
**S.A.C.R.E. – STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION
06.02.08**

Present:

Councillor Selwyn Griffiths - Chairman

Members of Gwynedd Council: Councillors Arwel Jones, Bill Lovelock, W. M. Meredith, Glyn Owen, R. Arwel Pierce and Evie Morgan Jones (ex-officio member).

Christians and Other Faiths: The Rev Canon Tegid Roberts (Church in Wales), Mr Gwyn Hefin Jones (Presbyterian Church of Wales), Mrs Ruth Davies (Welsh Union of Baptists), Mrs Eirian Bradley-Roberts (Catholic Church).

Teachers: Mr Noel Dyer (UCAC)

Officers: John Blake (Education Officer), Bethan James (Humanities Adviser), Glynda O'Brien (Committee Officer).

Apologies: Councillor Pat Larsen, Carol Llewelyn (Advisory Teacher).

1. **PRAYER**

The meeting was commenced with a prayer by Councillor Glyn Owen.

2. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(a) It was pleasing to see Councillor W. M. Meredith present at the meeting following recent surgery to his back at the beginning of December and he was evidently making good progress.

(b) Councillor Evie Morgan Jones, Vice-chair of the Council, was welcomed to the meeting. In the same manner Mrs Ruth Davies was welcomed to her first SACRE meeting. She had been appointed to represent the Baptists following the Reverend Olaf Davies.

(c) Although he was absent from the meeting, the Chairman referred to the fact that this was the last meeting of Mr Dafydd Fôn Williams as he was retiring from his post as Head of Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen, Caernarfon. His commitment and support to the work of SACRE throughout the years he had represented head teachers (not teachers) was recognised and the Committee's wish was to extend their best wishes to Mr Williams for a happy retirement.

(ch) The Chairman took the opportunity, in light of the fact that this was the last SACRE meeting before the Council elections in May, to thank his fellow members for their service and contribution to the work of SACRE and at the same time to

extend best wishes to those who intended to retire and those who would stand election.

3. **MINUTES**

Submitted: The minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 10 October 2007.

Resolved : **To receive and approve the minutes as a correct record.**

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Reported: By the Education Officer that he had requested Ysgol Llangybi and Ysgol Uwchradd Tryfan to adapt their self-evaluation and these would be submitted to the next SACRE meeting.

Resolved: **To receive and note the above.**

5. **SCHOOL INSPECTIONS**

Submitted: (a) Information on the contents of the school inspection reports under Section 28 Education Act 2005 in relation to Religious Education and the Pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development.

(b) Summary of the self-evaluation of the following schools:

- (i) Ysgol Gynradd y Parc
- (ii) Ysgol Gynradd y Friog

Reported: (a) By the Humanities Adviser, that the inspection reports were particularly good and in the context of the two schools that had received low grades, the action plan was in place to ensure development in those areas that required attention.

(b) By Canon Tegid Roberts that he, as part of the diocese inspection team, was aware that two schools had been inspected under Section 50 of the Act and that copies had been sent to the Council but there was no reference to this in the reports of the two specific schools Pont y Gof, Botwnnog and Tregarth. In response, the Education Officer explained that the administration of this committee had been transferred to the staff in the area office in Dolgellau and that documentation sometimes took longer to reach the appropriate place. It was suggested that in future that it would be better to send the inspection under Section 50 directly to the Committee Officer, Committees Unit, Cae Penarlâg, Dolgellau.

Resolved: **To receive and note the contents of the inspections and the self-evaluations and to request, in accordance with procedure, that the Education Officer sends a letter to the above schools congratulating them on their success and to note SACRE's appreciation of the efforts made by the schools to attain the grades.**

6. **WELSH SACREs ASSOCIATION**

Submitted: The minutes of the meeting of the Welsh SACREs Association that was held on 4 December 2007 in Ebbw Vale.

Resolved: To receive and note the contents of the minutes.

7. **ANNUAL REPORT – GWYNEDD SACRE 2006/07**

Submitted: For information, the final annual report of Gwynedd SACRE for 2006/07.

Members considered the final Gwynedd SACRE report for 2006-07. The committee had already declared its views on the draft report and it was confirmed that the report was now final.

RESOLVED to receive the report and thank the Humanities Adviser for her work arranging and completing the final report.

8. **NATIONAL EXEMPLAR FRAMEWORK FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Miss Bethan James, Humanities Adviser, presented the above document provided by DCELLS (Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills) to guide local education authorities with their agreed syllabus for religious education. Members were reminded of the whole religious experience that assisted pupils to make sense of themselves, their experience and the world they lived in.

Members would recall that the SACREs had a legal requirement to review their agreed syllabuses every five years and in 2005 Gwynedd SACRE resolved to defer until national direction was given. Since that period, Religious Education has received national attention and has given the representatives from Welsh SACREs the opportunity to share ideas.

A joint meeting took place between representatives from Gwynedd and Anglesey to discuss the national exemplar framework and it was agreed to adopt it in principle. It was noted that teachers were very supportive to the idea of a national framework and by now a copy had been sent to every primary and secondary school in Gwynedd except for the Colleges of Further Education.

The Humanities Adviser guided members through parts of the document and emphasised that the National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education will be presented with the intention of:

- Focussing on aspects of the subject that will motivate every learner and will encourage them to deal with this field.
- Making religious education more relevant to the twenty first century
- Placing more emphasis on skills
- Providing guidance for Religious Education in the Foundation Phase
- Extending the framework to include Key Stage 4 and post- 16
- Providing more opportunities for spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development

The pupils should have opportunities to:

- Develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions and use these to ask and respond to basic human and religious questions
- Deal with the basic questions, namely human and religious questions that focus on seeking a meaning, significance and value in life
- Explore beliefs, teachings and religious practices that provide an insight to the basic questions and raise further human and religious questions
- Express personal responses that link the matters that arise during the studies and experiences of the pupils themselves and permit the development of personal responses to beliefs, teachings and practices and basic questions and evaluate them.

The Humanities Adviser stressed that SACRE would have to consider what type of supplementary document they would wish to submit on behalf of the SACREs of Gwynedd and Anglesey with the National Exemplar Framework. In addition, it was noted that teachers were anxious to receive the teaching and learning guidelines and members were guided through an example of a work programme.

This Committee was requested, in the context of the next procedures, to agree on a time-schedule, submit their views and determine what type of official launch they wish to have to launch the National Exemplar Framework.

In conclusion, the Humanities Adviser stated that meetings would take place with the Head teachers of Gwynedd Primary Schools on the following dates and any member of Gwynedd SACRE was welcome to attend if they so wished:

9 June (Arfon)
10 June (Dwyfor)
12 June (Meirionnydd)

Following this, it would be necessary for the SACREs of Gwynedd and Anglesey, in the form of a conference, to adopt the National Exemplar Framework for their syllabuses with the intention of launching it during the summer term to be implemented from September 2008 onwards.

The following points were highlighted by members:

(a) in the context of providing opportunities for post-16 pupils, it would be beneficial to offer them work experience with workers who deal with Religious Education such as Clergymen, Chaplains in Hospitals etc. In response, the Humanities Adviser explained that it was not practicably possible for every post-16 pupil to have work experience that was specific to the requirements of the religious education framework only. However, having said that, teachers in Meirionnydd and Dwyfor were about to receive training by visiting Ysbyty Gwynedd to have a discussion with multi-faith people, chemists etc with the intention of ascertaining that Religious Education was relevant to the world of work.

(b) in response to a query from a member regarding how the National Exemplar Framework would impair on inspections, it was envisaged that this would be a challenge for training inspectors but on the other hand the procedure would allow consistency in the syllabuses that would make it easier for inspections.

(c) that the contents of the National Exemplar Framework would be advantageous for Churches and Chapels for Sunday School teachers.

Resolved: To note and thank the Humanities Adviser for her polished presentation on the contents of the National Exemplar Framework.

The meeting commenced at 1.30 pm and concluded at 2.50 p.m.

CHAIRMAN