



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# SACRE MEETING

**TUESDAY, 1ST NOVEMBER, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Councillor E Galsworthy (In the Chair)

Councillor G Lewis

Professional Associations:

A Jones, S Bernard Henderson, L McCarthy, J Jones and  
M Carrington

Faith Communities:

A Pitt and D O'Keefe

LA Representatives:

V Thomas and S Bowen

Karen Vokes (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
579	Election of Chairperson	<b>RESOLVED that:</b> Councillor Ernie Galsworthy was formally re-elected as Chair.
580	Election of Vice Chairperson	<b>RESOLVED that:</b> Councillor Kate Moran was formally re-elected as Vice Chairman.

### **Councillor Ernie Galsworthy took the Chair**

581	Presentation on Religious Education at Afon Taf High School	Amanda Jones made a presentation to members in relation to the teaching of religious education at Afon Taf High School, and outlined the following in detail:
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background of the School's Religious Education lessons.</li> <li>• Assessment Tasks.</li> <li>• GCSE Short Course/Full Course.</li> <li>• Religious Studies at ATHS.</li> <li>• Experiential Learning to enable pupils to re-enact puja, Eucharist, baptisms, coming of age ceremonies and weddings.</li> <li>• Religion Neutral Exercise.</li> <li>• Rewarding Excellence at the School.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked Amanda Jones for her very informative presentation.</p>
582	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence received from Councillor Kate Moran, Helen Price, Lucy Draper and Ann Star.
583	Declaration of Interests	No declarations of interest were made.
584	Minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2016 (including Schedule of Meetings 2016/17)	<p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016 were submitted and approved.</p>
585	Matters Arising	<p>Vicky Thomas advised that an article has now been publicised on RE News in relation to Justine Jones' presentation at March's meeting on the use of thinking skills in RE.</p> <p>Vicky Thomas also advised the Committee that she will update members at a future meeting on the response from Mark Campion in relation to the recent outcome of the Estyn Inspection for Twynyrodyn Community School.</p>
586	Membership Update	<p>Vicky Thomas gave an update on membership of the Committee.</p> <p>Sarah Bowen advised that she will now be the representative from the Local Authority on SACRE.</p>
587	SACRE Annual Report	<p>Vicky Thomas referred to the SACRE's Annual Report for 2015/16 and led the Committee through the Executive Summary and responded to questions raised.</p> <p>Vicky Thomas then led Members through the 2015-18 SACRE Development Plan and advised of progress made on issues identified within the plan.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following amendments identified within the Annual Report and Development Plan, the report be approved. Vicky Thomas to make amendments and send back to Karen Vokes.</li> <li>• The Annual Report be circulated to the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) together with the organisations listed in Appendix 6 of the report by the 30<sup>th</sup> December 2016.</li> <li>• Members note the progress made with the Development Plan.</li> </ul>
588	SACRE Development Plan 2015 - 2018: Progress Report (see Annual Report)	The SACRE Development Plan for 2015-18 was discussed as part of the previous item.
589	Inspection Report Analysis Autumn 2015 - Summer 2016	<p>Vicky Thomas referred to the School Inspection Reports in relation to the 3 primary schools, namely YGG Santes Tydfil, YGG Coed Dderwen, Cyfarthfa Park Primary and 2 secondary schools, namely Cyfarthfa and Penydre High Schools.</p> <p>She led Committee through the outcomes of the inspections.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>Members note the contents of the inspection reports.</p>
590	RE and the National Curriculum: Update	<p>Vicky Thomas updated members in relation to the Welsh Government meeting with WASACRE Officers on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016, the Policy Forum for Wales Keynote Seminar and NAPfRE Guidance.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SACRE notes the developments relating to the position of RE in the curriculum.</li> <li>• Sarah Bowen to update members as and when required.</li> </ul>
591	GCSE Religious Studies: Update	<p>Vicky Thomas advised that the A/AS level specifications have been approved and are in place for first teaching from September 2016. The GCSE specifications, however, were delayed and deferred by Qualifications Wales until first teaching in 2017.</p> <p>Discussion ensued it was <b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SACRE note the developments relating to the revised specifications for GCSE.</li> </ul>
592	Inclusive SACRE's Award	Discussion ensued whether this SACRE would apply for the 2017 Accord Inclusivity Award, which is seeking to reward

		<p>those SACRE's who boost the growth of inclusion, cohesion and mutual understanding between those of different religions and beliefs.</p> <p>Vicky Thomas advised that the correspondence received is very informative but, on this occasion, it was <b>RESOLVED that</b> the Committee will not be progressing this.</p>
593	WASACRE	<p><u>Minutes of the WASACRE Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vicky Thomas led Committee in detail through the Minutes of the WASACRE meeting at Rhyl, Denbighshire on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 and updated members in relation to managing the right of withdrawal from Religious Education and results of the Welsh Bacculaureate and RE survey.</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b> Vicky Thomas draft a letter for Sarah Bowen to remind Schools on fulfilling statutory requirements of teaching RE for key stage 4.</p> <p><u>WASACRE meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion ensued in relation to the next WASACRE meeting in Carmarthenshire on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016, and it was agreed that members contact Karen Vokes to confirm if they are able to attend so that this can be confirmed with Libby Jones at WASACRE.</li> </ul> <p><u>Date of Spring WASACRE Meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vicky Thomas advised that the Spring WASACRE meeting has now been confirmed at Monmouthshire for the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017.</li> </ul>
594	Holocaust Memorial Day 2017	<p>Vicky Thomas referred the Committee to the report.</p> <p>She advised that Holocaust Memorial Day is an annual event that takes place on the 27<sup>th</sup> January which marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.</p> <p>She advised that Schools are encouraged to participate in the Holocaust Memorial Day and outlined some events that will take place throughout the Borough.</p> <p>Secondary teachers referred to the use of live streaming from the Holocaust Educational Trust website for those teachers who wished to avail themselves of this facility.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vicky Thomas to draft letter to all Schools.</li> </ul>
595	Correspondence	No correspondence was discussed.

596	Any other business as deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.
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