

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Minutes of a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Rhyl on Monday, 7th February 2011 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Representing Denbighshire County Council

Councillors: C.M. Evans, G.C. Evans, M.M. Jones (Chair)

Representing Religious Denominations

H. Ellis, B. Wyn Evans, S. Harris

Representing Teacher Association

M. Bradshaw, C. Harmsworth, M. Philips and J. Smith

Co-opted Members

G. Craigen, M.B. Lloyd and T. Ap Siôn

ALSO PRESENT

Senior Learning Advisor RE (PL) and Clerk to SACRE (EC)

APOLOGIES

- Councillors: C. Hughes, and J.G. Yorke
- Mr M. Hatch and Mrs. E. Wright

Mr Hatch had given notice of his resignation from SACRE and would advise the United Reform Church of his decision and formally submit his resignation. The Senior Learning Adviser RE (SLA) would seek a formal replacement.

It was suggested that it be made clear that replacements could be sent in place of Official SACRE members on occasions when they cannot attend

SILENT REFLECTION

The meeting began with a few minutes silent reflection.

WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including Ms J Smith and Julian Molloy who were in attendance to replace Ms. M Ludenbach and Karen Evans respectively
The Committee tendered their best wishes to Rev. B H Jones
The Chair, on behalf of the committee, sought to congratulate Clerk to SACRE Kath Jones on the birth of her third child and would send her a card to reflect this

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no personal or prejudicial interests raised.

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

None raised.

4 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held on 11th October, 2010 (previously circulated) were submitted.

Matters Arising / Accuracy

- It be noted that Ms. M Bradshaw presided over the meeting as Chair in place of Councillor M.M Jones who had tendered her apologies
- Item 9.1 be amended to read ' Mrs. B Lloyd *informed* that former chair of SACRE, Councillor David Jones had passed away...'
- The Chair had attended Councillor Jones's funeral and described a very pleasant service

RESOLVED that the minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 10th October 2010 be received and approved as a correct record.

5 ANALYSIS OF INSPECTION REPORTS ON SCHOOLS

The SLA submitted a report (previously circulated) analysing the results of the recent inspections of Ysgol Frongoch and Ysgol Plas Brondyfren in the provision of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC), and Religious Education where it was part of the inspection. He explained that the traditional format of report had been used for these two schools as they fell into the preceding Inspection Framework, others inspected would be reported on under the new Estyn Inspection Framework launched in September 2010.

It was pleasing to note that the schools received 60 positive comments between them and only 1 negative comment relating to citizenship.

The Chair encouraged members to read the full inspection reports for the schools which put the various elements of the inspection into context.

RESOLVED that:-

(a) the report be received and noted and that;

(b) a letter be sent to the schools inspected to congratulate them on the good features identified in the inspections.

5.a ANALYSIS OF INSPECTION REPORT: UNDER THE NEW FRAMEWORK

The SLA submitted a report (previously circulated) informing Members of the changes in school inspections and their reporting due to the implementation of Estyn's new Inspection Framework.

The report, under the new framework, analysed the results of the recent inspection of Ysgol Emmanuel in a far more condensed style which didn't feature specific detail on the provision of SMSC and Religious Education, however, the comments which were relative to RE had been presented to the committee such as a category on 'Care Support and Guidance' Members were given the web address to access the full 6 page report.

Some key points raised in relation to the new Inspection framework and reporting format were:

- The procedure was a lot less intensive on teaching staff
- The new framework focussed more on scrutinising the self evaluation of schools by their staff with a revised procedure to present example work and evaluate accordingly with Inspectors agreeing or disagreeing with those evaluations
- The 7 key questions, had been reduced to 3 within the new Inspection framework
- Further development plans from Estyn included a possible area inspection focussing on one particular subject in a given cluster of schools
- Overall, the framework had more focus on leadership and less on classroom teaching

It was agreed that letters should be sent out in the usual manner congratulating schools, in this case Ysgol Emmanuel, on their positive features.

RESOLVED that:-

(a) the revised format for school inspection reporting under the new Estyn Inspection Framework be noted and approved, and that

(b) a letter be sent to the school inspected to congratulate them on the good features identified in the inspection.

6 MONITORING AND SUPPORTIVE REVIEWS

The SLA submitted a report providing Members with an account of the visits he had made to the Brynhyfryd and Prestatyn High Schools' consortium of schools and the provision of Religious Education within both.

The visits took place during the summer term and as agreed with the schools, the issues and outcomes were included in the report thus summarising the good features, shortcomings and recommendations for each school and a general overview of each respective consortium.

The following points were discussed during the consideration of the report:

- The SLA would typically spend a full day in a Secondary school visit and a half day in a Primary school
- Interviews had taken place with the children in schools, lessons observed and examples of work viewed during the visits
- Both consortiums had displayed many good features
- A number of primary schools had worked together to produce schemes of work for all subjects including RE. For smaller schools, this is an effective use of time.
- Self evaluation methods needed to be tightened up as an area of improvement
- Members were disappointed that some of the schools in the Prestatyn cluster had not been up to date in line with Denbighshire's Policy

*The Committee **RESOLVED** that:*

- (a) the reports on the Brynhyfryd HS and Pretatyn HS Consortium of schools be received and noted, and agrees that*
- (b) Letters be sent to the schools with a copy of the full report as presented to SACRE*

7 EXAMINATION RESULTS 2010

The SLA had serious concerns regarding the accuracy of the data in the GCSE and GCE Advanced level results tables. Investigations were underway; including comparisons with the 'Web Data' to validate the figures shown. In conclusion, he would present the official results table, once finalised and validated, at the next meeting of the committee. Members agreed to discuss ways forward in tackling issues with results on receiving the viable data.

***RESOLVED** that since the data presented within the report was not yet verified in terms of accuracy, an official report containing validated results data would be submitted in the summer meeting of SACRE, and Members would consider any actions to be made at this point*

8 'CELEBRATING RE' RE FESTIVAL

The SLA referred to recent planning for the forthcoming RE Festival in March 2011 and asked members to review the progress of events scheduled to take place during the month long celebration and promotion of RE throughout schools.

The launch of Celebrating RE in Wales 2nd March 2011 11.30am – 3.30pm at Standwell School, Penarth

Members were asked to confirm their attendance with Ms T Ap Siôn, she stressed that a strong representation from Denbighshire SACRE would be beneficial

Members were reminded this was scheduled to immediately follow the WASACRE meeting (10:30am - 11.30am)

24th March 2011 St. Asaph Cathedral

Members were advised of the all-day event to promote St. Asaph Cathedral, organised by the SLA and M Bradshaw.

Six local schools would be in attendance where Lego Workshops, Puppetry and Story telling would take place in the morning.

The previously discussed 'Dance Mass' as choreographed by Cate Harmsworth was scheduled for the afternoon and would be filmed by media students from a local high school.

The evening would feature 9 performance acts including dance, singing and drama. The Bishop would be in attendance from 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm. The Cathedral's maximum capacity would be circa 450 people but Members would be sent an official invitation prior to the event.

RESOLVED that the update regarding the forthcoming RE Festival be received and noted.

9 FOUNDATION PHASE

Members were given a verbal update on the progress made within the Foundation Phase Working Party who were developing a database which will list classroom activities and link them with areas of the classroom and the Skills relating to RE in the foundation framework.

The database, once finalised, would be a very useful aid for teaching foundation phase, enabling the user to type in a key word and be presented with a number of related fields.

Members agreed the development of the database was a very good idea and were keen to see the finalised document, it was therefore:

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the update on the work of the Foundation Phase Working party be noted, and the Officers involved commended on their efforts, and
- (b) Once the Database, currently under development by the group, had been finalised a representative from the Teachers Association be invited to present the document to the committee

10 WALES ASSOCIATION OF SACRES

Draft Minutes of WASACRE – 26th November 2010

The draft minutes of the meeting of the Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE) held in Caerphilly (previously circulated) were submitted.

Matters Arising

Item 7 (d) G Craigen had been disappointed to see there were no North Wales schools included in the 'REsilience Project'. Members were encouraged to promote the project to the Secondary Schools in Denbighshire, in being a very worthwhile project.

RESOLVED that minutes of WASACRE held on 26th November 2010 be accepted.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Clerk to SACRE agreed to send an email / letter to all Members once the timetable of meetings for the forthcoming municipal year had been finalised in Denbighshire Full Council on 22nd February 2011, advising them of the date for the next meeting.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members listed their Language preference for future committee papers against their names on the meeting register. Those who preferred to receive electronic papers instead of hard copies stipulated this also

The meeting concluded at 11.15 a.m.

**Denbighshire County Council
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
(SACRE)**

Date of Meeting:

13 June 2011

Agenda Item:

5

Report Details

Background to the Report:

SACRE has a statutory duty to monitor the provision of RE and collective worship in the schools, and has a long standing practice of receiving and analysis of Estyn Inspection reports at each meeting.

Purpose of the Report:

To inform members of the outcomes of recent Estyn Inspection Reports on schools.

Recommendations:

- To receive the report
- A letter be sent to each of the schools informing them that their Inspection Report has been considered, congratulating them for good features identified, and reminding them of the services of the Senior Learning Adviser RE and School Improvement Officers in relation to any areas for development or key issues needing addressing.
To request the LA to distribute the letters to the schools involved.

Analysis of Inspection Reports Denbighshire SACRE

13 June 2011

Inspected under the new Estyn Framework

School	Dates	Reporting Inspector
Ysgol Bryn Clwyd	November 2010	Merfyn Douglas Jones
<p><i>Ysgol Bryn Clwyd is a small County Primary School located in Llandyrnog. There are 26 pupils on roll, 4 of whom attend the nursery on a part-time basis. Approximately 23% of pupils are entitled to free school meals. There is a full range of ability on intake, but generally attainment on entry is below average overall. Around 42% of pupils have additional learning needs (ALN), including 2 pupils with statements of special educational needs (SEN). Welsh is the home language of 3 pupils. The Headteacher shares her time between Bryn Clwyd and Ysgol Gellifor, the shared Headship pilot began in September 2010. This is a county model for the modernisation of education in Denbighshire.</i></p>		
Prestatyn High School	December 2010	Ray Owen HMI
<p><i>Prestatyn High School is an 11-18 mixed comprehensive school. There are currently 1769 pupils on roll, including 339 in the 6th form. Over 16% of pupils are entitled to free school meals. 10% of pupils live in the 20% most deprived parts of Wales. Nearly all pupils are from English speaking homes. 28 pupils receive support for English as an additional language (EAL). Currently 18% of pupils are on the school's additional learning needs register, with 1.5% having statements of special educational needs. There have been recent improvements in information and communications technology (ICT) resources, and there is a newly built post-16 learning centre.</i></p>		
Ysgol Melyd	February 2011	Goronwy Morris
<p><i>Ysgol Melyd is situated in the village of Meliden, near Prestatyn. The catchment area is considered to be disadvantaged and there are high levels of unemployment. All pupils come from English speaking homes. There are currently 147 pupils on roll including 15 who attend part time nursery. Approximately 36% of pupils are entitled to free school meals. 60 pupils are identified as having additional learning needs (ALN) including five who have a statement of ALN. The language Resourced Provision is sited at the school and this caters for the needs of children in KS1 with specific, severe speech and/or language disorders. The children integrate with the rest of the school for various school activities on a daily basis.</i></p>		

POSTITIVE COMMENTS

Key Question 1: How good are the Outcomes:

Wellbeing:

- Pupils' personal and social development is good. (*Ysgol Bryn Clwyd*)
- The social and life skills of many pupils are good. (*Prestatyn HS*)
- Pupils are also involved in making decisions through the Fair Trade and Eco schools committees. (*Prestatyn HS*)

Key Question 2: How good is provision?

Learning experiences:

- The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum that meets the requirements of the Foundation Phase and National Curriculum, including religious education. (*Ysgol Bryn Clwyd*)
- Pupils' knowledge and understanding of the historical and cultural characteristics of the locality and Wales is developed effectively. (*Ysgol Bryn Clwyd*)
- Global citizenship is successfully promoted by all teachers. (*Ysgol Bryn Clwyd*)
- The school provides many opportunities for pupils to develop their understanding of education for global citizenship. The opportunities include effective themed days and links with an international, underprivileged community. (*Prestatyn HS*)

Care, support and guidance:

- The school takes good account of the 'Framework for Personal and Social Education (PSE) and successfully promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. (*Ysgol Bryn Clwyd*)
- The school's well planned personal and social education programme effectively encourages pupils to make healthy choices, this is usefully supported by the food technology, religious education and physical education departments. (*Prestatyn HS*)
- Pupils learn effectively about aspects of spiritual development in religious education, 'opening minds' and personal and social education lessons. There is a well-structured programme of school assemblies and registration periods to encourage pupils to consider a range of faiths. (*Prestatyn HS*)
- The extensive and varied range of learning experiences provided, including pupil visits and visitors to the school, contribute very effectively to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and world-wide cultural development. (*Ysgol Melyd*)
- The school's personal, health and social education (PSHE) programme contributes very positively to the health and wellbeing of pupils. (*Ysgol Melyd*)

Learning environment:

- The school offers a safe and welcoming environment which promotes very successfully pupils' personal development, including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Staff successfully encourage pupils to challenge stereotypes and to celebrate differences. (*Ysgol Melyd*)

Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management:

Learning environment:

- Through the consistent application of relevant policies, the school effectively promotes all aspects of equality and diversity. The school's personal and social education programme helps pupils' positive attitudes towards relationships with others. The school successfully promotes an inclusive ethos. (*Prestatyn HS*)

**Denbighshire County Council
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Date of Meeting:

13 June 2011

Agenda Item:

6

Report Details

Background to the Report:

Verbal feedback on the 'Celebrating RE Day' held at St Asaph Cathedral

Purpose of the Report:

To review the success of the 'Celebrating RE Day' held on 24 March 2011

Recommendations:

- To receive the information

**Denbighshire County Council
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
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Date of Meeting:

13 June 2011

Agenda Item:

7

Report Details

Background to the Report:

Development of a Framework which will include RE in the Foundation Phase.

Purpose of the Report:

For members to be informed of the work of the Foundation Phase Working Party

Recommendations:

- To receive the verbal report

**Denbighshire County Council
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Date of Meeting:

13 June 2011

Agenda Item:

8

Report Details

Background to the Report:

SACRE continues to be a member of the Wales Association of SACREs, and receives reports on meetings from members attending, copies of minutes of meetings and any other reports from the Association.

Purpose of the Report:

For members to be informed as to the focus and main outcomes of the previous meeting.

Recommendations:

- To receive the verbal presentations.
- To receive the minutes of the last meeting.