

To: Members of the Standing Advisory
Council for Religious Education
(SACRE)

Date: 13 October 2016

Direct Dial: 01824 712568

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Dear Sir / Madam

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)** to be held at **10.00 am** on **WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2016** in **RHYL HIGH SCHOOL**.

Yours sincerely

G Williams
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

AGENDA

SILENT REFLECTON

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in any business identified to be considered at this meeting.

3 URGENT MATTER AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

Notice of items which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (Pages 5 - 12)

To approve and sign as a correct record minutes of the previous meeting held on the 20th June, 2016.

- 5 PIONEER SCHOOLS AND THE NEW CURRICULUM** (Pages 13 - 14)
To receive a presentation from a pioneer group member regarding the pioneer school programme.
- 6 SACRE - DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16** (Pages 15 - 30)
To consider a report to approve the draft SACRE Annual Report.
- 7 LEAD PRACTITIONER - SUPPORTING THE NEW GCSE SPECIFICATIONS** (Pages 31 - 32)
To receive a presentation regarding a GwE initiative to support the new GCSE specification in Religious Studies.
- 8 SACRE AND SCHOOL TO SCHOOL COLLABORATION** (Pages 33 - 34)
Promote teacher representation through school to school collaboration.
- 9 WASACRE** (Pages 35 - 44)
- (i) To receive the minutes of the last meeting of the Association
 - (ii) To agree attendance at the next WASACRE meeting, Carmarthenshire
18 November 2016.
- 10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
13 February 2017.

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors Representing Denbighshire County Council

Bill Tasker
Arwel Roberts

Joe Welch
Ann Davies

Representing Religious Denominations

Mr. Simon Cameron
Mr. Dominic Oakes
Rev. B H Jones
Rev. Martin Evans-Jones

Ms Mary Ludenbach
Mrs C Thomas
Ms S Harris
Lt. Sian Radford

Representing Teacher Associations

Mrs C Harmsworth

Ms. Ali Ballantyne

Co-opted Members

Ms. Tania Ap Siôn

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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Minutes of a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held in Ysgol Dinas Bran, Llangollen on Monday, 20 June 2016 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Representing Denbighshire County Council

Councillors A. Roberts (Chair) and J.S. Welsh.

Representing Religious Denominations

S. Cameron, Ms S. Harris, Reverend Martin Evans-Jones and M.J. Lundenbach.

ALSO PRESENT

Challenge Advisor for GwE (PL) and Committee Administrator (CIW).

Mr D. Miller (Observer from the Diocese), Ms C. Hannaby and Ms S. Couison (Representatives of Ysgol Dinas Bran, Llangollen).

SILENT REFLECTION

The meeting began with a few minutes silent reflection. The Chair invited Members of SACRE to reflect on the loss of loved ones and close relatives who were sadly missed, and he made reference to the recent sad and tragic death of Joe Cox the Labour MP for Batley and Spen.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ann Davies, Bill Tasker and Mr. Dominic Oakes, Rev. B H Jones, Ms. Ali Ballantyne.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No Members declared any personal or prejudicial interests in any business identified to be considered at the meeting.

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No items were raised which in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

4 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) meeting held on the 12th February, 2016 (previously circulated) were submitted.

5. Examination Results 2015 – The CA confirmed that letters of congratulations from SACRE had been sent to Rhyl High School, Prestatyn High School and St Brig, Denbigh acknowledging their respective achievements.

7. WASACRE Questionnaire to Schools – Members were informed that the completed surveys had been passed to WASACRE as agreed.

RESOLVED that, subject to the above, the minutes of the SACRE meeting held on the 12th February, 2016 be received and approved as a correct record.

5 ANALYSIS OF INSPECTION REPORTS

The Challenge Advisor GwE (CA) submitted a report (previously circulated) which provided an analysis of Estyn Inspections Reports published in the Autumn term, in relation to the provision and collective worship, in three schools between November, 2014 and January, 2015.

Inspections had been carried out at Ysgol Gynradd Bro Elwern, Gwyddelwern near Corwen; Ysgol Bryn Collen, Llangollen; Ysgol Clawdd Offa, Prestatyn; Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd; Ysgol Mair Catholic Primary School, Rhyl, and details pertaining to each of the respective schools had been incorporated in the report and were summarised by the CA.

The CA provided Members with a brief resume of the findings relating to each school, and the positive comments and outcomes were noted by Members. The CA explained that the comments received had been brief and he made particular reference to the following:-

Positive Comments - Current Performance:-

Key Question 1: How good are outcomes?

Standards

- Year 6 pupils, for example, used their skills effectively in a science investigation to record their predictions and their findings. In history, they used the style of a diary to discuss actions taken by the suffragettes and in religious education they record aspects of Pentecost. (Bryn Collen). The CA commented that it had been a considerable length of time since reference had been made to religious education in an Estyn Report.

Wellbeing:-

- Many pupils had contributed appropriately to the local community by taking part in assemblies, concerts and activities to celebrate the story of the former Prince of Wales, Owain Glyndŵr. This had raised awareness of their community responsibilities. (Bro Elwern)

Key Question 2: How good is provision?

Learning experiences:-

- The school provided a wide range of interesting learning experiences that gain pupils' interest well. It meets the requirements of the Foundation Phase, the National Curriculum and the agreed syllabus for religious education. (Bro Elwern)
- The curriculum provided suitable opportunities for pupils to learn about global citizenship, there were good links with schools in Lesotho and Nepal, which raised their awareness of the life of children in areas that were very different from Wales. (Bro Elwern)
- Staff developed pupils' awareness of global citizenship successfully through work on fair trade, links with schools in Italy and Nepal, and through work during the International Eisteddfod. (Bryn Collen)
- The school promoted global citizenship successfully through topic work on other countries around the world. (Clawdd Offa)
- The school provided rich experiences through continuous planning that met the requirements of the Literacy and Numeracy Framework, the National Curriculum, principles of the Foundation Phase and religious education successfully. (Llanfair DC)
- The school provided a valuable range of experiences for pupils to expand their knowledge and understanding of sustainable development and global citizenship. This included studying countries such as Ethiopia, holding a Chinese week and forest school activities. As a result, pupils' understanding of environmental issues and global issues had developed well. (Llanfair DC)
- Arrangements to develop pupils as global citizens were a strong feature of the school which took every opportunity to celebrate diversity within the school community and wider world successfully, for example through studies of other cultures and links with a school in Ethiopia. (Ysgol Mair)

Care, support and guidance:-

- The school promoted pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development successfully by providing collective worship services and through wider curriculum activities. Visitors were invited to lead the worship and there were opportunities for pupils to reflect on contemporary topics, such as caring for the environment and considering children and people who were less fortunate than themselves. This was reflected in the efforts to raise money for the people of Nepal after the earthquake in 2014. (Bro Elwern)
- Pupils had many opportunities to develop their understanding of moral and social issues. The school promoted pupils' cultural development well through a range of visits and visitors, including work with the Llangollen Fringe. Learning within the curriculum and acts of collective worship provided beneficial opportunities for pupils to reflect and to develop their spiritual awareness appropriately. (Bryn Collen)
- Pupils had many worthwhile opportunities to develop their understanding of moral and social issues. The school promoted pupils' cultural development well through a range of visits and opportunities to learn about, for example, Chinese New Year. Daily acts of collective worship provided suitable

opportunities for pupils to reflect and develop their spiritual awareness appropriately. (Clawdd Offa)

- The school provided very well for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The morning assemblies and opportunities for reflection were prominent in school life and promote pupils' spiritual development effectively. This included regular visits by the vicar and 'Open the Book' assemblies, and, as a result, values such as fairness were fostered well. (Llanfair DC)
- Learning experiences provided pupils with worthwhile opportunities to develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding. Collective worship and circle time sessions enable pupils to consider their own values and beliefs as well as the feelings and viewpoints of others. All pupils visit the local church for celebrations, particularly at Christmas, Easter and leavers' mass. The school celebrated its diverse population successfully throughout the year in events such as an international week where pupils learn about other cultures and beliefs. (Ysgol Mair)

Learning Environment:-

- The school had policies, plans and procedures to ensure equal opportunities to all pupils and that promote equality successfully. Respect for racial diversity and equality was promoted successfully. (Bro Elwern)
- The school provided an inclusive, welcoming environment for all pupils. All staff treated pupils equally and promoted diversity successfully. (Bryn Collen)
- The school was a warm, welcoming and inclusive community. The caring ethos encouraged pupils to have respect and tolerance for others. (Clawdd Offa)
- The school was a caring and supportive environment which valued all pupils equally. The school's commitment to celebrating the diversity of all pupils was a prominent feature of its work. As a result, a culture of mutual care, tolerance and respect permeates the school. (Ysgol Mair)

Key Question 3; How good is leadership and management?

Leadership:-

- The headteacher promoted a caring, inclusive community for the school based on its strong Christian ethos. He shared this successfully with all pupils, staff, governors and parents. As a result, all members of the school community had a strong sense of belonging. (Ysgol Mair)

Partnership working:-

- Staff make purposeful, extensive links with the local community, including taking part in the local Remembrance Day service and the International Eisteddfod parade, to enhance pupils' learning opportunities successfully. These links promoted a strong ethic of community involvement in the life and work of the school. (Bryn Collen)

The CA made particular reference to Page 2 of the report and focused on the positive work undertaken in relation to Care, Support and Guidance. He also

highlighted the detail included in the Estyn Report with regard to collective worship and spiritual matters, which he felt had been very positive.

The Chair and Members of SACRE extended their congratulations to the work undertaken by the schools involved in the Inspections.

RESOLVED – *that, subject to the above, the report be received and its contents noted.*

6 SCHOOL TO SCHOOL COLLABORATIVE WORKING - LAUNCH EVENT

SACRE Members were informed that GwE would be working with SACRE to provide opportunities for schools to work together supporting Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Members received a PowerPoint presentation on the School to School Collaborative Working Launch which would be held at St Mary's, Denbighshire on the 30th June, 2016 and St Giles, Wrexham on the 7th July, 2016.

The Challenge Advisor for GwE (CAG) provided a detailed summary of the PowerPoint presentation which included the following:-

- The wonderful world of RE.
- RE is a unique subject.
- Foundation Phase.
- Religious Education in the Foundation Phase.
- KS2/CA2.
- Levelling:-
 - What do they need to improve?
 - Where are they?
 - Where have they come from?
 - About their own experiences, the world around them aspects of religion
 - Beliefs, teachings and practices investigated
 - Importance of others
 - Their opinions
 - Opinions of others
 - Using vocabulary
- Lesson Ideas.
- Parable of the wise and foolish builders.
- Plenary quiz.
- What do you think:-
 - Engaging with fundamental questions
- The facts:-
 - Exploring religious beliefs, teachings and practice(s)
- Responding to:-
 - Expressing personal responses
- Discussion.

During the ensuing discussion the following issues and points were raised by Members, and responses provided by the CA:-

- Ms M. Lundenbach explained the content of the presentation encompassed teaching methods currently adopted, and she provided comparisons and examples of the similarities incorporated in current teaching practices.
- The CA referred to the adoption and utilisation of user friendly and less complicated wording.
- In response to a question from Mr S. Cameron in relation to the long-term vision, the CA provided details of the number of participating schools and explained that they would be questioned as to how the presentation would impact on their teaching methods.
- Confirmation was provided that backing for the project had been received from GwE, with the possibility of a repeat in September, 2016.
- It was explained that schools would be encouraged to sign up to small groups of primary schools, and through SACRE would be encouraged to look at presentation, engagement, levelling, resources and collective worship and encourage them to assume various tasks.
- Members of the groups would be invited to attend SACRE to share their findings and experiences.
- In response to a question from the Chair regarding the option for pupils to opt out of RE at the Foundation Phase, the CA highlighted the importance of understanding different cultures and views and to share them while adopting a positive stance on RE. The CA provided a brief view on the approach he would adopt on such matters.

The Chair and Members of SACRE thanked the Challenge Advisor for GwE for the work he had undertaken. Following further discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED – *that the presentation be received and noted.*

7 WASACRE

(a) Minutes of WASACRE – 8th March, 2016

The minutes of the meeting of the Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE) held at Haverford West on the 8th March, 2016 (previously circulated) were submitted for Members' information.

RESOLVED – *that the minutes of WASACRE held on the 8th March, 2016 be received and noted.*

(b) Denbighshire SACRE to host the spring meeting of WASACRE on the 23rd June, 2016.

Confirmation was provided that Denbighshire would be hosting the spring meeting of WASACRE to be held in the Council Chamber, Russell House, Rhyl on the 23rd June, 2016. The Challenge Advisor GwE (CA) informed the meeting that all Members of SACRE were welcome to attend.

RESOLVED – that notice of the meeting be received.

(c) WG Curriculum Review Up-Date May 2016.

A copy of a Plan provided by the Curriculum Reform Team had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. The Challenge Advisor GwE (CA) referred to the PowerPoint presentation which had been provided at the previous meeting, which had outlined the development of the new Curriculum for Wales as proposed by the Curriculum for life document.

It was confirmed that the work developing the Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs) outlined in Successful Futures would begin later in the year. Working groups of Pioneers would be established to lead the design and development of each AoLE, and during the second phase there would be engagement with experts and stakeholders with subject specific interests to inform their work.

Members were informed that 106 Pioneer Schools had been appointed to focus on curriculum design and development. Working with Welsh and international experts, they would be designing the new curriculum and assessment arrangements for Wales. Following a period of induction, they had recently commenced their work designing the new curriculum framework. Four working groups of Pioneers had been established, focussing on:-

- Assessment and progression;
- Cross-curriculum responsibilities;
- Enrichment and experiences; and
- Welsh dimension, international perspective and wider skills.

It was hoped that meetings would be held with AoLE Groups before the end of the summer term for an induction meeting or event but this had not yet to be confirmed. Members were informed that it had been anticipated that a further update would be provided in the next couple of months.

RESOLVED – that the report be received and noted.

(d) Nominations for the Executive Committee (23 June 2016).

Details of the nominations for the Executive Committee were circulated with the papers for the meeting. Members were informed that there were four nominations for three positions on the Executive Committee.

RESOLVED – that details of the nominations for the Executive Committee be received and noted.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Denbighshire SACRE had been scheduled for Wednesday, 19th October, 2016 at a venue to be confirmed.

The meeting concluded at 11.25 a.m.

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

Date of Meeting:	19th October 2016
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Agenda Item:	5	Report Details
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Background

Update on the progress of the New Curriculum for Wales.

Purpose

A presentation from one of the working group helping to shape and design Wales' new curriculum.

Recommendations:

- To receive the report

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Denbighshire County Council Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)		
Date of Meeting:	19th October 2016	
Agenda Item:	6	Report Details
<u>Background to the Report:</u>		
<p>It is a statutory requirement on the SACRE to produce and Annual Report of its work, and that this Annual Report be made available to DfES by December 31st.</p>		
<u>Purpose of the Report:</u>		
<p>To identify and record the work of the SACRE for the year from September 2015– July 2016</p>		
<u>Recommendations:</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To approve the report, subject to any amendments, as an accurate account. ▪ To request the LA to have the report translated into Welsh, printed, and distributed to all schools and colleges in Denbighshire, and other recipients as required by law and as identified in the report. 		

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Annual Report
of
Denbighshire
Standing Advisory Council
for Religious Education

2015 - 2016

Foreword

The Role of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education:

The principal roles of SACRE are:

- Advising the Local Authority on matters to do with Religious Education and collective worship, or Spiritual and Moral Development;
- Consider applications from Headteachers that their school be released from the statutory requirements for Collective Worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character (such applications are known as 'Determinations');
- Require a Local Authority to review its Agreed Syllabus;
- Monitor the provision of RE, collective worship and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in the schools of the Local Authority;
- Give advice on teacher agreed syllabus RE, including the choice of teacher materials;
- Advising the Local Authority on the provision of training for teachers (in RE);
- Considering complaints about the provision and delivery of RE and collective worship made to the Local Authority.
- To publish an Annual Report on its work.

The Composition of SACRE:

The statutory requirements for the setting up of SACREs require three committees of members:

- Representatives of Christian denominations or other religions and their denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions of the locality;
- Teacher representatives;
- County Council representatives.

There is also the right to co-opt members.

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Executive Summary

Topics/Issues:	Advice given:	Implemented By LEA:
RE: Agreed Syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agreed syllabus conference continues to be deferred on the advice of WASACRE, due to the current curriculum reform. 	✓
RE: Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following consideration of Inspection Reports, schools are sent letters congratulating them for the good features. Results of the previous year's examinations for Religious Studies GCSE short course, full course and A level are presented and discussed. 	✓
RE: Choice of Teaching Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No formal guidance, but the additional support and guidance for the Agreed Syllabus includes reference to some teaching materials. Secondary schools were provided with a resource entitled 'Muslim footballers in the premier league.' 	✓
RE: Provision of ITT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No visits possible this year. 	
Collective Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following consideration of Inspection Reports, letters be sent to schools congratulating them for the good features. 	✓
Other Matters: Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SACRE has started to meet in schools. Members continue to discuss how best to monitor standards in schools The 'community links and local faith groups' case studies document has been completed and sent to all schools in the Local Authority SACRE has started to support school collaboration groups, developing materials and resources to support the teaching of RE. SACRE has started to support school collaboration groups, developing materials and resources to support the monitoring of RE. 	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Other Matters: National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members receive regular updates of Estyn Inspection Reports or documents relating to RE and Collective Worship. Members be informed about developments and initiatives undertaken by DFES Skills. The SACRE maintain its membership of WASACRE, representatives attend and report back on the meetings of the association. WJEC analysis of Religious Studies examinations. WASACRE continues to ask SACRE's to evaluate and improve how they monitor and work with schools 	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Other Matters: additional	No other additional matters.	
Complaints	No complaints received.	

The Annual Report

2. Advice Given to the Local Authority

(a) Religious Education:

i. The Agreed Syllabus

Denbighshire SACRE adopted the 'National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education for 3-19 year olds' as the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Denbighshire in 2008. The framework continues to be the basis of the Agreed Syllabus in Denbighshire. The Agreed Syllabus will be reviewed once the findings of the curriculum review are published.

A SACRE's main function is '...to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit.' Education Reform Act 1988 s.11 (1) (a)

In the summer term, training has been provided for a few schools who will continue to work collaboratively to develop resources supporting the Agreed Syllabus.

The planning document 'Comprehensive Guide to RE' and 'RE in the Foundation Phase', which complement the Agreed Syllabus, continue to be requested and used by schools.

ii. Standards

Examination results

The SACRE received details of the examination results for 2015

550 pupils sat the full course in 2015, 8 more than the year before. The full course results were slightly below the national average, 73.6% compared to 75.0%, and below last year's LA results by 2.8%.

293 pupils sat the short course in 2015, 259 more than the year before. The short course GCSE results were considerably below national trends, the overall A*-C was 25.6%, 24.4% below the national results for all candidates, but a 5% increase on last year's local figures.

In 2015, 51 pupils sat an 'A' level in Religious Studies, 26 fewer than in 2014. For Advanced Level, the overall A* – C rate was 86.3%, 5.3% above the national average, but 3.3% below when compared with last year's local figures.

Inspection Reports

Due to the current Estyn inspection framework there are no subject judgments in the Estyn reports. Instead, members receive information from the reports relating to Estyn's comments of a school's provision of SMSC. See part c Collective Worship - Monitoring provision - Inspection reports.

b. Methods of teaching

The SACRE and LA have previously provided comprehensive documents and materials in support of the Agreed Syllabus, and these contain advice on methods of teaching and delivery of RE.

No advice has been given to schools regarding methods of teaching in 2014-15.

A small group of schools have met to work collaboratively during the summer term. The aim of this group is to develop curriculum resources that can be shared with all schools in the LA.

Choosing teaching resources

The SACRE does not formally advise schools in the matter of purchasing teaching resources, deeming this to be a matter for the schools themselves.

A presentation was received regarding a resource created by a WASACRE executive member based on Muslim football players in the premier league to support the engagement of boys and RE in Key Stage 3. The resource was sent to local secondary schools.

Provision of Initial Teacher Training

It had not been possible during the year to make a visit to or receive a visit from an Initial Teacher Training Institute.

c) Collective Worship

Monitoring provision

Inspection Reports

As part of the process of monitoring, Estyn Inspection Reports are analysed in terms of collective worship, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC). These are compiled and noted by SACRE. Letters are sent to schools following the consideration of them in SACRE, commending good practice and offering support as may be necessary.

Over the year 12 schools' inspection reports were analysed as follows:

<i>Positive Comments in overall judgements</i>	<i>No of schools</i>
Current performance	1

<i>Positive Comments in quality indicators:</i>	<i>No of schools</i>
Key Question 1: How good is outcomes?	
Standards	1
Wellbeing	5
Key Question 2: How good is provision?	
Learning Experiences	11
Care support and guidance	12
Learning Environment	8
Key Question 3: How good is leadership and management?	
Leadership	1
Partnership working	3

iii) Guidance Documents

Guidance documents created in previous years continue to be available to schools including 'A Comprehensive Guide to RE' and 'RE in the Foundation Phase'.

A small number of schools have worked collaboratively, and will continue to work together, to develop guidance for all schools in the LA on aspects of monitoring and curriculum planning.

iv) Resources recommended

The guidance documents referred to above contain references to resources valued and recommended or evaluated by serving teachers. In addition, advice is offered in response to specific requests. Also schools are informed of resources through the RE News which is available to all schools electronically, they also have access to the Welsh National Centre for RE resources at Bangor University and also the St Mary's Centre for RE.

Self-evaluation materials continue to be promoted and are available on the REQM website.

v) INSET for Collective Worship

No inset has been provided for Collective Worship in the current academic year.

vi) Evaluation of the effectiveness of guidance

No formal evaluation of the original guidance material has been undertaken, but responses from schools to the materials, and comments offered through school visits have indicated how much the schools have valued the materials and used them in planning and enhancing their provision.

vii) Determinations

No Determinations have been made.

3) Other Matters

a) Local

SACRE continues to conduct its meeting in schools, one secondary and two primary schools. SACRE observed one act of collective Worship in one of the host schools

SACRE commissioned the creation of a selection of case studies to promote good practice relating to local communities supporting Religious Education and Collective Worship. The resource has been emailed to all schools in the LA.

SACRE is supporting school to school collaborative groups that will develop curriculum and monitoring resources that will be shared with schools across the LA.

b) National

Members received a presentation created by WJEC explaining the key points from an analysis of the data from the GCSE and 'A' level examinations in Religious Education in 2015.

Members continue to receive presentations regarding the implications of the Donaldson Review on Religious Education and the development of the pioneer network.

(i) Estyn:

Inspection Reports on schools were received and analysed, as reported.

(ii) DFES:

The SACRE has been informed of developments and initiatives undertaken by or through the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills. The Agreed Syllabus Conference has been postponed until DFES publishes its planned changes to the curriculum. WASACRE has met with Professor Donaldson to discuss RE's place in the current curriculum.

(iii) WASACRE

Members of SACRE and the LA were represented at all the meetings of WASACRE, and received some of the presentations that had been made. SACRE continued to receive reports from representatives attending the meetings of the Association, and also receiving of minutes and papers from WASACRE.

(iv) Complaints

No complaints were received by the SACRE.

4. Appendices:

a) Composition of SACRE

Representing Religious Denominations:

Church in Wales

Sylvia Harris
Simon Cameron

Roman Catholic

Mary Ludenbach

Baptist Union

Nomination awaited (Welsh)
Nomination awaited (English)

Presbyterian

Rev. Brian H Jones (Welsh)
Christine Thomas (English)

Methodist

Rev. Martin Evans-Jones

United Reformed

Nomination awaited

Union of Welsh Independents

Nomination awaited

Religious Society of Friends

Dominic Oakes

Salvation Army

Captain Sian Radford

Evangelical Movement Wales

Nomination awaited

Representing Teacher Associations:

Secondary Headteacher

Nomination awaited

Junior Headteacher

Nomination awaited

Secondary RE Specialists

Cate Harmsworth

Infant Headteacher

Nomination awaited

Special School Teachers

Ms.Ali Ballantyne

Junior Classroom Teacher

Nomination awaited

Infant Classroom Teacher

Nomination awaited

Representing Denbighshire County Council

Councillor Dewi Owens
Councillor Arwell Roberts
Councillor Ann Davies

Councillor Bill Tasker
Councillor Joe Welch

Co-opted Members:

Mr. Gavin Craigen [gavin@craigen.net] Autumn Meeting Only
Tania Ap Sion – Director of the St. Mary's Centre [t.apsion@glyndwr.acuk]

b) Number and dates of meetings

SACRE meetings:

21st October 2015

12th February 2016

20th June 2016

c) Organisations receiving the report

- DFES
- The report is available on the WASACRE website for interested organisations

Ysgolion Sir Ddinbych – Tabl 1
Denbighshire Schools – Table 1

CANLYNIADAU TAGAU 2015: PAWB – ASTUDIAETHAU CREFYDDOL
GCSE RESULTS 2015: ALL – RELIGIOUS STUDIES

<i>Ysgolion n Sch ools</i>	<i>Cyfanswm /Totals</i>	A *	%	A	%	B	%	C	%	D	%	E	%	F	%	G	%	U	%	% A* - C	% A* - G
<i>Dinbych Denbigh</i>	16	1	6.3%	8	50.0%	4	25.0%	2	12.5%	1	6.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	93.8	100
<i>Glan Clwyd</i>	22	4	18.2%	6	27.3%	3	13.6%	4	18.2%	3	13.6%	0	0.0%	2	9.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	77.3	100
<i>Prestatyn</i>	243	14	5.8%	49	20.2%	79	32.5%	57	23.5%	25	10.3%	9	3.7%	4	1.6%	4	1.6%	1	0.4%	87.9	99.2
<i>Dinas Bran</i>	108	6	5.6%	6	5.6%	20	18.5%	23	21.3%	26	24.1%	15	13.9%	5	4.6%	4	3.7%	3	2.8%	50.9	97.2
<i>Brynhyfryd</i>	22	4	18.2%	9	40.9%	3	13.6%	3	13.6%	1	4.5%	2	9.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	86.4	100
<i>Y Rhyl/Rhyl</i>	39	0	0.0%	1	2.6%	7	17.9%	9	23.1%	9	23.1%	11	28.2%	1	2.6%	1	2.6%	0	0.0%	43.6	100
<i>Ben Ed Jones/Bl. Ed Jones</i>	50	0	0.0%	7	14.0%	13	26.0%	14	28.0%	9	18.0%	3	6.0%	2	4.0%	1	2.0%	1	2.0%	68	98
<i>Santes Ffraid/ S. Brigids</i>	50	13	26.0%	15	30.0%	19	38.0%	2	4.0%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	98	100
Cyfanswm AALLI/ LA Totals	550	42	7.6%	101	18.4%	148	26.9%	114	20.7%	74	13.5%	40	7.3%	14	2.5%	10	1.8%	5	0.9%	73.6	99.6
Holl Cymru All Wales	11,167		11		19		24		20		9		7		4		3		2	75	98

Ysgolion Sir Ddinbych – Tabl 2
Denbighshire Schools – Table 2

CANLYDIADAU TGAU 2015 PAWB – ASTUDIAETHAU GREFYDDOL: CWRS BYR
GCSE RESULTS 2015: ALL – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SHORT COURSE

<i>Ysgolion Schools</i>	<i>Cyfanswm /Totals</i>	A*	%	A	%	B	%	C	%	D	%	E	%	F	%	G	%	U	%	% A* - C	% A* - G
<i>Dinbych Denbigh</i>	82	5	6.1%	5	6.1%	18	22.0%	16	19.5%	11	13.4%	18	22.0%	6	7.3%	2	2.4%	1	1.2%	53.7	98.8
<i>Glan Clwyd</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Prestatyn</i>	38	1	2.6%	0	0	1	2.6%	6	15.8%	0	0	2	5.3%	8	21.1%	11	28.9%	5	13.2%	21.1	76.3
<i>Dinas Bran</i>	22	0	0	0	0	1	4.5%	7	31.8%	1	4.5%	6	27.3%	4	18.2%	3	13.6%	0	0	36.4	100
<i>Brynhyfryd</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100.0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
<i>Y Rhyl/Rhyl</i>	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4.4%	6	6.7%	11	12.2%	17	18.9%	16	17.8%	34	37.8%	4.4	60
<i>Ben Ed Jones/Bl. Ed Jones</i>	52	0	0	0	0	2	3.8%	5	9.6%	7	13.5%	14	26.9%	9	17.3%	8	15.4%	6	11.5%	13.5	86.5
<i>Santes Ffraid/ St Brigids</i>	4	0	0	0	0	1	25.0%	1	25.0%	1	25.0%	1	25.0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	100
Cyfanswm AAL/ LA Totals	293	6	2.0%	5	1.7%	24	8.2%	40	13.7%	27	9.2%	52	17.7%	45	15.4%	40	13.7%	46	15.7%	25.6	81.6
Holl Cymru All Wales	10,098		4		10		17		21		14		12		9		6		7	52	93

Ysgolion Sir Ddinbych – Tabl 3 *CANLYNIADAU SAFON UWCH 2015 – PAWB ASTUDIAETHAU CREFYDDOL*
 Denbighshire Schools – Table 3 GCE ADVANCED LEVEL RESULTS 2015: ALL – RELIGIOUS STUDIES

<i>Ysgolion Schools</i>	<i>Cyfanswm /Totals</i>	A*	%	A	%	B	%	C	%	D	%	E	%	U	%	% A* - C	% A* - E
<i>Dinbych Denbigh</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100.0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100
<i>Glan Clwyd</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100.0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100
<i>Prestatyn</i>	23	0	0	0	0	6	26.1%	11	47.8%	4	17.4%	2	8.7%	0	0	73.9	100
<i>Dinas Bran</i>	2	0	0	2	100.0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100
<i>Brynhyfryd</i>	12	0	0	3	25.0%	4	33.3%	5	41.7%	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100
<i>Y Rhyl/Rhyl</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Ben Ed Jones/Bl. Ed Jones</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Santes Ffraid/ St Brigids</i>	12	1	8.3%	3	25.0%	3	25.0%	4	33.3%	1	8.3%	0	0	0	0	91.7	100
<i>Cyfanswm AALL/ LA Totals</i>	51	1	2.0%	8	15.7%	13	25.5%	22	43.1%	5	9.8%	2	3.9%	0	0	86.3	100
<i>Holl Cymru All Wales</i>	1444		4		19		31		27		14		5		0	81	100

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

Date of Meeting:

19th October 2016

Agenda Item:

7

Report Details

Background

Welsh Government has provided funding for local consortia to support the implementation of the New GCSEs. GwE have commissioned 3 teachers across North Wales to support in this venture.

Purpose

To inform SACRE members of the lead practitioner programme and how this relates to Religious Studies examinations.

Recommendations:

- To receive the report

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<p>Denbighshire County Council Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)</p>		
Date of Meeting:		19th October 2016
Agenda Item:	8	Report Details
<p><u>Background to the Report:</u></p> <p>Schools are 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</p>		
<p><u>Purpose of the Report:</u></p> <p>To provide an update on the training event and to discuss the way forward.</p>		
<p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Receive the presentation ▪ Discuss the next steps 		

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<p>Denbighshire County Council Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)</p>		
Date of Meeting:	19th October 2016	
Agenda Item:	9	Report Details
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Background to the Report:</u></p> <p>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.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Purpose of the Report:</u></p> <p>For members to be informed as to the focus and main outcomes of the previous meeting.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To receive the minutes of the previous meeting. ▪ To agree attendance to the next WASACRE (Blaenau Gwent 25th November 2015) 		

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Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru, Y Rhyl, 23 Mehefin 2016
(10.30am – 3pm)

Wales Association of SACREs meeting, Rhyl, 23 June 2015 (10.30am – 3pm)

Attendance

<p>Ynys Môn / Anglesey Bethan James</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent Gill Vaisey</p> <p>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend Edward Evans</p> <p>Caerffili/ Caerphilly</p> <p>Caerdydd / Cardiff Gill Vaisey</p> <p>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire Mary Parry</p> <p>Ceredigion Lyndon Lloyd</p> <p>Conwy Phil Lord Nicholas Richter</p>	<p>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire Phil Lord</p> <p>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire Phil Lord</p> <p>Gwynedd Bethan James</p> <p>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil</p> <p>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire Gill Vaisey</p> <p>Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot</p> <p>Casnewydd / Newport Huw Stephens</p> <p>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire Mary Parry</p>	<p>Powys John Mitson Margaret Evitts</p> <p>Rhondda Cynon Taf Gill Vaisey Mathew Maidment</p> <p>Abertawe / Swansea</p> <p>Torfaen /Torfaen</p> <p>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan Gill Vaisey</p> <p>Wrecsam / Wrexham Libby Jones Samantha Jesson Ruth Holden</p> <p>Sylwedyddion / Observers Tudor Thomas (REMW) Abi Williams (Welsh Government) Paula Webber</p>
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Minutes

1. Cyflwyniad a chroeso / *Introduction and welcome*

Chair of WASACRE, Phil Lord welcomed members to Rhyl and introduced Head of Education and Children's Services for Denbighshire, Karen Evans.

Karen Evans welcomed WASACRE members to the Council Chamber in Rhyl and spoke about the importance of collaboration and partnership working in Education. Karen Evans acknowledged the work of WASACRE and the 22 SACREs in Wales in contributing to this collaboration, which has helped to improve the quality of teaching and learning in schools. Karen Evans shared her belief that RE remained a pivotal part of the curriculum because of the important skills it develops in young people and the life lessons they learn from it, which are often not taught elsewhere. Karen also said that RE gives young people the space to make sense of their own place in the world, with empathy, compassion, tolerance, and respect. Karen concluded her welcome by wishing WASACRE well in its meeting and AGM.

2. Adfyfyrion tawel / *Quiet reflection*

Phil Lord lead a reflection and asked members to consider the important work they were about to embark on during the meeting.

3. Ymddiheuriadau / *Apologies*

Tania ap Sion, Christine Abbas, Alwen Roberts, Vicky Thomas, Cllr Ernie Galsworthy, Sue Cave, Helen Gibbon and Meinir loader, Cllr Arwel Roberts, Sharron Perry- Phillips (check spellings of last 2 names).

4. Cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd yn Hwlfordd, 8 Mawrth 2015 / *Minutes of meeting held in Haverfordwest, 8 March 2016*

Phil thanked Edward Evans for chairing the meeting in his absence.

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Huw Stephens and seconded by Gill Vaisey.

5. Materion yn codi / *Matters arising*

P3. Item 5. Matters arising. Libby Jones explained that the link from the WASACRE website to the REMW archive material on the Peniarth website is currently being set up and will be available soon.

P4. Item 5. Matters arising. Libby Jones read out the email WASACRE had received from Lynda Maddock (WJEC), informing members that due to issues raised by Qualifications Wales regarding the new specification it is now unlikely that the spec would be accredited before September. Lynda gave indications of which topics would be safe for teachers to begin with their Year 9 pupils from September 2016, in preparation for its official implementation in September 2017. Aspects of the new Eduquas specification were suggested by Lynda as helpful for this purpose. Edward Evans proposed that the

email be sent to SACREs for circulation to schools. Tudor Thomas urged caution as the spec has not yet been accredited. A discussion ensued in which the following points were raised:

Even though the content of the Eduquas RS specification is similar to the new RS specification for Wales, the question types might be quite different; therefore teachers need to be aware of that when teaching to Year 9 students pre September 2017.

The new content is considered to be a step backwards by many teachers.

RE's place within the curriculum needs to be looked at if the exam is getting so much harder that many schools are starting the GCSE RS course in KS3 because they are not giving KS4 RE appropriate time on the timetable to cover the specification.

Disappointment was expressed in the extended delay, which will result in further confusion for schools and teachers.

Short Course is part of the capped point score so it is not in as much danger as it is in England where it is not counted at all and so will disappear.

The RE world has worked hard to attain and maintain the RS Short Course which revolutionised statutory RE and it will be a shame for Wales to lose it.

Mary Parry explained that from her meeting with representatives from WJEC including Chief Executive, Gareth Pierce, she can now confirm that retaining a separate short course as well as the new specification is not an option. Mary communicated to Gareth Pierce that the new specification will not appeal to statutory RE students and this could mean that results will go down. If this happens it will put RE in a dangerous position in terms of time and status and what the pupils receive.

Action: LJ will reply to Lynda Maddock to thank her for the information and to ask when schools will be officially informed by WJEC of the current situation. LJ will send the information in the email from Lynda to SACREs for their information and for circulation to schools. LJ will write to Qualifications Wales to express disappointment in the delays and to outline the concerns members have about the content of the new specification.

P4. Item 5. Matters arising. Bursaries for PGCE students. LJ read out the email from Rachel Bendall, RS PGCE Course leader at USWTSD, which described the current bursary offer in Wales for RS PGCE students compared to England. It became clear to members that Wales cannot compete with England's offer which has resulted in students going across the border to study. Members agreed that WASACRE should take this issue to Welsh Government once it has completed some research on the current and projected staffing of all RE departments across Wales. Mary Parry proposed that WASACRE asks Rachel to make an enquiry to Vaughan Salisbury about the research he completed some time ago, which gave hard data to prove that there would be a shortage of RE teachers in the future. This data was shared with Welsh Government at the time to successfully prove to that there was a need to introduce a bursary for the training of RE teachers, to avoid this shortage. The Welsh Government subsequently introduced this bursary (which has by now been removed). Members agreed that something similar should be done in order to obtain further information and data regarding this situation to inform future action.

Action: LJ will email Rachel to make enquiries.

P5. Item 5. Matters arising. Humanist representation on SACRE. Humanists requesting representation on SACRE could be invited to make a presentation to current members outlining how their co-option will positively impact SACRE. The decision to co-opt lies entirely with each individual SACRE.

P10. Item 10. A.O.B. Incerts. WASACRE wrote to Welsh Government to request a statement which could be sent to Incerts to confirm that the RE levels in the National Exemplar Framework are statutory. Welsh Government refused to supply WASACRE with a statement due to Incerts being a commercial enterprise.

Mary Parry reminded members of the situation and that the headings for the RE levels within the Incerts assessment package used by many schools in Wales are misleading. The Foundation Phase outcomes are not on there and Incerts have refused to put them on. All SACREs have notified schools of the confusion and have explained which levels are the correct ones to use.

Action: LJ will ask Welsh Government for a statement which explains the status of the Agreed Syllabus levels in RE.

6. Addysg Grefyddol a'i le o fewn y cwricwlwm newydd / *Religious Education and its place within the new curriculum*

Gill Vaisey spoke about the meeting between WASACRE Executive representatives and Welsh Government representatives Manon Jones and Abi Williams. Gill said that it was a positive meeting in which they were able to share concerns over the implications of the new curriculum for Wales, including the current nursery provision for RE and withdrawal rights, and to share what good RE might look like. Gill assured members that WASACRE will continue to meet with Welsh Government in the future to maintain and develop this mutually beneficial relationship.

A member asked which schools had been chosen as pioneer schools. Phil Lord confirmed that the information was available on the Welsh Government website.

7. Diweddariadau/*Up-dates:*

- FEAAG/*EFTRE*

The EFTRE Conference will take place in August 2016, the dates and details for which are on the EFTRE website www.EFTRE.net. Phil Lord will be going to the conference, which will focus on RE in a multi-cultural world and will aim to help address the anti-terrorism agenda. Lots of different workshops will be offered and Phil urged members to circulate the information about the conference to teachers in their Local Authorities.

- Canlyniadau'r Bagloriaeth Cymru ac Arolwg Addysg Grefyddol/ *Results of the Welsh Baccalaureate and RE Survey*

Libby Jones shared a PowerPoint presentation with members showing the initial results of the Welsh Baccalaureate survey. The PowerPoint is available on the WASACRE website www.wasacre.org

A discussion ensued in which the following points and questions were raised:

What percentage of schools from each authority responded to the questionnaire?

Where the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification has negatively impacted schools support should be given as soon as possible.

WASACRE should highlight the examples of positive impact and share them as good practice to all schools in Wales.

The current agreed syllabi in Wales (National Exemplar Framework) currently states that KS4 RE can be offered through 'other appropriate qualifications (e.g. Key Skills/Welsh Baccalaureate)'. Should we be looking at this guidance with a view to re-wording it?

What are the consequences for not doing statutory RE at KS4?

The information within the responses from each school should be sent to the appropriate SACRE for them to deal with any issues which have been raised and feedback given to WASACRE on progress.

Schools should be formally thanked for responding to the survey.

Action: LJ to send letter of thanks to the individual schools via their local SACRE. Send PowerPoint presentation to SACREs for their information. Feedback the responses to the SACREs about their schools for their information. Send information to the RE Advisors/SACREs regarding the schools who may not be meeting current statutory requirements for RE and request feedback on the Local Authorities' actions and progress.

- Canllawiau ar Reoli Hawl Tynnu'n ôl o Addysg Grefyddol/ *Guidance on Managing the Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education*

Gill gave members the context to the guidance document explaining that it was done on request of Headteachers for guidance on withdrawal from RE. NAPfRE have supported Gill on writing this Guidance. Headteachers have been involved, as have different Local Authorities in Wales and Dylwen Hunt (chair of AREIAC). The emphasis of the document is on helping Headteachers manage the withdrawal from RE. The Exec committee considered making it available as a glossy document and on PDF to publish it and have asked the Treasurer if WASACRE would support it in terms of funding. It would be a WASACRE sponsored document and WASACRE would pay for the design, printing and translation costs.

The majority of members present at the meeting agreed for WASACRE to give financial support to this guidance document.

It was proposed that the WASACRE website should be improved and up-dated, including the WASACRE logo and design style for future WASACRE documents. The majority of members voted in agreement of this proposal.

8. Cyflwyniad NAPfRE / NAPfRE presentation:

Addoli ar y Cyd a cadw arferion crefyddol mewn Ysgolion / *Collective Worship and Religious Observance in Schools- Alison Mawhinney and Ann Sherlock*

Alison and Ann gave a presentation on their recent research into Collective Worship across the UK, including looking at current legislation. The presentation is available on the WASACRE website. www.wasacre.org. Phil thanked Alison and Ann for their presentation and members were invited to ask questions. An example of some of the questions asked are as follows:

Q1. Is there a specific age suggested by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that a child is capable of making the decision to withdraw themselves from collective worship?

A. No there is not. However, competence is referred to in convention and schools would have to make that decision.

Q2. When a child is withdrawn from collective worship what activities are deemed to be educational that the children can do instead and where is that in the legislation?

A. It states in International Guidance that the activity should be in line with parental wishes and in line with the rights of the child.

9. Adroddiad ar gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith a gynhaliwyd ar 10 May 2016 / *Report from the Executive Committee held on 10 May 2016*

Phil talked about WASACREs relationship with the Religious Education Council for England and Wales and plans for further dialogue and collaboration.

Phil suggested that WASACRE should keep a watching brief on what is happening with the WJEC new RE specification which will be implemented in September 2017.

10. Gohebiaeth / *Correspondence*

Libby Jones received an email from Kathy Riddick, development officer of the Wales Humanists on April 5 2016 to enquire about how Humanist representation on SACREs can be arranged. Libby Jones replied to Kathy to explain the process, a copy of her response was read out at the meeting, and Kathy asked to attend one of the future WASACRE meetings. In consultation with Phil, Libby has invited Kathy to attend the meeting in Carmarthenshire in November as an observer.

Libby received an email from a parent from RCT local Authority regarding a possible equality issue within his child's school. Libby read out the email to members who agreed that it was not a WASACRE issue and that it would be more helpful to pass it on to RCT SACRE for them to investigate further with the school in question.

Action: LJ will contact the parent to explain that his enquiry is now being dealt with by RCT SACRE and RCT SACRE has been advised of the enquiry.

11. U.F.A. / *A.O.B.* None.

12. Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf / *Date for next meeting:* 18 Tachwedd 2016, Carmarthenshire/ 18 November 2016, *Carmarthenshire.*

The meeting will be held in the Carmarthenshire Council Chamber.

Dyddiadau cyfarfodydd yn y dyfodol / *Future meeting dates: Spring 2017 Monmouthshire; Summer 2017 Wrexham; Autumn 2017 Bridgend; Spring 2018 Swansea.*

Phil Lord brought the meeting to a close and thanked those involved for their contributions.

Draft

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