. Chair of NAPfRE, Bethan James, told members that she had been persuaded by the benefit of the REQM, having first been skeptical. Due to the Estyn inspection reports having no mention of RE, this could be one way of highlighting the high standards of a department. With advisory services diminishing this could also help with sharing good practice and identifying departments that can support struggling schools in their area.

It was suggested that participation should be the choice of individual RE departments and not a school or head teacher placing pressure on them. Phil confirmed that he is now an accredited assessor for the REQM and he would waive his fee in order to go ahead with the pilot. Vicky Thomas assured members that the REQM was 'Light Touch' (Mary Myatt's words - REQM) unlike Estyn and heavily reliant upon pupil voice. The question was also raised who is it for? Pupils, head teachers, parents? Carys Pritchard raised the point of only continuing with this on the confirmation that it fits in and works with the Wales RE curriculum. A vote was taken and a majority voted for it to be piloted in Wales.

12. *Arddangos adnoddau AG /
Showcase of RE resources*

Ben Wigley- REMW, and the publication *RE ideas*.

13. U.F.A. / A.O.B.

Rheinallt Thomas – There has been an announcement of an Education Review with the possibility of removing the responsibility from the LA for Education. Findings will be available in March 2013. Rheinallt Thomas shared the letter he had written on behalf of the Presbyterian Churches in Wales, asking about the implications of this for the local determination of RE which is set out in the Education Act. The response Rheinallt received stated that they have received his letter, and he proposed that WASACRE should send a similar letter to ask for information and to lodge concern. It was decided that a letter would be sent to the Minister for Education, raising this issue. Michael Gray thanked Rheinallt for the raising the issue and supported Rheinallt's proposal. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next Executive meeting and members were asked to take this back to their SACREs. Members expressed concern about the threat to the richness and balance that we get from local counsellors if education was taken from LAs.

14. Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf / Date of next meeting

22nd March in Newport

19th June in Caernarfon

The Chair thanked all presenters; Jonathan Martin, Andrew Morton, Lynda Maddock, Twynnyrodyn Primary school, Carys Pritchard (Systems Leader for Merthyr), Merthyr Clerk to SACRE Karen Vokes, and Madame Mayor Lisa Mytton.