



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SACRE MEETING

TUESDAY, 24TH OCTOBER, 2017

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

Councillors D Hughes, I Thomas and C Davies

Professional Associations:

J Jones and L Draper

Faith Communities:

D O'Keefe, A Star and Rev. M Prevett

Rev. C Ruston attended with Rev. M Prevett as an observer

LA Representatives:

P Webber and S Bowen

Karen Vokes (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
342	Welcome	Councillor Ernie Galsworthy welcomed Paula Webber to her first meeting of Merthyr Tydfil SACRE and everyone introduced themselves.
343	Re-affirm appointment of Chair	RESOLVED that: Councillor Ernie Galsworthy be re-affirmed as Chair of the SACRE Committee.
344	Re-affirm appointment of Vice Chair	RESOLVED that: Councillor David Hughes be re-affirmed as Vice Chair of the SACRE Committee.

345	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence received from Amanda Jones, Sian Bernard Henderson, Lee-anne McCarthy, Helen Price, Mark Carrington and Andy Pitt.
346	Declaration of Interests	No declarations of interest were made.
347	Minutes of the last meeting (including Schedule of Meetings 2017-18)	RESOLVED that: The minutes of the meeting held on 4 th July 2017 were recorded as an accurate record.
348	Matters Arising	In relation to the appointments on the Executive Committee, Paula Webber advised members that Alison Lewis and Tania ap Sion have been appointed to the membership and Gill Vaisey has been appointed as Vice Chair. The following schedule of meetings were agreed by the Committee: Thursday, 1 st March 2018 - 3.45 pm - Afon Taf High School (to be confirmed) Thursday, 14 th June 2018 - 3.45 pm - Civic Centre RESOLVED that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Vokes will contact Amanda Jones to enquire if March's meeting can be held at Afon Taf High School. • Karen Vokes to confirm with members when this has been confirmed.
349	Membership Update (See Annual Report)	Members were made aware that there has been no further additions to the membership of Merthyr Tydfil SACRE.
350	SACRE Annual Report 2016-17	Paula Webber referred to the SACRE's Annual Report for 2016/17 and led the Committee through the Executive Summary and the Development Plan for 2015 - 2018. RESOLVED that: Karen Vokes to circulate the Annual Report to Welsh Government together with the organisations listed in Appendix 6 of the report.
351	SACRE Development Plan 2015-2018: Progress Report (Annual Report attached)	The SACRE Development Plan for 2015 - 2018 was discussed as part of the previous item.
352	Inspection Report Analysis: Autumn 2016 - Summer 2017	Paula Webber referred to the School Inspection Reports in relation to Dowlais Primary School, Greenfield Special School and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhyd Y Grug. She also referred to the Estyn Monitoring Visits to Afon Taf High School, Cyfarthfa High School, Goetre Primary School and Penydre High School.

		<p>She led Committee through the outcomes of the inspections.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members note the contents of the inspection reports. • Paula Webber to draft letter to the Schools inspected congratulating them on their recent inspection and to request self evaluation documents for Religious Education. • Karen Vokes will forward these letters to the Schools when available.
353	RE and the National Curriculum Update: Welsh Government Newsletter	<p>Paula Webber referred members to the meetings with Welsh Government and WASACRE officers in relation to the National Curriculum update and advised that it was positive that WASACRE was able to work together with Welsh Government in order to develop a curriculum that works for RE.</p> <p>Discussion ensued in relation to development of the new curriculum for Wales and SACRE's comments in relation to the Humanities AoLE.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paula Webber to write to Welsh Government highlighting the thoughts and concerns of SACRE with regard to the Humanities AoLE in the new curriculum. • Members to e-mail Karen Vokes/Paula Webber if they have any additional comments to be highlighted in this letter.
354	GCSE Religious Studies: Update	<p>Paula Webber gave members an update on progress of the GCSE specification together with the role of the lead practitioners to provide support and consistency across the region for Schools delivering the new GCSE specification. The large workload expected on teachers was also recognised and the resources that are required to help support teachers during this process.</p> <p>Discussion ensued on the commitment of undertaking continuing professional development (CPD) which demonstrates the improvement of relevant knowledge and skills in subject area and teaching or training.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>Members will be updated on any developments.</p>
355	Estyn Thematic Review of RE: Update	<p>Paula Webber advised the Committee in relation to Estyn's Thematic Review of RE and that the Schools involved with this review have already been notified.</p>

		<p>She circulated to members a copy of Estyn's Questionnaire to Chairpersons of SACRE's. She apologised to members on the delay in distributing this questionnaire as the deadline for return is this Friday, the 27th October. The Committee discussed the questions contained within the questionnaire and it was RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paula Webber complete the questionnaire, taking into account members' comments/suggestions, and forward to Karen Vokes before Friday.
356	WASACRE:	<p><u>AGM at Wrexham on 7th July 2017</u></p> <p>Minutes of the AGM Meeting in Wrexham on the 7th July 2017 were noted by members.</p> <p><u>WASACRE Meeting - Friday, 10th November 2017 at Bridgend</u></p> <p>Discussion ensued in relation to the next WASACRE meeting in Bridgend on Friday, 10th November 2017 and Councillor Ernie Galsworthy and Paula Webber confirmed that they will be attending.</p> <p><u>Dates of future WASACRE Meeting</u></p> <p>Paula Webber advised that the spring meeting of WASACRE will be held on 9th March in Swansea.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any members wishing to attending the WASACRE meetings on the 10th November 2017 in Bridgend and the 9th March 2018 in Swansea, to contact Karen Vokes.
357	Holocaust Memorial Day 2018	<p>Paula Webber advised that Holocaust Memorial Day is an annual event that takes place on the 27th January which marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenhau concentration camp.</p> <p>She advised that Schools are encouraged to participate in the Holocaust Memorial Day and the Committee discussed previous events that have taken place throughout the Borough.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paula Webber will draft a letter to all Schools from the Chair of SACRE and forward to Karen Vokes to send to all Schools within the Borough. Members advise Karen Vokes of any events that are taking place so that she can share them with the Committee and Schools.
358	Visits and Visitors	<p>Paula Webber referred to the Visits and Visitors in Religious Education document which has been published for SACRE's.</p>

		<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members to e-mail Karen Vokes if you want any information included in this document. • Karen Vokes to send a copy to all Schools. • Sarah Bowen to send Safeguarding Policy to Karen Vokes so this can be sent out with this document.
359	Inter Faith Network Bulletin	<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>The Inter Faith News E-Bulletin be sent to all Schools for information.</p>
360	Future RE News Bulletin and Information Briefings: Update	<p>Paula Webber referred to the RE News Bulletin and Information Briefings which outlines events happening within different SACRE areas including news on forthcoming events for the Holocaust Memorial Day for 2018 etc. She advised members that this has proved to be a good communication tool for Schools.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>Paula Webber to send a copy to Karen Vokes to forward on to SACRE members and all Schools.</p>
361	Correspondence	No correspondence was discussed.
362	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.