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21 November 2017

Ms Kirsty Williams AM
Cabinet Secretary for Education
Welsh Government
5th Floor
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Dear Ms Williams

WELSH MEDIUM RESOURCES FOR THE NEW RELIGIOUS STUDIES GCSE

Following a recent meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) I was requested to write to you regarding the lack of Welsh medium resources for the new Religious Studies GCSE.

A secondary teacher, who is a member of SACRE, reported that she with the assistance of a few other teachers had to translate the following workbook into Welsh:

WJEC – GCSE – Religious Studies Unit 1 Religion and Philosophical Themes

The teacher noted that she felt that this was totally unacceptable. The Committee expressed its dissatisfaction with this situation, especially as SACRE had corresponded with the WJEC on 23/06/17 (letter attached) to express our concern about the lack of Welsh medium resources and requesting confirmation that the school would receive resources in good time to present the course. This request was not realised and there was no reply to the letter.

I'm sure that you will agree that such a situation is totally unacceptable and has added a huge workload for the teachers.

I know from your public statements that you are very supportive of the Welsh language and we appreciate this. I would be very grateful for your assistance to impress upon the WJEC to provide the rest of the materials for the new Religious Studies GCSE course in Welsh, as soon as possible and to receive confirmation that such a situation will not arise again.

Yours sincerely

Paul Rowlinson

Garem Jackson

Cllr. Paul Rowlinson
Chair of Gwynedd SACRE

Garem Jackson
Head of Education

c.c. Mr Carwyn Jones, First Minister for Wales
Ms Meri Hughes, Welsh Language Commissioner

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