



MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL

# **SACRE MEETING**

**3.45 PM TUESDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER, 2014**

**CONFERENCE ROOM 1, CIVIC CENTRE**

This Agenda has been prepared by the Democratic Services Department. Any member of the public requiring information should contact the department on (01685) 725203 or email [democratic@merthyr.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@merthyr.gov.uk).

## **A G E N D A**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declaration of Interests
3. Election of Chairperson
4. Election of Vice Chairperson
5. Minutes of the Meeting - June 2014 **(Pages 1 - 4)**
6. Schedule of Meetings 2014-15
7. Membership Update **(Pages 5 - 6)**
8. SACRE Annual Report 2013-14 **(Pages 7 - 36)**
9. SACRE Development Plan 2012-15 **(Pages 37 - 42)**
10. Inspection Report Analysis Autumn 2013 - Summer 2014 **(Pages 43 - 48)**
11. WASACRE
  - Feedback from WASACRE meeting and AGM at Powys 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014. **(Pages 49 - 56)**
  - Appointments to the Executive Committee.

- Representation at next meeting in Torfaen on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

12. Holocaust Memorial Day 2015 **(Pages 57 - 58)**
13. RE News Website **(Pages 59 - 60)**
14. Correspondence

**COMPOSITION:**

Councillors E Galsworthy (Chair)

Councillors G Davies, G Lewis, K Moran

Amanada Jones, Sian Barnard Henderson,  
Lynda Maddock, Lucy Draper, Debra Evans, Ann Star,  
Father Matthew Gibbon, Janine Brill, Dorothy Haines  
and Vicky Thomas

together with appropriate officers

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Os byddai'n well gennych gopi o'r agenda hwn mewn iaith arall, cysylltwch a [democratic@merthyr.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@merthyr.gov.uk) neu ffoniwch 01685 725203



## MINUTES OF MEETING

# SACRE MEETING

**TUESDAY, 10TH JUNE, 2014**

**PRESENT:** Councillor K Moran (In the Chair)

Councillor G Davies

Carys Pritchard, Lucy Draper, Ann Star, Lynda Maddock and Dorothy Haines

Matthew Phillips (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
1	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence received from Councillor Ernie Galsworthy, Councillor Gareth Lewis and Julie Symes.  The Committee voted that Councillor K. Moran take the chair in absence of Councillor E. Galsworthy and J. Symes.
2	Declaration of Interests	No declarations of interest were made.
3	Minutes of Meeting of the 11th February 2014	<b>RESOLVED that:</b>  The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2014 were submitted and approved.
4	Update on Religious Studies at Merthyr Tydfil College - Lynda Maddock	Lynda Maddock provided the members with an update on Religious studies at Merthyr Tydfil College and provided members with the Religious Studies Handbook for the AS level classes and AS Level examination papers.  Discussion ensued about the class size, the gulf between GCSE and AS Level examination papers, the number of students who will progress to A Level and the current applications received for academic year 2014/2015.

5	SACRE Monitoring: School Self-Evaluation	<p>Carys Pritchard led the members through the SACRE MONITORING response and outlined the information received.</p> <p>Discussion ensued regarding the lack of responses from the Primary Schools and what SACRE could do to engage more with schools in the Local Authority. The membership of the group was discussed and in particular the difficulty of involving people in SACRE in such a small area as Merthyr Tydfil.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>SACRE will contact all schools within the Local Authority through Dorothy Haines in the Education Department inviting all Religious Studies teachers to attend a twilight meeting to discuss what they want from SACRE as a group with the possibility of holding regular twilight meetings were teachers can share best practice.</p>
6	Review of SACRE Reports 2008 - 2011	<p>Carys Pritchard lead the Committee through the review and highlighted the significant points.</p> <p>Questions were raised by the committee and answered by the appropriate officer.</p>
7	Lessons from Auschwitz	<p>Carys Pritchard provided the Committee with an update on the Lessons from Auschwitz which saw sixth form students and teachers partake in two seminars and a one day visit to the former Nazi extermination camp.</p> <p>It was noted that the college would be invited to partake in future as school sixth forms no longer exist.</p>
8	RE Quest	<p>It was agreed that this item be brought to the future teacher's twilight meeting and that Dorothy Haines would add it to the bulletin for distribution.</p>
9	WASACRE Issues:	<p>Carys Pritchard explained to the Committee that seven nominations had been received for two positions on the WASACRE Executive Committee.</p> <p>The Committee took a vote and agreed to support both Councillor Ernie Galsworthy (Merthyr Tydfil SACRE) and Gill Vaisey (Monmouthshire SACRE).</p>
10	Feedback from RE Council of England and Wales Meeting on 7th May 2014 at Cardiff	<p>Carys Pritchard provided the Committee with feedback on the Religious Education of England and Wales Meeting on May 7 2014 where Huw Lewis gave his first public speech since becoming the Minister for Education.</p>
11	Central South Consortium: Update	<p>Carys Pritchard provided the Committee with a verbal update in relation to the Central South Consortium and explained that the CSC is currently undergoing a restructure and will service the SACRE for the foreseeable future. The Committee was advised that there would be a further update at the next meeting.</p>

12	SACRE Development Plan 2012 - 2015: Review of Progress	Carys Pritchard provided updates in relation to the Merthyr Tydfil SACRE development Plan 2012-2015 (Academic Year) – Review of Progress.  Discussion ensued and questions were raised and answered by the appropriate officers.
13	Schedule of Meetings 2014 - 2015	The Committee agreed that the date of the next SACRE meeting will be Tuesday 4 November 2014.
14	Correspondence	Correspondence was received from the Chair Councillor E. Galsworthy and the Vice-Chair J. Symes.
15	Any other business as deemed urgent by the Chairman	The Chair advised there was no other business deemed as urgent.

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## MERTHYR COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**DATE: NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> 2014**

**SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE 2014 /2015**

### **SACRE MEMBERSHIP 2014 - 2015**

#### **Local authority**

Councillor Gareth Lewis  
Councillor Graham Davies  
Councillor Ernie Galsworthy,  
Councillor Kate Moran

Local education authority  
Local education authority  
Local education authority  
Local education authority

#### **Teacher associations**

Amanda Jones

RE Teachers' Association

Afon Taf High school

Sian Barnard - Henderson

National Union of Teachers

Cyfartha High School

Vacancy

UCAC

Vacancy

Secondary Heads Association

Vacancy

NAS/UWT replaces Sue Blackmore

Jonathan Martin / Lynda Maddock

Association of College Managers

Vacancy

NAHT replaces Lynne Lambe,

Brecon Road Infants School

Lucy Draper

Association of Teachers and Lecturers

Pen-y-Dre High School

#### **Religious denominations**

Debra Evans

Roman Catholic Church

Vacancy

Evangelical Church

Ann Starr

Presbyterian Church

Father Matthew Gibbons

Church in Wales

Janine Brill

Salvation Army

#### **LA Officers**

Dorothy Haines

Head of School Improvement

Karen Vokes

Clerk to SACRE

Vicky Thomas

Independent RE Consultant

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## MERTHYR COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> 2014

**SUBJECT:** MERTHYR SACRE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE  
ACADEMIC YEAR 2013 - 2014

### **A PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To offer to members of SACRE the annual report for 2013 -2014
2. To present a brief summary of this report

### **B EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This is the Annual Report from Merthyr SACRE and outlines the activities of SACRE during the academic year 2013/14. It follows the guidelines laid down by DFES.

### **C RECOMMENDATION**

Members of the SACRE are requested to **note** and **approve** the report. The report to be sent to the Department for Education and Skills (DFES) by 30<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

### **D SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

SACRE Annual Report 2013/14

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**Merthyr Tydfil  
County Borough Council**

**Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

**Annual Report**

**2013 - 2014**



**Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council**  
**Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**  
**Annual Report 2013 - 2014**

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**Merthyr Tydfil SACRE**  
**Annual Report 2013 – 2014**

**COMPOSITION, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SACRE**

**COMPOSITION OF SACRE**

The membership of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education is determined by the Education Acts of 1944, 1993 and the Education Reform Act of 1988. SACRE has three constituent groups, each group being entitled to one vote:

- Christian denominations and other religions and religious denominations;
- associations representing teachers; and
- the local authority (LA).

The members representing each of these groups for 2013 - 2014 are listed in Appendix 1.

**THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SACRE**

The main function of a SACRE is to:

- advise the LA about religious education and collective worship;
- require the authority to review the agreed syllabus;
- consider applications from schools for determinations (to be exempt from the requirement that worship be “Christian”);
- publish an annual report on its work; and
- play a part in the local statutory complaints procedure where cases are referred to it relating to religious education or collective worship.

Advice may relate to:

- methods of teaching;
- the choice of teaching materials;
- the provision of teacher training; and
- any other matter relating to religious education and collective worship which SACRE considers appropriate.

## **RECORD OF MEETINGS**

Three meetings of SACRE were held in the academic year 2013 - 2014:

- 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013;
- 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014; and
- 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

A record of the main agenda items discussed during the meetings is to be found in Appendix 2.

## **THE PLANNING AND ORGANISATION OF THE WORK OF SACRE**

Prior to the commencement of the 2013 - 2014 academic year, SACRE had agreed to organise and prioritise its work in the framework of a development plan.

A copy of the development plan, including details of progress achieved during the year, is included as Appendix 3.

## **CIRCULATION OF REPORT**

Copies of this report have been circulated to the organisations/establishments listed in Appendix 5.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Summary of the advice given to the LA by SACRE

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Aim:** To monitor standards and provision in religious education

**Action**

1. SACRE considers and analyses school inspection reports. If there are any issues regarding religious education, such as the non-fulfilment of statutory requirements, the LA follows this up. During the academic year 2012 – 2013 it was a recommendation for one primary school to meet statutory requirements in relation to religious education. Progress was monitored by the system leader with strategic lead for religious education at Central South Consortium with feedback provided to SACRE on a termly basis. During 2013 – 2014 it was reported to SACRE that the school had fully addressed the Estyn recommendation. No additional follow up action was necessary for any inspection reports considered during 2013 – 2014.
2. SACRE has resolved to use school self-evaluation as a means of fulfilling its statutory responsibility to monitor provision and standards in religious education. In 2013 – 2014 three secondary schools were invited to share their religious education self-evaluation with SACRE. A summary report was presented to SACRE during its summer term meeting. A copy of the report was sent to the three secondary heads of department. Primary schools were also invited to share their self-evaluation and one report was received.
3. SACRE analyses examination results over a three year period and identifies trends in performance benchmarked against All Wales data. SACRE writes to schools after analysing examination results. The letter includes congratulations for the good results, where appropriate, and raises issues that schools should be addressing as a result of this analysis.
4. The LA and its SACRE gathers and analyses data regarding key stage 3 teacher assessment in religious education. This information is presented to SACRE and sent to all secondary schools in the LA.

### AGREED SYLLABUS

**Aim:** To fulfil the legal requirement to review the agreed syllabus for religious education

**Action**

1. In 2008 Merthyr Tydfil SACRE adopted a new agreed syllabus for the authority's schools to be implemented from September 2008. All schools received a programme of Inset in summer 2008 and received a package of support materials to exemplify the new syllabus.
2. In June 2013 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the Merthyr Tydfil agreed syllabus for religious education with an understanding that the syllabus would be reviewed once further information is received in relation to the assessment and National Curriculum review.
3. During 2013 – 2014 SACRE members received updates on the consultations undertaken in relation to the National Curriculum and assessment review.

## TEACHING MATERIALS

**Aim:** To ensure that schools are informed of suitable teaching resources

### Action

1. Secondary schools in the LA were informed of the 2014 Holocaust Memorial Day theme '*Journeys*' and that resources to support the theme can be found on the Holocaust Memorial Day website ([www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk)).
2. SACRE informed all schools in the LA about the re-launch of the RE:quest website ([www.request.org](http://www.request.org)) and resources available on the site to support the exploration of Christianity within religious education.
3. Members considered the Welsh Government document 'People, beliefs and questions: religious education for 3 to 7 years olds in Wales'.

## TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

**Aim:** To ensure that teachers are able to access appropriate continuing professional development

### Action

1. The local authority, via Central South Consortium, offered primary teachers a course on religious education and literacy in the Foundation Phase '*Not Just Any Old Story*'. The planned course had to be cancelled due to lack of a viable number of delegates.
2. SACRE members and delegates from schools attended the WASACRE conference REsourcing National Priorities in Wales on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2014. SACRE received feedback from the conference during its spring term meeting.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

**Aim:** To ensure that schools fulfil statutory requirements for collective worship and provide a worthwhile experience for pupils.

### Action

1. SACRE monitors the sections of inspection reports that are concerned with collective worship and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. If there are any issues such as the non-fulfilment of statutory requirements the LA follows this up. There was no necessity this year to request the action plan of any school.
2. SACRE has resolved to use school self-evaluation as a means of fulfilling its statutory responsibility to monitor fulfilment of statutory requirements, provision and quality of collective worship. The self-evaluation report of one primary school was considered in 2013 – 2014.

## OTHER ISSUES:

**Aim:** To ensure a more informed SACRE through providing regular updates on local and national issues.



1. SACRE has maintained its membership of the Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE) and receives termly feedback from meetings of the association.
2. SACRE has considered the main findings and recommendations of the Estyn thematic review of religious education in secondary schools.
3. The LA and its SACRE agreed to inform schools about the availability of the Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM) and materials to support self-evaluation.
4. SACRE has received information about secondary schools in the LA involved in the Lessons from Auschwitz programme.
5. SACRE were updated about the restructure of Central South Consortium.
6. Members received feedback from the RE Council of England and Wales meeting that was held in Cardiff on May 7 2014.
7. Members received a presentation on religious studies at Merthyr College by Lynda Maddock.

## SUMMARY OF ADVICE TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### The local agreed syllabus

During the spring term 2008 Standing Conference endorsed and adopted a new agreed syllabus for the authority's schools to be implemented from September 2008. A yearly programme of INSET has continued and specific training on the agreed syllabus has been offered. Comprehensive support materials, including schemes of work and electronic *Progress in Learning* documents have already been issued to primary and secondary schools.

During the 2012 – 2013 academic year SACRE were made aware of the announcement by the Minister of Education and Skills of a pending review of assessment and the National Curriculum in Wales. This review would involve the introduction of the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework and the identification of revisions to the current assessment and curriculum arrangements. In June 2013 Standing Conference endorsed the re-adoption of the Merthyr Tydfil agreed syllabus, with an understanding that the syllabus would be reviewed once further information is received in relation to the assessment and National Curriculum review.

During 2013 – 2014 SACRE members received updates on the consultations undertaken in relation to the national curriculum and assessment review.

### Standards in religious education

SACRE has adopted a number of strategies for monitoring standards achieved in religious education in the authority's schools that include analysing school inspection reports, monitoring school self-evaluation, reviewing examination results and analysing end of key stage 3 data.

- **Examination results**

SACRE considered examination performance in the secondary schools for 2013. The examination results are compared with the All – Wales figures and with the results of the previous years. SACRE members are also informed of the percentage of the year 11 cohort being entered for the religious studies GCSE examinations (specification A and B). The examination results are published as an appendix along with results for 2011 and 2012.

The results need to be treated with caution for three reasons:

(1) the relatively low numbers opting for religious studies at GCSE and A levels; this is especially the case when looking at averages for the LA, which has only four secondary schools; (2) the percentages are based upon those pupils entered for the examination, not those who opted for the subject and therefore selective entry could influence overall pass rates; (3) there is no indication how those pupils who sat religious studies performed in their other subjects so it is not possible to measure pupils' performance against their overall ability.

In 2013 there were 39 candidates entered for the religious studies A level course and this is comparable with the entry figures for 2012 and 2011. The overall percentage of pupils achieving grades A\*-E (100%) is comparable with the performance of 2012 and higher than the All Wales figure of 96.3%. The percentage pass rate for grades A\* – C (84.62%) is significantly above the performance of 2012 (66.7%) and slightly below performance of 2011 (88.15%). The pass rate of 84.62% is also above the All

Wales % pass rate for grades A\*-C (79.8%). The results at A\*-A (23.08%) is an improvement on the performance of 2012 (17.9%) and 2011(2.4%) and higher than the All Wales figure of 20%.

In 2013 there was a slight decrease in the entries for the GCSE religious studies course with 173 candidates compared with 185 in 2012. The overall percentage at A\* - C (57.23%) is a slight improvement on the results for 2012 (54.6%) but below the results for 2011 (61.7%) and 2010 (66%). The figure of 57.23% is also below the All Wales figure of 73%. The results at A\* - G (95.38%) are comparable with the performance of 2012 (95.7%) and higher than the figure for 2011(92.6%). The overall percentage at A\* - A (17.34%) is below previous performance and the All-Wales figure of 33%.

There has been an increase in the number of students who sit the GCSE religious studies short course. In 2013 there were 259 candidates from four schools compared with 186 pupils in 2012. The overall percentage at A\* - C (55.98%) is lower than the results for 2012 (67.2%) and 2011 (78.3%). Performance at A\* - G (96.14%) is slightly below the figure for 2012 (97.8%) but comparable with the performance of 2011(96%). The results at A\* - A of 22.01% is lower than the result of 2012 (25.8%) and 2011(37.7%).

- **Key stage 3 data**

Members of Merthyr Tydfil SACRE also consider the levels awarded by teachers to pupils at the end of key stage 3. Comparisons are made with previous performance in religious education and also with core and foundation subjects of the national curriculum. Pupils' (boys and girls) achieving level 5 and above was 78.4% and level 6 and above was 33%. SACRE members were pleased to note the improvement in performance at level 5+ and level 6+. Performance at level 7+ was also considered in order to monitor progress of the more able pupils. End of key stage 3 levels are published in Appendix 4.

- **School inspection reports**

SACRE, with the LA's agreement and co-operation, receives reports from professional officers on standards and provision and reviews summary reports of inspection findings and Estyn surveys. During the academic year of 2013 - 2014 SACRE members received details of school inspections undertaken between autumn 2012 and summer 2013. The inspection reports of three primary schools were considered. There were no issues relating to religious education identified in the reports and therefore no follow up action was necessary.

SACRE also monitored closely the progress undertaken by another school that was inspected during 2011 – 2012 to address issues of non-fulfilment of statutory requirements in religious education. Progress was monitored by the system leader with strategic lead for religious education at Central South Consortium with feedback provided to SACRE on a termly basis. During 2013 – 2014 it was reported to SACRE that the school had fully addressed the Estyn recommendation.

- **School self-evaluation**

SACRE has resolved to use school self-evaluation as a means of fulfilling its statutory responsibility to monitor provision and standards in religious education. In 2013 – 2014 three secondary schools were invited to share their religious education

self-evaluation with SACRE. A summary report was presented to SACRE during its summer term meeting. A copy of the report was sent to all secondary heads of department. Primary schools were also invited to share their self evaluation and one report was received. A copy of the summary report presented to SACRE during its summer term meeting is included in appendix 6.

## **Methods of teaching, choice of teaching materials, teacher training**

### **Teaching materials**

All schools were informed of the 2014 Holocaust Memorial Day theme 'Journeys' and that Holocaust resources can be found on their website [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk) – these include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship materials and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.

SACRE informed all schools in the LA about the re-launch of the RE:request website ([www.request.org](http://www.request.org)) and resources available on the site to support the exploration of Christianity within religious education.

### **Inset**

The local authority, via Central South Consortium, offered primary teachers a course on religious education and literacy in the Foundation Phase '*Not Just Any Old Story*'. The course had to be cancelled due to lack of a viable number of delegates.

SACRE members and teacher representatives from the local authority attended the WASACRE conference REsourcing National Priorities in Wales on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2014. SACRE received feedback from the conference during the spring term meeting.

## **SUMMARY OF ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **School inspection reports**

Monitoring of collective worship has continued through the review of inspection report findings, Estyn surveys and findings from the LA monitoring of school provision.

During the academic year of 2013 - 2014 SACRE members received details of school inspections undertaken between autumn 2012 and summer 2013. The inspection reports of three primary schools were considered. Very positive comments in relation to spiritual development were evident in all inspection reports. The reports made reference to all schools promoting pupils' spiritual development successfully.

The Estyn Common Inspection Framework notes that inspectors should only report on instances where the school does not comply with statutory requirements in relation to collective worship. We can therefore assume – as Estyn has not noted any instances of non-compliance - that all schools inspected between autumn 2012 and summer 2013 meet statutory requirements in relation to collective worship.

### **School self-evaluation**

SACRE has resolved to use school self-evaluation as a means of fulfilling its statutory responsibility to monitor fulfilment of statutory requirements, provision and quality of collective worship. In 2013 – 2014 information was received from one primary school where provision in collective worship was judged to be good. The school self-evaluation makes reference to a planned programme of topics covering the three terms across the school and pupils given regular opportunities to celebrate their successes and achievements. An area for development identified by the school made reference to new staff observing collective worship prior to leading a session.

### **Applications for determinations**

No applications were received from schools for determinations to be made on the lifting of the requirements for collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

## **SUMMARY OF OTHER ISSUES**

### **WASACRE**

SACRE continues to support the work of the WASACRE and recognises the value of the body in promoting religious education and collective worship on a national basis. During 2012 -13 issues considered at WASACRE meetings have been fully reported back to SACRE.

### **Lessons from Auschwitz**

SACRE has been informed that Wales had been included in the Lessons from Auschwitz programme for 2014. Members received information about the programme and a list of schools from Merthyr Tydfil that were in attendance.

### **Estyn thematic review: standards in religious education**

Members received the key messages regarding standards in religious education at key stages 3 and 4. The main findings were discussed fully during the autumn term meeting, with consideration given to how SACRE could support some of the recommendations.

### **Welsh Government Review of SACRE Reports 2008 – 2011**

SACRE discussed the content of the Welsh Government Review of SACRE Reports 2008 – 2011. Further consideration was given to how the recommendations noted in the report had been, or will be addressed by SACRE in the future.

### **RE Quality Mark (REQM)**

Members received information about the REQM as a tool developed to celebrate high quality religious education and promote further development in the subject. It was agreed to forward information about the quality mark, and its audit tool, to all schools in the local authority. SACRE informed schools that they would be very interested to hear from any school who wish to apply for the quality mark.

### **Feedback from the RE Council of England and Wales meeting**

Feedback was provided for members from the AGM meeting of the RE Council for England and Wales that was held in Cardiff on 7 May 2014. Excerpts from the speech of Huw Lewis, Minister for Education, were discussed and considered.

### **Religious Studies at Merthyr College**

Members received feedback from Lynda Maddock during its summer term meeting about the AS course and plans for A level at Merthyr College. Members were pleased with the positive numbers at AS and appreciated the opportunity to hear more about the developments.

## **Appendix 1: Membership of SACRE**

### **Local authority**

Councillor Tony Chaplin  
Councillor Graham Davies  
Councillor Ernie Galsworthy,  
Councillor Kate Moran

Local education authority  
Local education authority  
Local education authority  
Local education authority

### **Teacher associations**

Julie Symes

RE Teachers' Association  
National Union of Teachers  
UCAC

Sue Blackmore  
Jonathan Martin / Lynda Maddock

Secondary Heads Association  
NAS/UWT  
Association of College Managers  
Association of Teachers and Lecturers  
NAHT

Lynne Lambe

### **Religious denominations**

Debra Evans

Roman Catholic Church  
Evangelical Church  
Presbyterian Church  
Church in Wales  
Salvation Army

Ann Starr  
Father Matthew Gibbons  
Janine Brill

### **LA Officers**

Dorothy Haines  
Karen Vokes  
Carys Pritchard

Head of School Improvement  
Clerk to SACRE  
System Leader

## **APPENDIX 2: RECORD OF MEETINGS**

Three meetings of SACRE were held in the academic year 2013 - 2014:

- 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013;
- 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014; and
- 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

### **8<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

- Apologies
- Election of chair person
- Election of vice chair person
- Minutes of the last meeting
- Matters arising
- SACRE annual report 2012-13
- SACRE development plan 2012 – 2015
- Estyn thematic review: religious education in secondary school
- Teacher assessment levels in religious education 2013
- WASACRE: Feedback from AGM at Caernarfon June 19<sup>th</sup> 2013, appointments to the Executive Committee and WASACRE Conference October 10<sup>th</sup> at Ty Dysgu, Cefn Coed, Nantgarw
- 'People, beliefs and questions: religious education for 3 to 7-year-olds in Wales'
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2014
- Schedule of meetings
- Correspondence
- Any other business

### **11<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

- Apologies
- Minutes of the last meeting
- Matters arising
- Religious studies examination results 2013
- SACRE monitoring of secondary schools: self-evaluation findings in religious education
- Estyn overview of inspection reports: autumn 2012 – summer 2013
- Update on National Curriculum review and assessment
- Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM)
- WASACRE issues: representation at next meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2014 at Caerphilly and nominations to the WASACRE executive
- Correspondence
- Any other business

### **10<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

- Apologies
- Minutes of the last meeting
- Matters arising
- Update on religious studies at Merthyr Tydfil College – Lynda Maddock
- SACRE monitoring: school self-evaluation
- Review of SACRE reports 2008 – 2011
- Lessons from Auschwitz
- RE Quest



- WASACRE issues: feedback from WASACRE meeting on March 27th at Caerphilly, representation at next WASACRE meeting on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014 at Powys and executive voting
- Feedback from RE Council of England and Wales meeting on May 7 2014 at Cardiff
- Central South Consortium: update
- SACRE development plan 2012 – 2015: review of progress
- Schedule of meetings 2014 – 2015
- Correspondence
- Any other business

### Appendix 3: SACRE development plan

<b>MERTHYR TYDFIL SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012 – 2015 (ACADEMIC YEAR) – REVIEW OF PROGRESS</b>
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**Aim 1: To monitor standards in religious education and religious studies.**

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
1.1 Monitor standards through regular <i>review of</i> inspection reports / Estyn thematic reviews/ school self-evaluation reports and recommend, where necessary, action by LA.	Annual agenda item	Full SACRE Adviser	Agenda time Adviser time for analysis	Advice to LA on trends across the county borough; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools; follow up through school visits and review of action plan where necessary.	<b>2012 – 13</b> Considered 5:2:13 <b>2013 – 2014</b> Review of inspection reports considered 11:3:14; Estyn thematic review considered 8:10:13; monitoring of school self-evaluation considered 11:3:14 and 10:6:14.
1.2 Receive information on results of: teacher assessment at end of key stage 3; GCSE religious studies full and short course; A/AS level religious studies.	Autumn/ Spring Term	Full SACRE Adviser	Agenda time Adviser time for analysis	Advice to LA on trends; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools.	<b>2012 – 13</b> KS3 teacher assessment considered 9:10:12 and 5:2:13; examination results considered 5:2:13 and 11:6:13. <b>2013 – 2014</b> Key stage 3 teacher assessment considered 8:10:13; examination results considered 11:3:14.
1.3 Identify INSET needs, monitor and offer advice on training.	Summer Term	Full SACRE	Agenda time	Training programme received along with figures on uptake; advice to LA.	<b>2012 – 13</b> Considered 5:2:13. <b>2013 – 2014</b> WASACRE Conference considered 8:10:13 and 11:3:14

**MERTHYR TYDFIL SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012 – 2015 (ACADEMIC YEAR)**

**Aim 2: To review the agreed syllabus (as appropriate) and support its implementation.**

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
2.1 To review the agreed syllabus for religious education	Autumn 2012 onwards (or as appropriate)	Full SACRE Adviser Working group NAPfRE	Advisory time to review the agreed syllabus. Establish a working group (if applicable). Convene a Standing Conference to adopt the syllabus Publication/ translation costs (as appropriate)	Agreed syllabus reviewed and adopted by Standing Conference. Agreed Syllabus training programme for schools (if required) Agreed syllabus to be implemented the Autumn term after adoption.	<p><b>2012 – 13</b>                      Considered 5:2:13. Standing Conference held on 11:6:13 to readopt current syllabus.</p> <p><b>2013 – 2014</b>                      Information received about 'People, beliefs and questions: religious education for 3-7 year olds in Wales' on 8:10:13; update received on national curriculum review 11:2:14; schools informed of the re launch of the RE Quest website 10:6:13.</p>
2.2 Materials to support implementation of the agreed syllabus for religious education	Ongoing	Full SACRE Adviser	Advisory time	Support materials available to schools and accessed through Consortium website.	<p><b>2012 – 13</b>                      Inset provided by Central South Consortium for religious education in the Foundation Phase and key stage 2. WASACRE training held for secondary schools on moderating standards at key stage 3.</p> <p><b>2013 – 2014</b>                      SACRE members and teachers from local authority attended WASACRE Conference REsourcing National Priorities in Wales</p>

**MERTHYR TYDFIL SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012 – 2015 (ACADEMIC YEAR)**

**Aim 3: To monitor provision and provide support for collective worship.**

<b>Plan of action</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>People involved</b>	<b>Time and costs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Progress</b>
3.1 Monitor provision for collective worship through regular review of inspection reports/ school self evaluation reports; recommend, where necessary, action by LA.	Annual agenda item	Full SACRE and Adviser	Agenda time Adviser time for analysis	Advice to LA on trends across the county borough; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools; follow up through school visits and review of action plan where necessary.	<b>2012 – 13</b> Considered 5:2:13 <b>2013 – 2014</b> Review of inspection reports considered 11:3:14; monitoring of school self-evaluation considered 10:6:14.
3.2 Support the implementation of statutory collective worship	Ongoing	Advisory service	Advisory time	Provision of INSET (if applicable) Schools informed of resources and websites for collective worship. Schools informed of guidance materials available for collective worship.	<b>2013 – 2014</b> Estyn and WASACRE guidance on collective worship sent to all schools autumn term 2013.

**MERTHYR TYDFIL SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012 – 2015 (ACADEMIC YEAR)**

**Aim 4: To ensure a more informed SACRE through providing regular updates on local and national issues related to RE and collective worship in schools.**

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
4.1 To update members on the role of SACRE and its implications; recent developments in religious education and collective worship; guidance materials from relevant bodies; input from practising teachers and outside providers	Annually as required	SACRE members , Adviser, practising teachers, outside providers	Member time; Adviser / Officer time	SACRE members fully aware of their responsibilities. SACRE and schools updated and informed of recent developments and initiatives, both local and national.	<p><b>2012 – 13</b> Presentation by Carys Pritchard on the roles and responsibilities of SACRE 10:10:12. KS3 securing teacher assessment chief moderator’s report for 2012 discussed 10:10:12. SACREs and the Local Community survey discussed 10:10:12. Presentation on the House of Religions by Julie Symes, Head of RE at Afon Taf High 5:2:13.</p> <p><b>2013 – 2014</b> Presentation on religious studies at Merthyr Tydfil College by Lynda Maddock 10:6:14; information received about REQM 11:3:14.</p>
4.2 Programme of school visits.	Annually as required	SACRE members, Adviser/ Officers	Member time; Officer time to arrange visits	More informed SACRE on provision and practice regarding religious education and collective worship in schools.	<p><b>2012 – 13</b> Visit to the House of Religions at Afon Taf High 5:2:13.</p>

## APPENDIX 4: EXAMINATION RESULTS 2011 –2013

### A level religious studies

	<b>Merthyr Tydfil 2011</b>	<b>Merthyr Tydfil 2012</b>	<b>Merthyr Tydfil 2013</b>	<b>All Wales 2013</b>
A* - A	2.4%	17.9%	23.08%	20%
A* - C	88.1%	66.7%	84.62%	79.8%
A* - E	97.6%	100%	100%	96.3%
Entry	42 students 3 schools	39 students 3 schools	39 students 3 schools	1, 422 students

### GCSE religious studies

	<b>Merthyr Tydfil 2011</b>	<b>Merthyr Tydfil 2012</b>	<b>Merthyr Tydfil 2013</b>	<b>All Wales 2013</b>
A* - A	24.6%	19.5%	17.34%	33%
A* - C	61.7%	54.6%	57.23%	73%
A* - G	92.6%	95.7%	95.38%	98%
Entry	175 students 3 schools	185 students 4 schools	173 students 4 schools	11, 414 students

### GCSE religious studies short course

	<b>Merthyr Tydfil 2011</b>	<b>Merthyr Tydfil 2012</b>	<b>Merthyr Tydfil 2013</b>	<b>All Wales 2013</b>
A* - A	37.7%	25.8%	22.01%	N/A
A* - C	78.3%	67.2%	55.98%	N/A
A* - G	96%	97.8%	96.14%	N/A
Entry	175 students 2 schools	186 students 4 schools	259 4 schools	N/A

**APPENDIX 5: KEY STAGE 3 YEAR 9 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LEVELS 2013**

<b>BOYS</b>	<b>NOR</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4</b>	<b>Level 5</b>	<b>Level 6</b>	<b>Level 7</b>	<b>Level 8</b>	<b>EP</b>	<i>Total</i>	<b>% L 5+</b>	<b>% L 6+</b>	<b>% L 7+</b>	<b>% NL</b>
<b>Total numbers</b>	274	0	4	35	89	104	34	6	0	0	272				
<b>Percentages</b>			<b>1.5</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>2.2</b>			<b>99.3</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>14.6</b>	2.2	0.7
<b>Consortium</b>	<b>4208</b>	0.1	0.8	5.1	22.7	45.8	20.0	4.5	0.2	<b>0.0</b>	<b>99.2</b>	70.5	24.8	4.7	0.8

<b>GIRLS</b>	<b>NOR</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4</b>	<b>Level 5</b>	<b>Level 6</b>	<b>Level 7</b>	<b>Level 8</b>	<b>EP</b>	<i>Total</i>	<b>% L 5+</b>	<b>% L 6+</b>	<b>% L 7+</b>	<b>% NL</b>
<b>Total numbers</b>	227	0	2	9	26	121	50	15	2	0	225				
<b>Percentages</b>			<b>0.9</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>		99.1	<b>82.8</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>7.5</b>	0.9
<b>Consortium</b>	<b>4036</b>		0.1	2.0	10.8	45.0	30.3	10.4	0.8	0.0	<b>99.5</b>	<b>86.6</b>	<b>41.6</b>	11.2	0.5

<b>ALL PUPILS</b>	<b>NOR</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4</b>	<b>Level 5</b>	<b>Level 6</b>	<b>Level 7</b>	<b>Level 8</b>	<b>EP</b>	<i>Total</i>	<b>% L 5+</b>	<b>% L 6+</b>	<b>% L 7+</b>	<b>% NL</b>
<b>Total numbers</b>	501	0	6	44	115	225	84	21	2	0	497				
<b>Percentages</b>			<b>1.2</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>44.9</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	-	<b>99.2</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>21.4</b>	4.6	0.8
<b>Consortium</b>	<b>8244</b>	0.0	0.5	3.6	16.9	45.4	25.1	7.4	0.5	0.0	<b>99.3</b>	78.4	33.0	7.9	0.7

L5+ is the figure for those pupils gaining a level 5 or above in Religious Education

L6+ is the figure for those pupils gaining a level 6 or above in Religious Education

L7+ is the figure for those pupils gaining a level 7 or above in Religious Education

NL means that no level was able to be awarded to those pupils.

## APPENDIX 6: SURVEY OF SELF-EVALUATION REPORTS

### Background

As part of SACRE's monitoring programme schools in Merthyr Tydfil were invited to share their self evaluation of religious education. The self-evaluation reports of three secondary schools and one primary school were received.

### Main findings

#### How good are outcomes in Religious Education?

	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Unsatisfactory	No judgement
<b>Primary</b>		1			
<b>Secondary</b>		2	1		

Judgements / comments on KS3, GCSE and A level standards identified in school self-evaluation	Number of schools
<b>KS3</b>	
Good standards	2
Improved performance over time	1
Girls outperform the boys	3
<b>GCSE</b>	
Good outcomes at KS4	1
Girls outperform the boys	3
Improved performance at KS4	2
<b>A level</b>	
Excellent outcomes	2

### Good features

In analysing these reports, the good features that were identified in the self-evaluation reports were:

Good features identified in school self-evaluation	Number of schools
Pupils are developing their knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, teaching and practices	3
Pupils have a good understanding of controversial issues and religious viewpoints	2
Pupils benefit and enjoy visits and visitors relating to RE e.g. places of worship	2
Pupils' levels of interest and engagement is impacting positively on standards	2
Pupils are able to recall prior learning	2
Pupils are able to ask, discuss and respond to a number of fundamental questions	1
Pupils participate confidently in a range of speaking and listening activities	1
Pupils use a range of subject specific vocabulary appropriately	1
Pupils are confident in using their ICT skills to research and present information	1



Pupils are able to identify strengths and set targets to improve their work further	1
Pupils are developing good evaluative skills and are able to identify arguments for and against a number of moral and religious issues	1
Pupils are developing an understanding of religious concepts	1
Pupils are able to communicate religious ideas and concepts, personal opinion and ideas in a creative way	1
Pupils are able to express their own beliefs and make their own decisions	1

### Areas for development

Areas for development identified in the reports make reference to:

- improving boys' performance at key stages 3 and 4 (2 schools);
- continuing to improve performance of the more able pupils;
- ensuring that tasks are challenging enough for pupils to achieve the higher levels;
- continuing to improve the performance of pupils in receipt of free school meals at key stage 3; and
- making further use of performance data in order to more effectively identify where and what to improve in relation to standards and provision (2 schools).

### How good is provision in religious education?

	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Unsatisfactory	No judgement
<b>Primary</b>		1			
<b>Secondary</b>		3			

Good features identified in school self-evaluation	Number of schools
Planning incorporates appropriate skills especially literacy, ICT and thinking skills	3
Planning is differentiated e.g. challenge for more able, support for less able	3
A wide range of teaching and learning strategies are being used in the classroom	3
Good use of assessment for learning support pupils' learning	3
Monitoring programme is in place that includes lesson observations, analysis of data, book scrutiny and pupil voice interviews	3
Schemes of work promote community cohesion, inclusion, equality and diversity	2
Strong links exists with the local community with appropriate use of visits and visitors	2
Opportunity is provided for pupils to evaluate their own work and the work of their peers	2
A wide range of high quality resources is used effectively to support the teaching of religious education	2
There is strong emphasis on ESDGC (education for sustainable development and global citizenship) in the scheme of work	2
Teachers regularly monitor and track pupils' progress	2
Classrooms provide a stimulating and supportive environment to support teaching and learning	2
Portfolios in place exemplifying standards	2
Differentiated resources are available to support less able pupils	2

High expectations are shared with pupils	2
Cwricwlwm Cymreig is promoted well in scheme of work	1
Planning reflects the local authority agreed syllabus	1
Continuity and progression is evident in planning	1
Teaching and learning activities promote spiritual and moral development	1
Good working relationship between teachers and pupils	1
Subject leader / teachers have good, up to date subject knowledge	1
Departmental staff are involved in professional learning communities	1

### **Areas for development**

Areas for development identified in the reports make reference to:

- developing further opportunities in the scheme of work to promote literacy and numeracy skills;
- improving the feedback given to pupils especially in the area of setting literacy targets;
- updating and creating new resources for statutory RE to make it more engaging and accessible for pupils (2 schools);
- further developing the integrated curriculum;
- using peer observations to increase consistency of delivery amongst non-specialist teachers;
- developing individual pupil portfolios;
- increasing opportunity for pupil voice to influence provision;
- further developing staff's understanding of levels at key stage 3; and
- creating resources to meet the needs of additional learning needs pupils and more able and talented pupils.

## **APPENDIX 7: CIRCULATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT**

- Members of Merthyr Tydfil SACRE
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Democratic Services
- All Merthyr Tydfil County Borough schools
- Central South Consortium
- Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE)
- The Welsh National Centre for Religious Education
- University of Wales Trinity St David
- Swansea Metropolitan University
- National Library, Aberystwyth
- Welsh Government
- Estyn
- Cytun

## **APPENDIX 8:**

### **Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council**

#### **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

##### **Constitution**

###### **Terms of reference**

1. To advise the LA on matters connected with collective worship in county schools.
2. To advise the LA on matters connected with religious education which is given in accordance with the agreed syllabus.
3. To decide when, within the five year statutory time scale, the LA should review its agreed syllabus.
4. To consider with the LA and the Agreed Syllabus Conference any changes required to the agreed syllabus.
5. To consider with the LA the support offered to religious education in its schools, with particular regard to methods of teaching, the choice of teaching materials and the provision of training for teachers.
6. To offer advice on any other matters related to its function as it sees fit.
7. To publish an annual report on its work, which should:
  - a. specify any matters on which it has advised the LA;
  - b. broadly describe the nature of the advice;
  - c. set out its reasons for offering advice on any matters which were not referred to it in the first place by the LA; and
  - d. record the membership of SACRE and the dates of meetings held.
9. To participate in the LA's statutory complaints procedures in those instances where the complaints relate to religious education and/or collective worship.
10. To receive and make determinations in respect of applications from headteachers of county schools for the lifting or modifying of the requirements that collective worship in such schools must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

## **Composition**

11. The council shall comprise three groups representing:
  - a. Such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the LA, will appropriately reflect the religious traditions in the area.
  - b. Such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the LA, ought to be represented having regard to the circumstances of the area.
  - c. The LA.
12. The Council may also co-opt members.
13. Membership of the Council shall be for a period of four years. Any outgoing members may be re-appointed.
14. Membership of the Council is subject to the condition that the LA has taken all reasonable steps to assure itself that the persons appointed are representative, as the case may be, of the denominations or associations in question.
15. Members representing associations of teachers must include teachers of religious education.
16. Individuals may be removed from the Council if they cease to be representative of the denomination, association or of the Authority they were appointed to represent.
17. Any member of the Council may at any time resign his or her office.

## **Proceedings**

18. The Council shall meet not less than once in each school term.
19. The Council shall elect from its membership a chairperson and vice chairperson at the first meeting in each academic year. The chairperson and vice chairperson in any one year shall not be drawn from the same representative group. An outgoing chairperson may be re-appointed.
20. On any question to be decided by the Council only the representative groups on the Council shall be entitled to vote, and each group shall have a single vote. Before a formal vote is taken opportunity shall be given to each representative group to determine how its vote is to be cast.
21. Co-opted members are not entitled to vote.

22. The agenda for each meeting shall be determined by the chairperson and vice chairperson in consultation with the clerk to SACRE, Director of Education and Professional Officer. Any voting member of SACRE shall be entitled to propose items for an agenda.
23. In the case of any member not being able to attend a Council meeting, a substitute may be nominated by the body which that person represents, provided that the substitute meets the eligibility criteria and the Education Directorate of the LA is notified in advance of the meeting.
24. A meeting of the Council will be deemed to be quorate if at least one member of each of the three representative groups is present.
25. The validity of proceedings of the Council shall not be affected:
  - a. by a vacancy in the office of any member of the Council or
  - b. on the grounds that a member of the Council appointed to represent any denomination or association does not, at the time of the proceedings, represent the denomination or association in question.
25. The representative groups on the Council, other than that representing the Authority, may call, at any time, for a review of the agreed syllabus current in the Authority. At such time an Agreed Syllabus Conference shall be constituted and convened.
26. The Council shall consider its annual report at the first meeting to be held in each academic year. Upon the Council's ratification of the report it shall proceed to publication.
27. The clerk to the SACRE shall arrange for copies of the annual report to be sent to all county schools within the Authority, to DfES, the National Library and to such other individuals and institutions as the LA sees fit.

## MERTHYR COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> 2014

**SUBJECT:** SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012-2015: Progress report

### **A PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform members of the SACRE committee of progress made on issues identified in Merthyr SACRE Development Plan.

### **B BACKGROUND**

It is necessary for Merthyr SACRE committee to discuss the elements of the Development Plan in order to ensure that the business with which they deal is current and future developments are identified.

### **C RECOMMENDATION**

Members of the SACRE are requested to **discuss** and **note** the content of this Development Plan

### **D SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Development Plan for 2012-2015

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Appendix 3: SACRE development plan

**MERTHYR TYDFIL SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012 – 2015 (ACADEMIC YEAR) – REVIEW OF PROGRESS**

**Aim 1: To monitor standards in religious education and religious studies.**

Plan of action	Schedule	People involved	Time and costs	Outcomes	Progress
1.1 Monitor standards through regular review of inspection reports / Estyn thematic reviews/ school self-evaluation reports and recommend, where necessary, action by LA.	Annual agenda item	Full SACRE Adviser	Agenda time Adviser time for analysis	Advice to LA on trends across the county borough; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools; follow up through school visits and review of action plan where necessary.	<b>2012 – 13</b> Considered 5:2:13 <b>2013 – 2014</b> Review of inspection reports considered 11:3:14; Estyn thematic review considered 8:10:13; monitoring of school self-evaluation considered 11:3:14 and 10:6:14.
1.2 Receive information on results of: teacher assessment at end of key stage 3; GCSE religious studies full and short course; A/AS level religious studies.	Autumn/ Spring Term	Full SACRE Adviser	Agenda time Adviser time for analysis	Advice to LA on trends; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools.	<b>2012 – 13</b> KS3 teacher assessment considered 9:10:12 and 5:2:13; examination results considered 5:2:13 and 11:6:13. <b>2013 – 2014</b> Key stage 3 teacher assessment considered 8:10:13; examination results considered 11:3:14.
1.3 Identify INSET needs, monitor and offer advice on training.	Summer Term	Full SACRE	Agenda time	Training programme received along with figures on uptake; advice to LA.	<b>2012 – 13</b> Considered 5:2:13. <b>2013 – 2014</b> WASACRE Conference considered 8:10:13 and 11:3:14

**MERTHYR TYDFIL SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012 – 2015 (ACADEMIC YEAR)**

**Aim 2: To review the agreed syllabus (as appropriate) and support its implementation.**

<b>Plan of action</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>People involved</b>	<b>Time and costs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Progress</b>
2.1 To review the agreed syllabus for religious education	Autumn 2012 onwards (or as appropriate)	Full SACRE Adviser Working group NAPfRE	Advisory time to review the agreed syllabus. Establish a working group (if applicable). Convene a Standing Conference to adopt the syllabus Publication/translation costs (as appropriate)	Agreed syllabus reviewed and adopted by Standing Conference. Agreed Syllabus training programme for schools (if required) Agreed syllabus to be implemented the Autumn term after adoption.	<b>2012 – 13</b> Considered 5:2:13. Standing Conference held on 11:6:13 to readopt current syllabus. <b>2013 – 2014</b> Information received about 'People, beliefs and questions: religious education for 3-7 year olds in Wales' on 8:10:13; update received on national curriculum review 11:2:14; schools informed of the re launch of the RE Quest website 10:6:13.
2.2 Materials to support implementation of the agreed syllabus for religious education	Ongoing	Full SACRE Adviser	Advisory time	Support materials available to schools and accessed through Consortium website.	<b>2012 – 13</b> Inset provided by Central South Consortium for religious education in the Foundation Phase and key stage 2. WASACRE training held for secondary schools on moderating standards at key stage 3. <b>2013 – 2014</b> SACRE members and teachers from local authority attended WASACRE Conference REsourcing National Priorities in Wales

**MERTHYR TYDFIL SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012 – 2015 (ACADEMIC YEAR)**

**Aim 3: To monitor provision and provide support for collective worship.**

<b>Plan of action</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>People involved</b>	<b>Time and costs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Progress</b>
3.1 Monitor provision for collective worship through regular review of inspection reports/ school self evaluation reports; recommend, where necessary, action by LA.	Annual agenda item	Full SACRE and Adviser	Agenda time Adviser time for analysis	Advice to LA on trends across the county borough; advice, where appropriate, on particular schools; follow up through school visits and review of action plan where necessary.	<b>2012 – 13</b> Considered 5:2:13 <b>2013 – 2014</b> Review of inspection reports considered 11:3:14; monitoring of school self-evaluation considered 10:6:14.
3.2 Support the implementation of statutory collective worship	Ongoing	Advisory service	Advisory time	Provision of INSET (if applicable) Schools informed of resources and websites for collective worship. Schools informed of guidance materials available for collective worship.	<b>2013 – 2014</b> Estyn and WASACRE guidance on collective worship sent to all schools autumn term 2013.

**MERTHYR TYDFIL SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012 – 2015 (ACADEMIC YEAR)**

**Aim 4: To ensure a more informed SACRE through providing regular updates on local and national issues related to RE and collective worship in schools.**

<b>Plan of action</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>People involved</b>	<b>Time and costs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Progress</b>
4.1 To update members on the role of SACRE and its implications; recent developments in religious education and collective worship; guidance materials from relevant bodies; input from practising teachers and outside providers	Annually as required	SACRE members, Adviser, practising teachers, outside providers	Member time; Adviser / Officer time	SACRE members fully aware of their responsibilities. SACRE and schools updated and informed of recent developments and initiatives, both local and national.	<p><b>2012 – 13</b> Presentation by Carys Pritchard on the roles and responsibilities of SACRE 10:10:12. KS3 securing teacher assessment chief moderator's report for 2012 discussed 10:10:12. SACREs and the Local Community survey discussed 10:10:12. Presentation on the House of Religions by Julie Symes, Head of RE at Afon Taf High 5:2:13.</p> <p><b>2013 – 2014</b> Presentation on religious studies at Merthyr Tydfil College by Lynda Maddock 10:6:14; information received about REQM 11:3:14.</p> <p><b>2012 – 13</b> Visit to the House of Religions at Afon Taf High 5:2:13.</p>
4.2 Programme of school visits.	Annually as required	SACRE members, Adviser/ Officers	Member time; Officer time to arrange visits	More informed SACRE on provision and practice regarding religious education and collective worship in schools.	

## **MERTHYR COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**DATE: NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> 2014**

**SUBJECT MERTHYR SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORTS 2013/14**

### **SACRE Synopsis: Main findings**

During the academic year Autumn 2013 - Summer 2014, seven Merthyr schools were inspected.

- Five primary schools
- Two secondary schools

#### **Spiritual Development**

Comments in relation to spiritual development are evident in all seven inspection reports.

#### **Collective Worship**

##### **Meeting statutory requirements**

The Estyn Common Inspection Framework notes that inspectors should only report on instances where the school does **not** comply with statutory requirements. We can therefore assume – as Estyn has not noted any other instances of non-compliance - that all other schools inspected meet statutory requirements in relation to collective worship.

##### **Quality**

Four reports made comment on the quality of collective worship

##### **Good features (Primary and Secondary)**

- Good opportunities for prayer and reflection are provided
- They participate willingly in assemblies and are interested
- Assemblies.... provide useful opportunities for reflection and help to promote pupils' spiritual development well.

##### **Shortcomings**

None

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

For SACRE to discuss and consider the report

**Merthyr Primary School Inspection Reports for Academic Year 2013/14: SACRE Synopsis**

School	Spiritual Development	CW: meeting legal requirements	CW: quality	Other comments / issues
<p>Goetre primary school</p> <p>December 2013</p>	<p>The curriculum and other activities provided ensure that pupils gain an appropriate awareness of spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No Comment</p>	<p>Current performance: Adequate Prospects for improvement: Adequate</p> <p>Members of staff plan many successful intervention programmes to develop pupils' literacy and numeracy skills that meet the particular and often complex needs of the school's pupils well. This is a strong feature of the school's work. However, carrying out such a wide range of interventions limits the time allocated to covering other aspects of the statutory curriculum in the Foundation phase and at key stage 2.</p> <p>The curriculum provides few opportunities for pupils to learn about sustainability and global citizenship.</p> <p>Members of staff plan a suitable range of extra-curricular activities and special events.</p>

School	Spiritual Development	CW: meeting legal requirements	CW: quality	Other comments / issues
St Mary's RC Primary School October 2013	It supports pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development successfully, <b>particularly through religious education.</b>	Yes	No comment	Current performance: Adequate Prospects for improvement: Adequate Overall, the school provides a broad and balanced curriculum for pupils. The school values the diversity of pupils' backgrounds. Through the school's topics on environmental issues, pupils show a good understanding of the importance of caring for the world around them. The school provides few opportunities for pupils to develop a good understanding of the wider world. The school has purposeful links with both the local community and the parish. Many pupils benefit from opportunities to take part in local events such as attending mass at St Mary's Church. Pupils have good links with the local area such as singing at community events and raising money for local charities.
Gellifaelog Primary March 2014	Good opportunities for prayer and reflection are provided in school and daily class assemblies. Moral and spiritual learning is also reinforced well in lessons and through visits from members of faith communities.	Yes	Good opportunities for prayer and reflection are provided	Current performance: Good Prospects for improvement: Good The school's curriculum is effectively organised and meets statutory requirements. Understanding of global citizenship is developed successfully through lessons about other continents. Pupils throughout the school participate in beneficial fund raising activities relating to the needs of those in other countries.

School	Spiritual Development	CW: meeting legal requirements	CW: quality	Other comments / issues
Abercanaid Community School  July 2014	The provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good.	Yes	No comment	Current performance: Good Prospects for improvement: Good The requirements of the Foundation Phase and the National Curriculum, as well as the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework are met. The school has a calm, inclusive and caring ethos. It promotes tolerant attitudes. Pupils learn about the lives of people in other countries and from different cultures. However, their awareness of their role as global citizens is limited and the school does not have any links with schools abroad. The school has appropriate links with the local community. For example, pupils sing at the parish church and a local business supports pupils' charity fundraising events.
Pantysgallog Primary  July 2014	Staff and visitors to the school use assemblies and occasions well to encourage pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness.	Yes	They participate willingly in assemblies, follow the content with interest and sing with enthusiasm. . Pupils have frequent opportunities to reflect on their decisions	Current performance: Adequate Prospects for improvement: Good The school is a caring community. The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum that meets statutory requirements. Education for sustainable development and global citizenship has a high profile in the school.... and develop an understanding of the role they and others play in society and in the world.



**Merthyr Secondary School Inspection Reports for Academic Year 2013/14: SACRE Synopsis**

School	Spiritual Development	CW: meeting legal requirements	CW: quality	Other comments / issues
Bishop Hedley RC High School  November 2013	A range of learning experiences promotes pupils' moral, social and cultural development effectively. Assemblies, tutorial sessions and chaplaincy support provide useful opportunities for reflection and help to promote pupils' spiritual development well.	Yes	Assemblies.... provide useful opportunities for reflection and help to promote pupils' spiritual development well.	Current performance: Adequate Prospects for improvement: Adequate The school has a very caring, Christian and inclusive ethos. It applies the principles of equality very well. Pupils show respect for diversity and the school is active in promoting racial equality... and tackling racial discrimination. The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum, which meets the needs and aspirations of the full range of pupils. The school develops pupils' awareness of sustainability and global citizenship well.
Afon Taf High School  March 2014	The school's personal development programme promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well. It also includes the opportunity to discuss and reflect on life's fundamental questions through the school 'thought for the day' theme, which is coordinated with assemblies.	Yes The school meets the requirement for a daily act of collective worship	Includes the opportunity to discuss and reflect on life's fundamental questions through the school 'thought for the day' theme/ assemblies	Current performance: Adequate Prospects for improvement: Adequate The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum, which meets statutory requirements. There are suitable arrangements for developing pupils' understanding of global citizenship. Many pupils are actively involved in school life such as ... collecting harvest parcels for the elderly. They are also regularly involved in raising funds for charities, which includes supporting the school's link school in Ghana.

\* Estyn monitoring

**Heol Gerrig**

Estyn conducted a monitoring visit to the school in **November 2013** as a follow up to its inspection in July 2011 and as the school has made sufficient progress has been removed from the list of schools requiring special measures.

**Recommendation 3: Improve curriculum planning to ensure coverage of the National Curriculum and religious education**

This recommendation has been fully addressed. Teachers' planning ensures that there is appropriate coverage of the National Curriculum and religious education at key stage 2. There are detailed schemes of work in place that cover the full range of learning experiences across all subjects.



**Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru,  
Powys (Siambwr y Cyngor, Neuadd y Sir,  
Llandrindod Wells), 2 July 2014 (10.30am –  
3pm)**

*Wales Association of SACREs meeting, Powys  
(Council Chamber, County Hall, Llandrindod  
Wells), 2 July 2014 (10.30am – 3pm)*

<p><b>Ynys Môn / Anglesey</b> Bethan James Rheinallt Thomas</p> <p><b>Blaenau Gwent</b> Gill Vaisey</p> <p><b>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend</b></p> <p><b>Caerffili/ Caerphilly</b> Cllr John Taylor Vicky Thomas Ruth Gray Cllr Michael Gray</p> <p><b>Caerdydd / Cardiff</b></p> <p><b>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire</b> Mary Parry Helen Gibbon Gwyneth Thomas</p> <p><b>Ceredigion</b></p> <p><b>Conwy</b> Phil Lord</p>	<p><b>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire</b> Phil Lord Gavin Craigen</p> <p><b>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire</b> Phil Lord</p> <p><b>Gwynedd</b> Bethan James Miriam Amlyn</p> <p><b>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil</b> Cllr Ernie Galsworthy</p> <p><b>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire</b> Gill Vaisey</p> <p><b>Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot</b></p> <p><b>Casnewydd / Newport</b> Vicky Thomas Huw Stephens Sally Northcott</p> <p><b>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire</b> Huw George</p> <p><b>Powys</b> John Mitson Christine Robinson</p>	<p><b>Rhondda Cynon Taf</b></p> <p><b>Abertawe / Swansea</b> Vicky Thomas</p> <p><b>Torfaen</b> Vicky Thomas</p> <p><b>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan</b> Dafydd Treharne</p> <p><b>Wrecsam / Wrexham</b> Libby Jones</p> <p><b>Sylwedyddion / Observers</b> Tudor Thomas (WJEC)</p>
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1. **Cyflwyniad a chroeso / Introduction and welcome**

Cllr Roche Davies gave members a warm welcome to Powys and said how delighted he was that the meeting was being held within his term of office. He emphasised how RE is a unique subject as it is locally determined and that he was pleased to say it is a popular subject in Powys schools, including at GCSE level. Cllr Roche gave his best wishes to members for the main meeting and the AGM this afternoon.

Vice Chair, Gavin Craigen chaired the meeting and thanked Cllr Davies for his words and for hosting the event.

2. **Adfyfrio tawel / Quiet reflection**

Gavin Craigen asked members to reflect on their role in ensuring quality religious education that is effective, and how vital RE is today in a time when so much violent extremism takes place.

3. **Ymddiheuriadau / Apologies**

Tania ap Sion, Jen Malcolm, Edward Evans, Sue Cave, Carys Pritchard, Ernie Glasworthy, Meinir Loader, Cllr Michael Williams, Wyn Meredith, Dave Mackie, Nicholas Richter, Tim Rowlands. (Mark Durbin)

4. **Cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd yng Nghaerffili, 27 Mawrth 2014 / Minutes of meeting held in Caerphilly, 27 March 2014**

P4. Item 6. A discussion regarding the new RENews website arrangements took place and questions were raised as to how the website will be publicised. It was confirmed that there will be no password from September and therefore anyone can access the website from then on. A link from the WASACRE website to the RENews website was suggested and well received by members. P6. Item 9. Phil Lord confirmed that flyers for REQM are ready and have been sent to SACREs. Phil is putting together a letter to explain how the quality mark can be used and encouraged other SACREs to do the same. Vicky Thomas and Gill Vaisey have already done this in the SACREs they service and Vicky highlighted the usefulness of the REQM as a self-evaluation tool for teachers even if they do not go for the mark and the importance of the information reaching the right person in school. Gavin Craigen pointed out how helpful feedback from schools would be about how useful the REQM is and how they have used it. This could then be shared with all SACREs for circulation to their schools. P7. Item 10. Libby Jones corrected the spelling of OFQUAL in the minutes.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. This was proposed by Phil Lord and seconded by Michael Gray.

5. **Diweddariadau/Up-dates:**

(a) **Cyngor AG yng Nghaerdydd / RE Council AGM in Cardiff**

In his feedback Gavin Craigen described the welcome speech given by the Minister for Education and Skills, Huw Lewis as being positively received by members of the RE Council (A copy of the speech was included in the WASACRE papers). The speech sent a positive message about Religious Education in Wales and as this was the Minister's first speech that included

anything about RE it was very encouraging. The Minister ended his speech by inviting a response from the RE Council to the current curriculum review in Wales. The REC agreed to liaise with WASACRE before sending a response to Welsh Government. Following that meeting a request was sent by WASACRE to the Minister's office asking to be part of that review. The request was granted and representatives from the WASACRE Executive committee were invited to a meeting on Friday, 20 June 2014, with Professor Graham Donaldson who is leading the review. Other key messages from the REC AGM included the ongoing issue about representation on the board for Wales. Currently the representatives are Tania ap Sion and Gavin Craigen, the REC are looking in to the possibility of securing a more flexible representation in future. WASACRE is in correspondence with the REC to ensure that a fair and effective representation for Wales is secured. Rheinallt Thomas told members that at the recent Free Church Council meeting members were motivated and encouraged by Huw Lewis' speech and as a result a letter was sent to encourage all Free Church members to write to Welsh Government to request better support for SACREs and to emphasise the need for RE advisors, pointing out that the principles in the Minister's speech are in danger of being lost owing to consortia changes. Rheinallt confirmed that many letters have gone from the Free Church Council. Vicky Thomas added that teachers have been encouraged by his comments, but Welsh Government needs to be reminded of them. High quality religious education only happens with good training, appropriate CPD and support provided by Local Authorities. A copy of the Minister's speech will be kept on file to be used at appropriate times. Gavin Craigen concluded the discussion by confirming that the letter of response from the Minister had answered WASACRE's request to meet with the minister annually, as we did with Leighton Andrews. The letter stated that Huw Lewis would like to give consideration to reinstalling that meeting after the review. Members agreed that WASACRE need to keep an eye on this situation and make sure it happens.

(b) *Adolygiad Donaldson / Donaldson Review*

Libby Jones gave a brief outline of the on-going Welsh Government curriculum review and WASACREs place within it, from the meeting in Dolgellau on 12 June at which the questionnaire was completed, to the meeting on 20 June involving representatives from the WASACRE Executive, (Tania ap Sion, Libby Jones, Mary Parry, Vicky Thomas, Professor Leslie Francis) and Professor Donaldson. Members were assured that the meeting was positive and the main points raised at the meeting with Professor Donaldson were shared. 1. The historical context of religious education and SACREs within Welsh education. 2. The current situation in Wales. 3. The importance of religious education and its contribution to the education of our young people, the three national priorities and community cohesion. 4. The importance of training for teachers, including Initial Teacher Training in religious education. Professor Donaldson raised the issue of negative comments about RE coming from some pupils that he had met with as part of the review. WASACRE representatives at the meeting agreed to send him a list of schools where he can find best practice in RE. Vicky Thomas, who attended the meeting, said that it was made very clear that a review of the curriculum would have implications for RE and the National Framework for RE. She felt that Professor Donaldson had received that message loud and clear and that any changes to the curriculum would need to be considered for RE. Bethan James

thanked those who attended both the meeting in Dolgellau and Cardiff and reiterated the importance of finding those schools that can provide rich examples of good practice in RE and urged members to look for such examples and ask their own SACREs to do the same.

(c) *EFTRE / EFTRE*

Phil Lord confirmed that the EFTRE report has been shared with the Executive committee. The main points from the report were as follows: The importance of the commitment of EFTRE members; the possible funding of some of the further Eastern European countries where there is commitment to RE and EFTRE but lack of money; the wealth of experience on the board and a commitment to make the board more visible. Phil urged members to look at the website for further information and explained that he has been asked to put something together to reflect the situation in Wales, which will be available on the website in the future. A newsletter will also be created including views of pupils and teachers in Wales. Gavin Craigen said that it is very important to have this representation and thanked Phil and WASACRE for the support. Phil concluded his report by saying that Wales was not mentioned in their gift to EFTRE as other countries were in the meeting, however it was confirmed in the Executive meeting by John Mitson that the £90.00 subscription for 2013 went to EFTRE from WASACRE. Rheinallt Thomas reminded members that there used to be a fund set up to support Eastern European countries which was based in Switzerland- The Walter Stenhouse Trust, and suggested that we need to look in to this.

(d) *Hyfforddiant CCYSAGauC / WASACRE training*

Bethan referred back to the conference in October 2013 and Gavin's KS3 training, both of which she felt established a good way to fill the gap in providing training for RE teachers no longer offered by local authorities and consortia. A paper has been created by NAPfRE outlining possible training ideas.

**6. Cyflwyniad NAPfRE: CYSAGau a'r trefniadau Consortia**

***NAPfRE presentation: SACREs and current Consortia arrangements***

Members were shown a PowerPoint which was presented by Mary, Gill, Bethan, Libby, Vicky and Phil. They described and explained the new arrangements for each consortia and how SACREs are supported now in each local authority as a result of the changes. Following the presentation Rheinallt Thomas asked whether SACREs monitor the training in colleges in their area because they should be doing so. That dialogue needs to be happening and can be facilitated through Rachel Bendall at Trinity college/Swansea. Vicky Thomas raised the issue of how SACREs can continue supporting local authorities in religious education and the current challenges SACREs face including personnel e.g. what happens when the current consultants are gone and the system leaders like Carys have the responsibility for SACRE taken away from them? The message from this suggested that SACREs need to be more proactive and less reliant on the LA/Consortia rep or consultant servicing their SACRE. An issue was raised by the Baptist representative for Powys SACRE that Faith groups don't know about SACREs and SACREs don't know about them. This needs to be addressed.

An activity followed this presentation which involved members working in groups to discuss the following questions:

1. How can members contribute to the work of SACREs?
2. How can we ensure regular attendance from the 3 groups and co-opted members?
3. How could you persuade people to become a SACRE member?
4. How can we monitor Religious Education and collective worship?
5. How can we support schools to deliver good RE and CW
6. How can we ensure that local authorities support the function of SACREs sufficient money/funding?

Some of the feedback from these questions included: Each representative on any SACRE should have in place a deputy who attends in their place when they are unable to attend themselves; SACREs need to be proactive in contacting faith groups and organisations by inviting them to send a representative of their choice to SACRE meetings. This can be done by writing letters to schools and local faith groups, actively encouraging their support. With regard to teacher representatives once a teacher has been selected for a SACRE the teaching union should be asked if they are happy for that person to represent their union on SACRE; Some SACREs including Powys offer members the opportunity to observe collective worship and visit schools on a regular basis to help the monitoring process.

Phil Lord encouraged members to take this activity back to their SACRE and to discuss the answers to these questions with careful consideration.

**7. Adroddiad ar gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith a gynhaliwyd ar 14 Mai 2014**  
***/Report from the Executive Committee held on 14 May 2014***

The date for the next Executive meeting is 26 September 2014 not 25 September 2014.

The report was amended by Libby Jones and was accepted as an accurate record.

**8. Gohebiaeth /Correspondence**

All covered within previous items or with the executive committee.

**9. Enwebiadau ar gyfer y Pwyllgor Gwaith / Nominations for Executive Committee**

Gavin Craigen reminded members that they are required to vote for two new members to the Executive committee and voting commenced.

**10. U.F.A. / A.O.B.**

**11. Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf / Date for next meeting: 26 November 2014, Pontypool.**

**Dyddiadau cyfarfodydd yn y dyfodol / Future meeting dates:**

Spring meeting- Neath Port Talbot, 6 March 2015

Summer meeting- Flintshire 25 June, 2015

Autumn meeting- Blaenau Gwent, 25 November 2015

## ***Annual General Meeting***

1. Cofnodion Cyfarfod Blynyddol a gynhaliwyd yng Nghaernarfon ar 19 Mehefin 2013  
*Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Caernarfon, 19 June 2013*

The title in Welsh at the top of the minutes needs to be amended. On page 3 of the minutes under Accounts, the figure of £418.00 should be changed to £417.00 to reflect the appropriate annual subscription per SACRE for membership of WASACRE during 2013/2014. With the appropriate changes members agreed that the minutes are an accurate record of meeting.

2. **Materion yn Codi / Matters Arising**

None.

3. **Adroddiad CCYSAGauC am 2013-2014/WASACRE Report for 2013-2014**

Gavin Craigen read through the report noting the key events for the year which included the National WASACRE Conference in October 2013, which addressed Welsh Government national priorities. Gavin explained that training is on our agenda today and is a very important issue, he also highlighted REQM, the Estyn Thematic review and the recent meeting with Professor Donaldson as part of the call for evidence for the Welsh Government Curriculum Review which had already been discussed. One amendment was made to the report under item 6. Accounts- the figure of £418.00 was changed to £417.00 to reflect the appropriate annual subscription per SACRE for membership of WASACRE during 2013/2014. Chair, Gavin Craigen asked members to accept the report and all agreed. Libby Jones assured members that a bilingual copy of the WASACRE Annual report for 2013- 2014 would be circulated to members in September 2014 for them to share with their SACREs accordingly.

4. **Adroddiad y Trysorydd /Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer John Mitson presented the report and pointed out that the main source of income for the Association is from subscriptions. To date all subscriptions have now been received from the SACREs which is encouraging. In the future the intention is to link officers/advisors into the request going to local authorities so that they also know it has arrived. There have been two significant events in the last two years that account for the rise in expenditure. The National WASACRE Conference, which cost in the region of £4000 and the KS3 training from the previous year, both of which were really valuable. This spending is good and worthwhile. Other expenditure includes maintenance of the WASACRE website, Secretary's honorarium, meeting expenses which have gone up to £2000, visitor's and presenter's travel expenses, EFTRE and RENews subscriptions (although the RENews subscription is not expected to continue next year owing to the new arrangements), translation services and subscription to the RE Council for England and Wales, for which two were paid within the same year for different years. No payment has been requested from the Interfaith Network.

The Treasurer asked members to note that, during the year, expenditure exceeded income by £2831.80. However, at the end of the financial year, three subscriptions had not been received and, if they had been paid at that point, this would have reduced the overspend in year by £1251.00, leaving an overspend in year of £1580.80. This is the second year when expenditure has exceeded income while in the previous three years there have been substantial underspends. The last occasion, prior to last year when there was a substantial overspend in year was 2008/2009 and members will recall that, in that financial year, WASACRE met the majority of the costs of the National Post 16 Conference. The



financial year commenced with a balance of £17343.57 and ended with a balance of £14511.77. The finances of WASACRE, therefore, remain in a healthy condition, although they represent a reduction on the position at the end of 2012/2013 by £2831.80. WASACRE is, therefore, in a strong position to fund its planned activities.

It was recommended that subscriptions for the current financial year should rise by 1%, which raises subscriptions from £417.00 per SACRE to £422.00 per SACRE and all members present agreed to maintain the expenses amounts. John Mitson asked for the accounts to be accepted. Members accepted the accounts and the Chair thanked John Mitson for a clear and succinct report and for his work throughout the year.

Libby Jones assured members that a bilingual copy of the WASACRE Financial report 2013-2014 would be circulated to members in September 2014 for them to share with their SACREs accordingly.

**5. Ethol aelodau i'r Pwyllgor Gwaith / Election of members to the Executive**

Chair, Gavin Craigen announced that Vicky Thomas and Gill Vaisey are the newly elected members of the Executive. Gavin congratulated them both and welcomed them to the executive committee. Thanks were also given to the other members who had been being willing to stand in this year's election and for their continued support for WASACRE.

Cllr Michael Gray raised the issue of poor attendance to this meeting and others. Members agreed that to help raise attendance in future meetings Libby Jones would write to SACREs to give them the dates of the meetings for the year ahead and to suggest that if their usual representative cannot attend for them to send a replacement.

**6. U.F.A. / A.O.B**

There was no other business

**7. Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf / Date of next meeting**

25 June 2014 in Mold, Flintshire

Chair, Gavin Craigen thanked the following people for their assistance in making this year's AGM a success:

Cllr Roche Davies, John Mitson, Powys SACRE, Powys County Council, our translator, Mary Steele, Tudor Thomas (WJEC) for doing the telling (& Mary Steele)

## **WASACRE List of Executive Members 2014**

Tania ap Sion- Wrexham (Chair)

Gavin Craigen- Denbighshire (Vice Chair)

Edward Evans- Bridgend (Past Chair)

Bethan James- NAPfRE

Libby Jones- Wrexham (Secretary)

Philip Lord- Flintshire

John Mitson- Powys (Treasurer)

Mary Parry- Carmarthenshire

Tim Rowlands- Conwy

Rheinallt Thomas- Anglesey

Vicky Thomas- Torfaen

Gill Vaisey- Monmouthshire

## MERTHYR COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> 2014

**SUBJECT:** HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2015

**PURPOSE:** TO INFORM THE SACRE OF HMD 2015

### **BACKGROUND**

Holocaust Memorial Day is an annual event that takes place on January 27<sup>th</sup> and was established in the UK in 2000. The first HMD was held in January 2001. January 27<sup>th</sup> marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz- Birkenhau concentration camp by soviet troops in 1945. Holocaust Memorial Day seeks to change the future by learning from and remembering the past. Schools are encouraged to participate in Holocaust Memorial Day in order to remember the victims of the Holocaust and more recent genocides. It provides a framework to explore issues of morality, human reactions, individual experiences, responsibilities and larger questions of the role of governments and democracies. The government, including the Welsh Government, encourages schools and LAs to commemorate this event in some way.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust produces materials specific to the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day. ***The theme for 2015 is 'Keep the memory alive'*** by exploring and sharing the powerful stories of survivors in a year that marks two important anniversaries – the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia..

The theme will enable survivors to be at the heart of HMD, sharing their life stories and memories of their experiences of life before the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, as well as opening up the memories of the atrocities and memories of the aftermath as people rebuilt their lives. This theme will encourage us to learn from survivors whilst they are still with us and to consider our responsibilities for using and transmitting those memories.

The theme also challenges us to consider the relationship between history and memory. Memories can be 'inaccurate' when set against historical facts, they are coloured by subjectivities of perceptions at the time, emotions after the events, or simply the passage of time. Historical 'facts' too may not always be easily established. Both are heard and learnt with subjective influences, yet both contribute to our understanding. This theme prompts us to enquire about the nature of memorialisation itself. What does it mean to memorialise the past, and how should we do it?

### **Memories of survivors and other witnesses**

Preserving memories, keeping diaries and passing on memories all represent forms of resistance and ways of preserving the identity of both survivors and those who were murdered. Survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust or subsequent genocides have memories which are first-hand, personal testimonies that can educate us and inform our commemorations. They can share the memories of their lives before genocide, their experiences during it and the process of rebuilding their lives afterwards.

Further information about the theme and free educational resources containing material suitable for primary to post 16 students is available online at <http://education.hmd.org.uk>

### **RECOMMENDATION**

To circulate to schools the information on HMD and reference the website for appropriate resources [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk)

## MERTHYR COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**DATE: NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> 2014**

**SUBJECT: RE NEWS WEBSITE**

The Welsh National Centre for RE had previously administered the RE website

<http://www.religious-education-wales.org>

RE News was supported by donations from Local Authorities, Bangor University and the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. However, from **September 1<sup>st</sup> 2014** the website will be funded by the two universities and it is no longer necessary for LAs to financially support the website.

The website will now be available free of charge to anyone who wishes to use it.

It is suitable for both primary and secondary schools and is fully bi-lingual.

SACRE has been asked to ensure that all members of SACRE and teachers in the LA are aware of this exciting new development.

Schools and SACREs are asked to continue to support the website by contributing articles, both large and small, about what is going on in the RE world in Wales and beyond.

**Rachel Bendall**, RE tutor of the PGCE Secondary Course at Swansea Metropolitan/ Trinity St David University will now take responsibility for the website by her email address [rachel.bendall@sm.uwtsd.ac.uk](mailto:rachel.bendall@sm.uwtsd.ac.uk)

All articles to be submitted to **Sali Roberts**, editor at [Sali@patshyn.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:Sali@patshyn.fsnet.co.uk)

The last day of the month is the deadline for articles/ pictures/ reviews/ examples of good practice and if possible to be sent bilingually. (Bangor University can translate but this will result in a delay in the article reaching the website)

## **RECOMMENDATION**

For SACRE to inform all schools of the website and encourage schools to submit articles.

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