



Complete Agenda

Democratic Service
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

SACRE

Date and Time

10.00 am, WEDNESDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY, 2021

Location

Cyfarfod Rhithiol Zoom / Zoom Virtual Meeting

Contact Point

Einir Rh Davies

01286 679868

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(DISTRIBUTED 02/02/21)

SACRE

MEMBERSHIP (7)

Plaid Cymru (4)

Councillors

Paul John Rowlinson
E. Selwyn Griffiths

Menna Baines

Judith Mary Humphreys

Independent (3)

Councillors

Richard Medwyn Hughes

Dewi Wyn Roberts

Ex-officio Members

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council

Christians and Other Religions

Dashu (Scott Smith)
Awaiting Nomination
Awaiting Nomination
Gwawr Maelor Williams
Eirian Bradley Roberts
Anest Gray Frazer
Eurfryn Davies

Buddhism
Methodist Church
The Independents
Presbyterian Church of Wales
Catholic Church
Church in Wales
Union of Welsh Baptists

Teachers

Miriam A. Amlyn
Cathryn Davey
Heledd Jones
Awaiting Nomination

NAS/UWT
UCAC
NUT
ATL

Co-Opted Members:

Edward Parri-Jones

Humanist

A G E N D A

1. **PRAYER**

Quiet reflection or prayer

2. **APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies for absence

3. **DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

To receive any declaration of personal interest

4. **URGENT ITEMS**

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration.

5. **MINUTES**

5 - 7

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the meeting of SACRE held on 11 November 2020 be signed as a true copy. (Copy enclosed)

6. **INVITATION FROM WASACRE**

8

An invitation to nominate 4 representatives to attend the WASACRE Spring Meeting – to be held on 23 March, 2021 via Zoom.

7. **SACRE ANNUAL REPORTS**

Update on the Progress of the SACRE Annual Reports for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020

8. **RESPONSE FROM BANGOR UNIVERSITY REGARDING THE FUTURE OF RE**

9 - 11

To receive and discuss the response received from Bangor University regarding

The Future of Bangor University's RE Centre, and

The Future of RE at Bangor University

9. **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

To discuss collective worship in Schools

S.A.C.R.E. – STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 11/11/20

Present: Councillor Paul J. Rowlinson (Chair)

Gwynedd Council Members: Councillors Menna Baines, Judith Humphreys and Selwyn Griffiths

Christians and Other Faiths: Eirian Bradley Roberts (The Catholic Church), Tracy Richardson Jones (The Church in Wales), Eurfryn Davies (Union of Welsh Baptists)

Teachers: Miriam Amlyn (NASUWT), Cathryn Davey (UCAC)

Officers: Buddug Mair Huws (Assistant Education Improvement Officer and SACRE Clerk), Sion Huws (Senior Solicitor), and Einir Rh. Davies (Member Support Officer) and Lowri H. Evans (Member Support Officer).

The Chair confirmed that although a number of apologies had been received, there was a quorum.

1. PRAYER

The meeting was opened with a prayer from Councillor Paul Rowlinson.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was resolved to re-elect Councillor Paul Rowlinson as Chairman of this Committee for 2020/21.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

It was resolved to elect Councillor Menna Baines as Vice-chair of this Committee for 2020/21.

4. APOLOGIES

Cllr Dewi Roberts, Heledd Jones (NEU), Anest G. Frazer (Church in Wales), Edward Pari-Jones (Humanists), Garem Jackson (Head of Education Department) and Dashu (Buddhism)

5. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

6. URGENT ITEMS

No urgent items were received.

7. MINUTES

The Chair confirmed the minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 6 November 2019 as a true record.

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No matters were raised from the minutes.

9. RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE CURRICULUM FOR WALES: RELIGION, VALUES AND MORALS

It was noted that there had been no opportunity to discuss the response and that a draft response had been shared with Members for observations. No further observations were received.

AGREED to accept the report.

10. MATTERS RELATING TO SACREs

Reference was made to the papers received for the previous meeting of the SACREs. Specific reference was made to the 'Advice to Schools' letter with regard to collective worship during the pandemic, and confirmation was received that the letter had reached the schools.

AGREED to accept the report.

11. THE EXPERIENCES OF PUPILS AND TEACHERS DURING LOCKDOWN

MA, CD, EBR a TRJ shared their experiences during the challenging period, where it was noted that the preparation time was very rare.

Reference was made to challenges such as IT issues - a number of the pupils were without computers and/or poor internet connection, and the skills of some families were not so good, as well as a lack of equipment.

Welfare - the pressure to keep in touch with pupils during the lockdown was noted, as well as the need for support for the children as they returned to school, but that the children appreciated being back at school and seeing their friends.

SACRE noted its appreciation of the efforts of teachers and the fact that Religious Education was seen to be having the same attention during lockdown, noting that the teachers had done well during a difficult time.

The Chair noted that the above was a very encouraging picture, referring to the pressure on teachers who were teaching remotely and face to face, which was certainly causing some strain.

AGREED to accept the report.

12. CONSIDERING THE SITUATION OF GCSE AND A LEVEL EXAMINATIONS

Following the statement of the Minister for Education on 10/11/20 with regard to the above, a concern was noted that the statement raised many questions and concerns. It was confirmed, although it was not expected for pupils to sit examinations in 20/21, that the pupils had lost a lot of time, and still needed to complete three work units. In terms of the system, it was noted that the tests were to be assessed externally, but that the details were required ahead of Christmas, as time was ticking. It was noted, for information, that the majority of subjects were in the same boat.

The report was accepted and it was agreed to

1. Attempt to have all SACREs to contact WJEC to ask for clarity before Christmas
2. Contact other SACREs, and the Education portfolio holder for Gwynedd Council and Siân Gwenllïan to express concern about the situation.

13. SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019 AND 2019-2020

It was confirmed that it was a statutory requirement to create an Annual Report, and SACRE was reminded that Bethan James had previously completed this, but that Bethan's expertise had since been lost from SACRE. The Chair apologised that the work had not been done for 2018-19 or 2019-20.

It was agreed that BMH would discuss within the Department, and would then contact Bethan James on behalf of SACRE.

AGREED to accept the report.

14. THE FUTURE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AN BANGOR UNIVERSITY AND THE IMPACT ON THE DISCIPLINE IN GWYNEDD SCHOOLS

It was noted that the motivation for the item was the concern with regard to restructuring at Bangor University and the concern about the future of the subject. It was noted that it appeared that the only Religious Education staff member in the Department was leaving at the end of the year, despite a long tradition of teaching Religious Education there. It was noted that it appeared that there had been an intention to bring teachers in from schools to carry out the teaching role.

AGREED to accept the report.

15. WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CENTRE?

The Centre is located on the George Site, and it holds important books and artefacts, and a concern was noted with regard to what would happen to this collection.

Concern was expressed about the above situation and the side effects of consequently losing Religious Education teachers.

The report was accepted and it was agreed that the Chair would:

1. Send a letter to Bangor University and the Education Portfolio Holder to ask about their intentions, noting SACRE's concern about the situation with teacher-training and resources.
2. Also ask about the future of the PGCE course in light of the restructuring, and in light of this the future of Bangor University's Religious Education Centre as a resource.

It was noted that it would be interesting to know which universities now offered a Welsh medium Religious Education course as well as teacher-training course.

16. SCHOOLS' SELF-ASSESSMENT

The report was accepted.

It was noted that the seven aspects scored 'good' and the school was congratulated.

The meeting commenced at 2:00 pm and concluded at 3:15 pm.

CHAIR

Agenda Item 6

Pwnc: WASACRE Spring Meeting - 23.03.21

Dear Clerk to SACRE,

The spring meeting of the Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE) will take place on Tuesday 23 March, 2021 on Microsoft Teams. I would be grateful if you could share this date with your SACRE members and make arrangements for up to four representatives from your SACRE to join the meeting please.

Start time: 10.30am (Members will be able to join from 10.15am)

End time: 1.00pm.

Further details about this meeting, including the papers and joining instructions will follow shortly.

With best wishes,
Alice Parry

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Secretary to WASACRE

E-mail sent to Prof. Davies, University of Wales Bangor

Dear Professor Davies,

THE FUTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CENTRE

I have been asked to write to you on behalf of the Gwynedd Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). At our recent meeting, concern was expressed regarding restructuring at the University and its implications for Religious Education. Ensuring a supply of religious education teachers is essential for the future of the subject and in particular, teachers who are able to teach through the medium of Welsh. Bangor University plays an important role in training these teachers and we would be very grateful if you could enlighten us on the future of the religious education PGCE course in Bangor and which other colleges offer initial training for RE teachers through the medium of Welsh.

Gwynedd SACRE is also concerned about the future of the University's Religious Education Centre. The Centre has a collection of important books and artefacts and we would like to know what will be the future of this valuable resource.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Rowlinson

Cllr Paul Rowlinson,

Chair of the Gwynedd Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

copy: Councillor Cemlyn Williams, Education Portfolio Holder, Gwynedd Council

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Response from the University of Wales Bangor

Dear Councillor Rowlinson,

Thank you for your e-mail and apologies for the delay in responding.

I agree that Bangor University plays an essential part in the work of teaching Religious Education in Wales, and in particular through the medium of Welsh. I can confirm that the recent restructuring at the university does not have a negative impact on our support in this field. The restructuring has led, in reality, to a commitment to invest substantially in the Teacher Education element of the School of Education. In addition, there is continuing and strong commitment to offer the PGCE in Religious Education, and every other subject, through the medium of Welsh. Also, you may be aware that Religious Education is a core element of the Humanities learning and experience fields and this is taught to over 250 Primary Teacher Initial Education students, and around half of them study this through the medium of Welsh.

In the College of Arts and Humanities, an appointment via Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol in the School of History, Philosophy and Social Sciences has also increased the ability to teach religious studies in Welsh. The staff of the School of Philosophy and Religion have established strong and productive links with teachers who teach religion, morals and philosophy for A Levels in schools and Further Education colleges across North Wales and the West of England. Building this network in a part of a three-year project, under the guidance of Professor Lucy Huskinson and Dr Josh Andrews and it is funded by the All Saints Educational Trust. One of the project's aims is to encourage Religious Education, Welsh and English A Level students to continue with their studies of the subjects at the university.

I can also confirm that the University's Religious Education Centre, and the resources store in particular, continue to be available for use and the resources will continue to be looked after so that they can be used by our students and by local schools that wish to do so. The Centre continues to be located in the secure library on the Normal site.

You may also be aware that we normally experience recruitment difficulties in this field. We would be very eager to discuss any ways that we could collaborate that would assist with this. Jeremy Griffith, Director of CaBan, namely the centre responsible for Teacher Initial Education, will be meeting all secondary teachers in Anglesey next week to introduce our teacher initial education programme and discuss closer work connections between the Bangor University School of Education and education in Anglesey. We would be more than prepared to discuss this field further with you.

Please inform me if there is anything else I can do to be of assistance.

Regards

Andrew