



**Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru,  
Powys (Siambr 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