

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, Ty Nant, Nant Hall Road, Prestatyn on Monday, 8th October, 2001 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Representing Denbighshire County Council

Councillors K.N. Hawkins, D. Jones, and F. Shaw

Representing the Denbighshire Teachers' Joint Negotiating Committee

Mrs. M.B. Lloyd (Chair), M. Barros-Curtis, M. Matthews

Representing Religious Denominations

T. Bryer, Rev. P.J. Collinson, H. Ellis, M. Evans, J. Gibson, J. Kirkham, Parch. J. Owen

Co-opted Member

T. Ap Sion (substitute for the Rev. Prof. L.J. Francis)

ALSO PRESENT

Inspector/Adviser R.E. and Administrative Officer (K.E. Jones)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE RECEIVED FROM

M. Colbert, S. Harris, Sister Elizabeth, N. Roberts, C. Thomas and Councillors S. Drew, M.M. Jones and T.M. Parry

AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RE

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Inspector/Adviser RE distributed copies of Denbighshire's Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education to members.

651. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

(a) Inauguration of New Chair (current Vice-Chair)

In accordance with the constitution of the Denbighshire SACRE the current Vice-Chair, Mrs. M.B. Lloyd, was invested as Chair for the ensuing year. Mrs. Lloyd thanked members for her appointment and paid tribute to the retiring Chair, Councillor D. Jones, for the work he had undertaken over the last twelve months. In response Councillor Jones reflected upon the valuable experience he had gained during his year as Chair and conveyed his best wishes to Mrs. Lloyd upon her appointment.

The Chair welcomed Mr. T. Bryer representing the Church in Wales; Mrs. M. Matthews representing NUT (Junior Classteacher); and Ms. M. Barros-Curtis representing NUT (Special School) to their first meeting of the Denbighshire SACRE.

(b) Appointment of Vice-Chair (from Religious Representatives)

In accordance with the constitution of the Denbighshire SACRE the Chair invited nominations for the appointment of Vice-Chair from the Religious Representatives. It was proposed and seconded that Parch John Owen be appointed Vice-Chair for the ensuing year. Parch John Owen indicated that he would be happy to accept the appointment of Vice-Chair and upon being put to the vote it was:-

***RESOLVED** that Parch John Owen be appointed Vice-Chair for the ensuing year.*

652. BEREAVEMENT

A Member referred to the recent death of Councillor Morfudd Jones's brother and it was agreed to send a letter to Councillor Jones on behalf of Denbighshire SACRE offering members condolences.

653. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July, 2001 (previously circulated), as approved by the County Council on 18th September, 2001 were submitted.

Matters Arising

Item No. 277 - Inspection Reports: Analysis of Reports On Schools - A member referred to the need to ensure that those schools identified as not meeting the statutory legal requirements in the provision of RE were now complying with those requirements. In response the Inspector/Adviser RE reported that a letter had been sent to all schools expressing the concern of the Denbighshire SACRE and to remind them of their legal requirements in the provision of RE. He also advised that he had written to individual schools in terms of addressing any shortcomings identified within their school inspection reports. Members felt that further enquiries should be made to ensure compliance with the legal requirements and that those problems identified within the inspection reports had been addressed and it was:-

***RESOLVED** that the Inspector/Adviser RE write to the relevant schools to make specific enquiries regarding the steps that had been undertaken to address those particular areas of concern.*

Item No. 281 - Luke Project: Presbyterian Church of Wales - The Inspector/Adviser RE reported that he was awaiting further details of the availability and cost of the paraphrased Gospel of Luke before approaching the Corporate Director Lifelong Learning and confirmed that he would pursue the matter until it was resolved.

A member felt that the minute heading for that item was misleading as it was clearly stated in the minutes that the request was submitted by the Director of the Presbyterian Church of Wales Children and Youth Service on behalf of a Working Group and not the Presbyterian Church of Wales.

***RESOLVED** that the minutes be received.*

At this juncture the Inspector/Adviser RE took the opportunity to inform Members that he had been approached by Church Representatives in the area offering to provide free copies of a video entitled 'Jesus: The Man Behind the Millennium' together with a booklet for distribution to schools within the area. He advised that after consultation with the Education Directorates of Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham local authorities he had requested 325 copies and confirmed that a Welsh copy was also being made available.

654. ACCAC: REVIEW OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SYLLABUSES

The Inspector/Adviser RE submitted ACCAC's Guidance Document on the Review of RE Syllabuses (previously circulated) for members consideration. The Guidance Document offered non-statutory advice and guidance to all those involved in the review of locally agreed syllabuses and raised issues that an agreed syllabus conference might consider as part of their review. The document had replaced the 1996 ACCAC publication taking into account changes in the law and developments from the revised National Curriculum.

The Inspector/Adviser RE reminded members that reference had been made to the draft form of the document in compiling the revised Agreed Syllabus and that they had taken into account the recommendations specified within the document wherever possible. He particularly reported upon the following paragraphs of the guidance document in reference to Denbighshire's revised Agreed Syllabus as follows:-

- 2.2 the legal requirements had clearly been identified and included a direct quotation from the guidance document regarding the provision of RE for all registered pupils, including registered school pupils below the age of five and post 16;
- 2.3 it had been made clear that the religious traditions in Great Britain were in the main Christian whilst taking account the teaching and practices of other principal religions and also clear details about which religion/s should be introduced at each key stage;
- 3.0 a framework similar to that used in the National Curriculum had been followed and the common requirements as detailed on page 8 of the document had been worded in an appropriate manner for RE;
- 3.4.2 a focus statement had been included for each dimension together with context and learning outcomes and examples;
- 3.5 schools had been made aware of the decision of the Agreed Syllabus Conference to incorporate the revised attainment targets issued in the final guidance document into the Agreed Syllabus and measures were being undertaken to reproduce and distribute the relevant pages, and
- 3.6 reported upon the programme of study available including post-16 education.

RESOLVED that ACCAC's Guidance Document on the Review of RE Syllabuses be received and the verbal report by the Inspector/Adviser RE be accepted.

655. ACCAC: REVIEW OF ANNUAL SACRE REPORTS

The Inspector/Adviser RE submitted ACCAC's Review of annual SACRE reports 1998 - 1999 & 1999 - 2000 (previously circulated) for members consideration.

The Chair explained that every SACRE was required to publish an Annual Report summarising its activities and a copy of that report was submitted to ACCAC. The Inspector/Adviser RE advised that Denbighshire SACRE was referred to consistently throughout the report and particular reference was made to the summary detailing ACCAC's recommendations for SACREs to consider in the publication of their annual report. He requested that members consider Denbighshire SACRE's Draft Annual Report 2000 - 2001 taking into account those recommendations.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) ACCAC's Review of Annual SACRE reports 1998 - 1999 & 1999 - 2000 be accepted, and
- (b) a letter of thanks be sent to ACCAC on behalf of the Denbighshire SACRE for the work undertaken in the compilation and publication of the Review.

656. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF SACRE

The Inspector/Adviser RE submitted a draft of the Annual Report of the Denbighshire SACRE 2000 - 2001 (previously circulated) which summarised Denbighshire SACRE's activities during the year including the Agreed Syllabus; Standards in Religious Education; Collective Worship/SMSC Development; INSET Provision together with various other issues.

The Chair reminded members that this item would be linked with ACCAC's Review of Annual Reports and advised that the Draft Annual Report needed to be considered taking into account the recommendations as detailed within ACCAC's review.

The Inspector/Adviser RE proceeded to take members through the report in detail and suggested a number of additions in the light of ACCAC's recommendations.

In response to a member's question the Inspector/Adviser RE advised that the Annual Report was sent to schools with the request that they be made available to the school governors. A member felt

that the report should be specifically brought to the attention of the governors and the Inspector/Adviser RE confirmed that he would progress that matter to reflect SACREs comments.

Members expressed concern regarding the lack of GEST funding to deliver the training provision but were pleased to note that most of the RE courses had been supported and paid tribute to those teaching staff in the provision of RE. In response to a member's suggestion that representation be made to the Welsh Assembly seeking additional funding the Inspector/Adviser RE confirmed that representation had previously been made to the Welsh Assembly in that regard.

In discussing the monitoring standards in RE Members felt that the current provision was sufficient and that carrying out additional surveys would prove counterproductive.

During consideration of the report Members took the opportunity to put specific questions to the Inspector/Adviser RE regarding those issues contained within the report and following a full and detailed debate it was:-

RESOLVED that the Draft Annual Report of Denbighshire SACRE be approved subject to the following additions being incorporated into the report:-

- (i) (a) *Standards in Religious Education*
 - that schools are also informed of the summary of those areas of concern identified within the inspection reports and are invited to consider their own standing in that regard.
 - that schools are advised of examination results and the comparison of those results with the national average.

- (ii) (c) *INSET Provision*
 - that schools are advised of the methods of teaching and use of resources for RE.

The Chair expressed her disappointment that the Welsh translation of the Draft Annual Report (circulated at the meeting) had not previously been made available to members and her concern that Welsh translations were consistently late. Whilst appreciating that the delay in obtaining translations was attributable to high demand for the service and subsequent lack of available resources, members referred to the need to impress on the County Council the importance of providing a faster translation service. It was proposed and seconded that a letter to that effect be sent to Denbighshire's Acting Chief Executive with a copy to the Corporate Director Lifelong Learning for information and upon being put to the vote it was:-

RESOLVED accordingly.

657. WALES ASSOCIATION OF SACRES

The Inspector/Adviser RE referred to the Annual General Meeting of WASACRE which was hosted by Denbighshire County Council on 17th July, 2001. He informed members that he had received a letter from the Secretary of WASACRE commending Denbighshire on the excellent venue and facilities provided for the meeting and advising that it had been one of the Association's most worthwhile meetings.

The Chair thanked the Inspector/Adviser RE and members for their attendance at the Annual General Meeting and reported upon the meeting as follows:-

- (a) edited versions of presentations made by NAPfRE to the Association would be printed and where possible published in the RE News, and
- (b) arrangements were being made for a symposium to be held at Llandrindod on 27th April, 2002 to discuss the review of the Agreed Syllabus with the aim of enhancing the status of RE in Wales.

The Inspector/Adviser RE referred to the revision of the early years curriculum in which there was no specific reference to Religious Education or Spiritual Development. It was agreed that the

Inspector/Adviser RE write to ACCAC to request the inclusion of RE and Spiritual Development within the early years curriculum and a letter be sent to WASACRE with request that they progress that matter further at national level with the Welsh Assembly.

The Chair thanked the members and officers for their contribution to and attendance at the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 11.32 a.m.

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

THURSDAY, 31ST JANUARY, 2002

AGENDA ITEMS NUMBERED 3 AND 4 NOT AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORM