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Cofnodion cyfarfod CCYSAGauC, Llandudno Junction,
Aberaeron, 26 Mehefin 2012, 10.30am – 3pm

Minutes of the Wales Association of SACREs meeting, 26
June 2012, 10.30am-3pm
Llandudno Business Centre, Llandudno Junction

<p>Ynys Môn / Anglesey Rheinallt Thomas</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent Gill Vaisey</p> <p>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend Edward Evans</p> <p>Caerffili/ Caerphilly Vicky Thomas</p> <p>Caerdydd / Cardiff</p> <p>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire Mary Parry</p> <p>Ceredigion</p> <p>Conwy Nicholas Richter Nayland Southern Chris Noon</p>	<p>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire Brian Huw Jones</p> <p>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire Phil Lord</p> <p>Gwynedd W M Meredith</p> <p>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil Vicky Thomas</p> <p>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire Gill Vaisey</p> <p>Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot Jen Malcolm</p> <p>Casnewydd / Newport Vicky Thomas</p> <p>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire</p> <p>Powys John Mitson Christine Robinson</p>	<p>Rhondda Cynon Taf</p> <p>Abertawe / Swansea Vicky Thomas</p> <p>Torfaen Vicky Thomas</p> <p>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan Vicky Thomas</p> <p>Wrecsam / Wrexham Libby Jones Tania ap Siôn Catrin Rowlands</p> <p>Sylwedyddion / Observers Leslie Francis (Canolfan y Santes Fair / St Mary's Centre)</p>
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**Minutes of the Wales Association of SACREs meeting, 26 June 2012, 10.30am-3pm
Llandudno Business Centre, Llandudno Junction**

1. Introduction and Welcome The Chair, Edward Evans, welcomed everyone to Llandudno Junction and a special warm welcome was extended to Ysgol Maelgwyn, who sang four songs and were presented with a copy of Gill Vaisey's book; and Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan, who could not attend the meeting, but whose DVD presentation was introduced by Head of RE, Chris Noon. Director of Education for Conwy, Geraint James, also welcomed members.

2. Quiet reflection The Chair related a story about the two seas in Palestine. He linked this to the people of this world and the Olympics.

3. Apologies Ben Wigley, Gavin Craigen, Graham Longster, Brian Rogers, Dafydd Treharne, Sue Cave, Carys Prichard, Geraint Hopkins, Lyndon Lloyd, Chris Abbas, David Griffiths.

4. Minutes of the meeting held in Aberaeron, 30th March 2012 Correction to p5 Item 4: Joyce Howells is from Ceredigion not Carmarthenshire. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters arising Item 4 (p 5): KS3 Moderation. Discussion has taken place in NAPfRE about the outcomes and how we will take this forward. This will be considered further when more information is available. There will be a presentation by Gavin Craigen regarding KS3 Moderation in the autumn meeting in Merthyr Tydfil.

Item 8 (p8): Examination data. A letter was sent to the Welsh Government to request an update. The response received by RCT SACRE provided a web link and a contact through which additional data could be pursued. Two members of NAPfRE had been assigned the task of exploring the data available, and reporting back to Tania ap Sion, who would then communicate with the contact.

Item 9 (p9): REQM. WASACRE has been approached by the RE council about whether the REQM could run in Wales. Members of NAPfRE have discussed this and recommend that we send a representative from NAPfRE to be trained as an assessor. This should provide more information about the REQM. WASACRE and NAPfRE would then be able to make a decision based on a better understanding of the REQM and the process involved.

6. Collective Worship document Members were presented with the completed document, which had taken account of all the feedback given. The question of the difference between corporate and collective worship had arisen in some SACREs and it was agreed to add a footnote in the guidance explaining the difference. Tania ap Sion thanked Rheinallt Thomas for checking the Welsh translation of the document. Members agreed that the document is ready to be published with the inclusion of the footnote. Thanks were extended to Tania ap Sion for her work on the document.

The guidance document will now be available on the WASACRE website and sent electronically to all 22 SACREs for further circulation to all schools in their area. A copy will also be sent to Estyn. Also on the website there will be case studies of acts of collective worship from different schools in Wales which reflect aspects of good practice identified in the guidance document. Mary Parry suggested that the guidance document should be sent to Estyn with some of the case studies, and Tania ap Sion agreed that this would be done.

Rheinallt Thomas shared with members the response he had received from Anne Keane (Estyn). Anne Keane confirmed that during an inspection the report will note whether or not a school is following the legal requirements for collective worship and if the statutory requirements are not met (not higher than adequate) Estyn cannot have anything higher than adequate in the reports. Concerns were raised as to the accuracy of this statement and about what sanctions are in place for schools that do not comply with the legal requirements. It was confirmed that it is the responsibility of the local authority to take action on this, highlighting the importance and value of the current monitoring system local Authorities have in place, i.e., through advisors and SACREs.

7. Presentation by Tania ap Sion: SACREs and the Local Community: Report on the WASACRE survey of SACREs in Wales

The Report had now been completed and will be made available to all SACREs in Welsh and English. Members received information about the structure of the report: survey context; design; results; next steps; appendices. The aims of the survey were to map the relationships between SACREs and their local communities and to share practice through an exploration of:

- SACRE representation on Committee A (Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations)
- SACRE co-opted representation
- SACRE relations with Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations
- SACRE involvement with local interfaith organisations and other local interfaith initiatives

An excellent response had been received from SACREs in Wales and Tania ap Sion summarised the results of the survey. The survey has shown that a lot of the good work takes place between SACREs and their local communities. Based on the findings of the survey, a series of recommendations have been devised for WASACRE and individual SACREs. It was suggested that each SACRE should have a working group to ensure the recommendations are met and that they should continue to offer presentations at WASACRE and to promote national and international initiatives relevant to community cohesion. SACREs were also encouraged to explore the Resilience project and to update the 'So you are joining our SACRE' handbooks. All relevant organisations are listed in the report. Thanks were extended to all our SACREs for completing the survey. Chair thanked Tania for

her hard work on this report. The document will be circulated electronically, but hard copies can be requested.

GV offered to share her directory of relevant religious organisations with WASACRE.

8. NAPfRE Presentation: Leslie J Francis: Young People's Attitudes to Religious Diversity The Young People's Attitudes to Religious Diversity Project was established in the Warwick Religions and Education Research Unit by Professor Robert Jackson in October 2009 within the Religion and Society Programme funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council. The quantitative project led by Professor Francis set out to capture the views of at least 2,000 pupils (years 9 and 10) from each of the five nations of the UK. Within each nation the target was to survey 1,000 pupils attending state-maintained schools with a religious character (mainly Anglican, Catholic or shared by these two denominations) and 1,000 pupils attending state-maintained schools without a religious character. At the time of the present analysis 1,945 pupils had participated from Wales. This excellent response from Wales was due to the support of colleagues from WASACRE and NAPfRE.

The presentation illustrated the rich potential of the Young People's Attitudes to Religious Diversity Project by selecting just part of the data and by focusing on specific issues. The presentation reported on male students only (since these are generally more difficult to engage in discussion about religion) and on nine themes from the survey addressing the questions: Who believes in God? What influences views about religion? What do young people think about religious education in schools? What do young people believe about science and religion? What do young people believe about life after death? Does belief in God make a difference to life? Respecting religion differences; Experiencing respect for religious differences; Allowing religious difference to flourish. In addition, a key comparison was offered between the views of those who believe in God and the views of those who do not believe in God, responding to the question, does belief in God matter in terms of shaping attitudes toward life in religiously diverse Wales?

Following the presentation, Leslie thanked Tania ap Sion and Gemma Penny for their contributions and the schools that participated. Members agreed that there was a great deal of thought-provoking data. In addition, in light of the current discussions on how to cover numeracy within the RE curriculum, it was felt that the project could be extremely useful as a basis for discussion in the RE classroom. It was also suggested that the results would be useful for raising the morale of RE teachers across Wales. The Chair thanked Leslie Francis for his presentation.

9. RE Council Report Tania ap Sion reported that she had represented WASACRE at the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on RE launch at the House of Commons on 11 June 2012. At the launch details of a survey by YouGov on attitudes to RE were presented. The survey results showed that over half of the adults surveyed held that RE should remain a compulsory subject in state-funded schools and that it is 'beneficial' to pupils. These figures rose sharply to almost two-thirds in the 18 to 24 age group.

10. Correspondence There was nothing in addition to that already referred to elsewhere in the meeting.

11. Report from the Executive Committee held on 24 May The Chair presented the minutes. Item 9 – Vicky Thomas raised the question about the format of SACRE Annual Report. There is no indication that this will change before December 2012.

12. Showcase of RE resources Gill Vaisey showed members copies of her new books, which are now 50% off to schools. Members were offered the books at a further discounted price. There are some Puddles and Muslim story electronic resources on her website linked to the foundation phase which are free. ‘Puddles and the Christening Splash’ will soon be published.

Rheinallt Thomas (REMW) spoke on behalf of Ben Wigley. He drew attention to copies of *RE ideas* for next term, “Why is it like this?” He requested suggestions of materials from schools that could be published (contact Sali Roberts or Rheinallt Thomas).

13. A.O.B. There was no other business.

14. Date of next meeting 23 November 2012, Merthyr Tydfil, Council Chamber.

15. Nominations for the Executive Committee Voting took place for the two places on the Executive Committee with Leslie Francis and Wyn Hobson acting as tellers.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 26 June 2012, Llandudno Junction

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Llangefni, 24th June 2011 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting

2. Matters Arising There were no matters arising.

3. WASACRE Report for 2010-11 The Chair presented the annual report of the activities of the Association for 2010-11. Vicky Thomas and Brian Rogers were elected last year to the Executive Committee. Rheinallt Thomas gave warm hearted thanks to Tania ap Sion for her work as Secretary to the Association; she continues her work as Vice Chair. It was agreed by members that Libby Jones would now take on the position of Secretary (previously Assistant Secretary). Past Chair Michael Gray also extended his thanks to Tania ap Sion.

4. Treasurer’s Report John Mitson (Treasurer) presented the report. During the year income exceeded expenditure by £3384.66, which is an improvement on the position in 2010/11 when the income exceeded expenditure by £2184.37. The financial year commenced with a balance of £14939.22 and ended with a balance of £18812.88. The finances of WASACRE, therefore, remain in a healthy condition, which will assist WASACRE in funding its planned activities in the coming year.

Members received and adopted the statement of accounts. The main source of income for WASACRE during 2011/12 is through annual subscriptions, paid by member SACREs. The Bank interest remains small. Members accepted Treasurer's recommendation that the subs go up from £400 to £408 pounds. Last year mileage went up to 45p per mile. Members supported the proposal of the Treasurer to keep the mileage and the expenses payments the same for this year. The Treasurer also confirmed that there are sufficient funds in this year's budget for the Annual Summer Conference 2013.

John Mitson asked for accounts to be accepted. Members accepted the accounts and the Chair thanked John Mitson for a clear and succinct report and his work throughout the year.

5. Election of the members to the Executive The results of the election: Phil Lord (Denbighshire) and Rheinallt Thomas (Anglesey) were elected to the Executive Committee). The Chair welcomed them and thanked them for their applications and their contributions so far. Concern was raised about the number of members attending WASACRE main meetings when they were held in North Wales. Vicky Thomas reminded members that the reason for advisor absences is due to Local government reorganisation. Tania ap Sion proposed that this is placed on the agenda for the next Executive meeting.

6. List of Executive Committee members A list of members of the Executive Committee for 2011/12 was presented and included in the papers of the meeting. It was confirmed that the word 'Assistant' is to be omitted from Libby Jones' title. It was confirmed that Bethan James had taken over from Gill Vaisey as NAPfRE representative on the Executive Committee. Phil Lord is added to the list and Rheinallt Thomas continues.

The Chair, Edward Evans, thanked the two Conwy schools, Ysgol Maelgwyn from Llandudno Junction and Ysgol Emrys ap Iawn from Abergele. He also thanked Geraint James, Director of Education for Conwy; Wyn Hobson for his translation; Chris Noon (Ysgol ap Iawn) for his presentation; and Members of WASACRE for their contributions and attendance.