

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Minutes of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Nant Hall Road, Prestatyn on Tuesday, 10th October, 2000 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Representing Denbighshire County Council

Councillor S. Drew, K. Hawkins, D. Jones, M.M. Jones and T. Parry

Representing the Denbighshire Teachers' Joint Negotiating Committee

P. Bryer, Sister Elizabeth and C. Thomas

Representing Religious Denominations

Rev. P.J. Collinson, H. Ellis and J. Gibson,

Co-opted Members

Rev. Prof. L.J. Francis and M.B. Lloyd

ALSO PRESENT

Inspector/Adviser R.E., Head of Curricular Services and Administration Officers (W.J. Harness and K.E. Jones).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE RECEIVED FROM

Councillors K.P. Stevens and R.LI. Williams, M. Colbert, M. Evans, S. Flavell, S. Harris, J. Kirkham, Parch. J. Owens and N. Roberts

TRAINING FOR SACRE MEMBERS

The Inspector/Adviser R.E. informed members that the training session for SACRE members had been scheduled to take place immediately after the meeting and would cover the role and function of SACRE together with the statutory requirements for R.E. and collective worship.

WELCOME

In the absence of the Chair the Inspector/Adviser R.E. introduced and welcomed Councillor D. Jones (formerly Vice-Chair) as the new Chairperson. The Chair welcomed Rev. Prof Leslie Francis, the new Director of the Welsh National Centre for R.E. and Rev. P.J. Collinson to their first meeting of the Denbighshire SACRE.

594. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED that Mrs. M.B. Lloyd be appointed as Vice-Chair for the ensuing year.

595. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th July, 2000 (previously circulated), as approved by the County Council on 19th September, 2000 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be received.

596. REVIEW OF AGREED SYLLABUS

The Inspector/Adviser R.E. addressed members and referred to the need to consider proposals relating to the coverage of world religions and the national levels of attainment in RE (ACCAC) (previously circulated). He informed members that he had attended meetings with Flintshire and Wrexham SACREs regarding the review where it had been recommended that the Agreed Syllabus Conference take place jointly with the other two Local Education Authorities. He believed the joint review process was beneficial and that there was distinct advantage in adjoining Authorities following the same syllabus. The Inspector/Adviser R.E. also sought members approval to distribute the full draft to schools for consultation later in the term.

Members supported the views of the Inspector/Adviser R.E. and felt it would be beneficial for other Authorities to meet as a Joint Agreed Syllabus Conference, although making decisions as separate LEAs. It was agreed that the Inspector/Adviser R.E. would report back to members with details of the meetings and approval was given for the distribution of the full draft to schools for consultation.

The Inspector/Adviser R.E. reported that a survey of schools had been carried out which had indicated that the existing syllabus tended to be legalistic and referred to the proposals to redefine the syllabus to make the document more user friendly and practical to enable teachers to plan a scheme of work. He also referred to recommendations from ACCAC which had resulted in some changes being made to the syllabus. Members were advised that the predominant core of study would be Christian whilst taking into account the other principal religions in the country and members took the opportunity to put questions to the Inspector/Adviser R.E. regarding the proposed changes to the syllabus.

During a detailed debate members discussed the merits of the proposed programme of study and supported the views of the Inspector/Adviser R.E. regarding the changes.

Members agreed an amendment to the introduction of The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education to replace the word 'tolerance' with the word 'respect' in the sixth paragraph as follows: "Pupils should be developing attitudes of interest, open-mindedness and **respect** towards all religions, which can only come through knowledge and understanding".

The Inspector/Adviser R.E. reported that ACCAC had recommended that members give consideration to adopting or adapting the draft levels of attainment in R.E. (previously circulated). National levels were already in place for other subjects and it was argued that the adoption of the draft attainment levels in R.E. would ensure an equivalent status between R.E. and those other subjects. It was also argued that by nature R.E. contained elements which were difficult to level and measure.

During the ensuing debate members discussed the merits and disadvantages of setting the targets for achievements and it was felt that the recommendation of the Joint Review Working Group regarding the adoption and adaptation of the ACCAC levels as non-statutory guidance be followed, allowing individual schools should decide whether to adopt the use of the levels of attainment regarding R.E.

RESOLVED that the verbal report by the Inspector/Adviser R.E. be accepted.

597. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF SACRE

The Inspector/Adviser R.E. submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking members consideration of the draft annual report of SACRE which highlighted Denbighshire SACRE's activities during the year. These had included the following:-

- (i) the preparation of a draft revised syllabus which had been presented to the Agreed Syllabus Conference in the Spring Term 2000;
- (ii) examination of those sections in the Schools Inspection Reports relating to the standards of R.E. and Collective Worship/SMSC Development;
- (iii) INSET provision;
- (iv) Millennium Celebration Services;

- (v) ACCAC matters concerning training sessions for SACRE members, A/AS updates and GCSE criteria;
- (vi) WASACRE membership, and
- (vii) acknowledged the value of service provided by the Welsh National Centre for R.E.

During the ensuing discussion the Chair complimented and thanked the Inspector/Adviser R.E. for the work he had undertaken for Denbighshire SACRE during the year.

RESOLVED that the report by the Inspector/Adviser R.E. be accepted.

598. WELSH NATIONAL CENTRE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (BANGOR)

At the invitation of the Chair The Rev. Prof. L.J. Frances, the new Director of the Welsh National Centre for R.E. addressed Members and in particular referred to:-

- his recent appointment as Director of the Centre in April and details of his previous appointments and experience within R.E.;
- his aims to continue to expand and enhance the profile of the Centre;
- the limited finance available and the subsequent closure of the book shop;
- the intention to open a new book shop to provide church related education;
- the appointment of two members of staff to undertake research in R.E. and the appointment of a new Project Officer;
- the development of a web site for the Centre, and
- confirmed his commitment to curriculum development.

Members took the opportunity to put questions to The Rev. Prof. L.J. Francis and in particular referred to the exploration of faith within the local community; the good relationship between the Centre and teachers and the use of resources at the Centre.

The Chair thanked The Rev. Prof. L.J. Francis for his address and wished him well in his new role as Director of the Welsh National Centre for R.E.

RESOLVED that the verbal report by The Rev. Prof. L.J. Francis be accepted.

599. WALES ASSOCIATION OF SACRES

The Inspector/Adviser R.E. reported that he was unable to attend the AGM of WASCARE in July and confirmed that Ms. Sylvia Harris had attended the meeting on behalf of Denbighshire SACRE. Members were notified of the following:-

- a presentation given at the meeting covering ICT and RE;
- the appointment of Miss. Meinir Evans as Assistant Secretary and Mrs. M.B. Lloyd as Vice-Chair;
- the election of two new members of the Executive at the next AGM;
- the AGM in July 2001 was being hosted by Denbighshire in Llangollen and all Members of Denbighshire SACRE were entitled to attend, and

- the next general meeting was to be held on 22nd November, 2000.

Members agreed that Ms. S. Harris, Councillor D. Jones and Mrs. M.B. Lloyd attend the next meeting of WASACRE on 22nd November, 2000 and congratulations were extended to Mrs. M.B. Lloyd who had been elected as Vice-Chair of WASCARE.

RESOLVED that the verbal report by the Inspector/Adviser R.E. be accepted.

The meeting concluded at 11.30 a.m.
