

## **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)**

Minutes of a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held in RHYL HIGH SCHOOL on Wednesday, 19 October 2016 at 10.00 am.

### **PRESENT**

#### **Representing Denbighshire County Council**

Councillors Joe Welch and Dewi Owens

#### **Representing Religious Denominations**

Mr. Simon Cameron, Mr. Dominic Oakes, Rev. B H Jones, Rev. Martin Evans-Jones and Ms S Harris

#### **Co-opted Members**

Ms. Ali Ballantyne

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Challenge Advisor for GwE (PL), Andrea Taylor, GwE and Committee Administrator (SLW)

#### **1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Arwel Roberts and Ann Davies.

#### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Declaration of Interests.

#### **3 URGENT MATTER AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

No Urgent Matters.

#### **4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) meeting held on the 20 June 2016 (previously circulated) were submitted.

Matters Arising - Page 9 – Item 5 Analysis of Estyn Inspection Reports.  
The Challenge Advisor for GwE confirmed letters of congratulations had been sent to the relevant schools.

***RESOLVED*** that subject to the above, the minutes of the SACRE meeting held on the 20 June 2016 be received and approved as a correct record.

## 5 PIONEER SCHOOLS AND THE NEW CURRICULUM

The Challenge Advisor GwE, Phil Lord, introduced Andrea Taylor, GwE, who had been invited to give a presentation to SACRE Members regarding Pioneer Schools and the New Curriculum.

On 30 June, the Minister for Education and Skills announced that the Welsh Government would accept, in full, all of the recommendations set out in “Successful Futures”, Professor Graham Donaldson’s independent review of the curriculum and assessment arrangements in Wales.

In July 2015, schools from across Wales applied to become a “Pioneer School”. These schools would become the task force for working in response to the Successful Futures report.

The Pioneer schools would be split into three groups:

- Curriculum Pioneers
- Digital Pioneers, and
- New Deal Pioneers (now called Professional Learning)

The Plan set out how to build a broad, balanced, inclusive and challenging curriculum, together with the four purposes at its heart, to give all children and young people the opportunity to become:

- Ambitious, capable learners – who were ready to learn throughout their lives.
- Enterprising, creative contributors – who were ready to play a full part in life and work.
- Ethical, informed citizens – who were ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.
- Healthy, confident individuals – who were ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

The new curriculum was to be aspirational but also realistic. To ensure this was the case, Pioneer Schools would work in close partnership with their wider clusters (including the non-maintained sector), networks and beyond, to ensure that as many of our schools as possible were part of the design and development process.

### Curriculum Structure

Six areas of learning and experience:

- Expresses Arts
- Health and well-being
- Humanities
- Languages, literacy and communication
- Mathematics and numeracy, and
- Science and technology

Three cross-curriculum responsibilities:

- Digital competence
- Literacy
- Numeracy

The school curriculum would be designed to help all children and young people to develop in relation to clear and agreed purposes. The purposes would be constructed so that they could directly influence decisions about curriculum, pedagogy and assessment.

To underpin the work, 4 key principles were identified to realise the new curriculum. Realisation of the new curriculum would be:

- Evidence led, and based on subsidiarity
- Ambitious and inclusive
- Manageable, with pace, passion and professionalism, and
- Unified.

All Pioneer Schools, regardless of their initial focus (Digital, Curriculum and/or New Deal), would need to work closely together to challenge and learn from each other. Together, they would provide a vehicle to realise the new curriculum across Wales, including ongoing, high quality support in developing their skills in pedagogy and leadership.

***RESOLVED*** that the Committee note the presentation.

## **6 SACRE - DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16**

The Challenge Advisor, GwE, referred to the previously circulated report and explained that rather than discuss the contents of the report, the Committee's role was to agree that it was an accurate reflection of what had been considered over the course of the previous year.

***RESOLVED*** that the Draft Annual Report 2015-16 be received and its contents noted.

## **7 LEAD PRACTITIONER - SUPPORTING THE NEW CGSE SPECIFICATIONS**

The Challenge Advisor, GwE, presented a verbal update of the lead practitioner programme and how it related to Religious Studies examinations.

The Welsh Government had provided funding for local consortia to support the implementation of the new GCSEs. GwE had commissioned 3 teachers from across North Wales to support this venture.

***RESOLVED*** that the Committee receive the verbal update.

## **8 SACRE AND SCHOOL TO SCHOOL COLLABORATION**

The Challenge Advisor, GwE, provided a verbal update on the training event and the way forward.

Schools were encouraged to work collaboratively with other schools to support and develop all areas within the curriculum. 50 schools met in June and July to receive training on the three core skills in the agreed syllabus.

Schools were hoping a resource would be put together and all the information from the training sessions would be available both nationally, and on the Welsh Hub.

The Challenge Advisor, GwE stated that the information may be in written form and possibly could be presented at the next SACRE meeting.

***RESOLVED** that the Committee receive the verbal update.*

## **9 WASACRE**

### **Minutes of WASACRE – 23 June 2016**

The minutes of the meeting of the Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE) held at Denbighshire on the 23 June 2016 (previously circulated) were submitted for Members' information.

It was requested that a Humanist representative be invited to a future meeting of SACRE. The Challenge Advisor GwE agreed to send out an invitation.

***RESOLVED** that the minutes of the WASACRE held on 23 June 2016 be received and noted.*

## **10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Denbighshire SACRE had been scheduled for 13 February 2017. Venue to be confirmed as Members requested the meeting to take place in Denbigh High School. The Challenge Advisor confirmed he would contact the school.

**The meeting concluded at 11.55 a.m.**