



**Cyfarfod Pwyllgor Gwaith Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru/
Wales Association of SACREs Executive Committee meeting**

**Dydd Mercher, 13 Medi , Eglwys Ddiwygiedig Unedig Caerdydd/
Wednesday 13 September, Cardiff United Reformed Church**

**Members present: Officers - Edward Evans, Gill Vaisey, Paula Webber, Libby Jones
NAPfRE Representative- Bethan James**

Elected Members- Mary Parry, Huw Stephens, Phil Lord, Mathew Maidment, Tania ap Sion.

Minutes

1. Croeso / Welcome –

Chair, Edward Evans welcomed members to the meeting in Cardiff.

2. Ymddiheuriadau / Apologies

Apologies were received from John Mitson and Alison Lewis.

3. Cofnodion cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith diwethaf (19/05/2017) / Minutes of the last Executive meeting (19/05/2017)

With the exception of a typing error, the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

4. Materion yn codi / Matters arising

p. 2. Item 10. The contact details of the chair and secretary have been updated on the WASACRE website.

p.2 Item 8. HS raised the issue as to whether WASACRE could communicate with Estyn about good quality resources for Collective Worship. He felt that we need to do something positive to encourage learners to enjoy collective worship and ensure that good practice is taking place. Discussion took place on the recent petitions to the right to withdraw. PL and GV said it is the role of SACRE, and not Estyn, to give advice on resources to do with Collective Worship. GV has a collation of support documents that could be uploaded to the WASACRE website.

Action: PW to check the resources on collective worship are on the WASACRE website.

P.2 Item 8. GV raised a concern about what happens when schools do not meet statutory requirements if the protocol put forward by Welsh Government has already been followed. This issue of what the ultimate sanction might be had also been raised in an AREIAC meeting.

The forthcoming report from the REC commission which is due to be published on 21st September was also discussed. WASACRE had previously decided not to send a response to the consultation as the report directly concerned practice in England and not in Wales. However, GV said that there would be an opportunity for WASACRE to respond and that it might be useful to do so. She highlighted the fact that the REC has invested a lot of money into this investigation and would be reporting directly to Government in England, making it significant. GV asked what might happen if Wales and England decided to take different directions with regards to retaining or removing the right to withdraw. It was suggested that WASACRE look at the report when it comes out on 21Sept and make a decision as to whether a response is necessary. GV said that Wales can learn from and benefit from the research being done by the REC in this report.

Action: Exec Members will consider and discuss the report and put together a response.



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P3. Item 11. WASACRE response to Christine Abbas – PL has responded to Chris Abbas.

The committee discussed whether faith representatives on SACRE would have the same input into writing agreed syllabuses that they have had in the past. MP said that in England in the 1990s representative of each of the major religions worked with SCAA (School Curriculum and Assessment Authority) to write the core content of the model syllabuses and she showed an accompanying document they had written of the suggested minimum content for each religion.

PL reported that in the meeting with Welsh Government and faith representatives, Kathy Riddick had suggested that, as part of the consultation about the new curriculum, faith representatives might be brought together to be questioned about their beliefs. PL suggested that bringing a group together may not benefit the construction of the new curriculum, but may benefit the teachers involved in the design of the Humanities AoLE. Consultation with SACREs will be made by Welsh Gov throughout the process and agreed syllabus conferences will take place as usual. Faith groups are being consulted as part of this process. PW confirmed that at the last Humanities Planning Meeting Manon had asked WASACRE/NAPfRE representatives about additional faith organisations that should be consulted as stakeholders.

Other points of discussion included a concern that the approach taken in the new curriculum did not fit the new GCSE. GV also reminded the committee that Kirsty Williams says that legislation can be changed after the curriculum has been written.

5. Cofnodion cyfarfod CCYSAGauC, 7 Gorffennaf 2017 / Minutes of the WASACRE meeting, 7 July 2017

The minutes were checked and accepted for accuracy.

Matters arising

Minutes can go to SACREs.

6. Protocol ynghylch aelodau gweithredol yn gwneud gwaith ar gyfer neu ar ran CCYSAGauC / Protocol regarding executive members undertaking work for or on behalf of WASACRE.

A discussion took place on the latest version of the guidelines for commissioning work (tabled at the meeting) and on the commissioned work that has taken place for Welsh Government. BJ suggested that people be compensated for the work they have already done and she said that she wanted WASACRE to appreciate the considerable amount of work that has been done on this.

Thanks were expressed to PL for the guidelines and they were adopted by the Executive Committee.

MP suggested the commissioned work is the most important work that WASACRE is currently doing this morning. As a result a breakout group (LJ, TaS and MP) left the meeting to work on the commissioned paper.

**7. Materion Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government matters – Curriculum review
Cysylltiadau Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government contacts- Kate Allen**

Notes of the Humanities planning meeting were received. EE, as Chair, has invited Manon Jones to attend WASACRE as an observer. The committee suggested that she be invited to Executive Meetings as and when they would be relevant. WASACRE representatives at the Humanities Planning Meeting felt that the relationship with Welsh Government with regards to the review of the curriculum is positive.



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LJ presented an update on the progress being made with the commissioned work for Welsh Government. LJ reported that the aim was to support the early stages of the process of developing the Humanities AoLE and to stimulate discussion amongst the teachers involved in the development of the humanities curriculum. Libby reported that the commissioning group had discussed at length 'What matters in RE' and decided that Awareness of life experience and questions raised; beliefs, teachings and practices; and exploration and personal response, which is the skills section developing independent learning are the things that matter in RE. Core Knowledge Skills and Competencies, RE and the Four Purposes were also considered as was Progression in Religious Studies. Executive members were invited to contribute comments, particularly on the sections on cross-curricular and wider skills, via email. It is the aim of the commissioning group to produce a document that is free of jargon and that can be grasped easily. The *What is Good RE* document will be included in the appendix. As a practising teacher MM considered the paper a helpful document and said that a lot of work had clearly gone into it. HS said that the section on 'What matters' was useful in explaining what RE is. He said that with any change, the classroom teacher just wants to know what they have to present in the classroom and the content of the document gives something concrete to work with in the classroom.

Action i. PW to ask Manon if child friendly version of the four purposes has been located.

Action ii. PW to send Welsh Government newsletter to SACREs.

Action iii. LJ and TaS to edit the commissioned document and email it out to Executive Members for comments.

Action iv: BJ agreed to help with the section on cross curricular and wider skills.

8. *Duties and honorarium of the Secretary to WASACRE- procedure for the production and distribution of minutes*

Members agreed on the importance of the need for minutes to be ratified before they go public. It was suggested that the Executive Meeting could take place earlier so that minutes can reach SACREs in plenty of time for meetings. Additionally, a translator will be engaged in advance for the day after the Executive Meeting so that the Welsh minutes are available at the earliest opportunity. There was discussion on the possibility of using a clerking service to write minutes for WASACRE and Executive meetings. It was also suggested that it is important to discuss and define the role of Secretary.

Action. PL to contact John Mitson, to investigate clerking services and put a paper together for discussion at WASACRE.

WASACRE Constitution

A discussion on the WASACRE constitution also took place. GV raised the question of how many delegates can be sent from SACREs to the WASACRE meeting.

3.vi in the constitution refers to when WASACRE is quorate and a concern was raised that we need to check that the meetings are quorate.

Members felt that the powers delegated to the Executive Committee should also be discussed at WASACRE. It was also highlighted that WASACRE needs to ensure that it is operating the voting system as it is outlined in the constitution. The constitution suggests that if a vote is called for an adjournment of the meeting should take place for SACRE representatives to discuss and vote formally.

Humanists on WASACRE - An Executive Member had received correspondence from Kathy Riddick who asked to attend WASACRE as an observer. It was noted that bodies, rather than individuals, are invited to have observer status. An individual cannot attend meetings as a member of the public do



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not have the right to attend WASACRE. Members felt that this was a matter that should be discussed at a full WASACRE meeting. It was noted that in the constitution (4. Iii) the Chair has the right to invite people. An Executive Member had a school visit from Kathy Riddick and reported how respectful she had been towards religion.

Action i: The agenda for the next WASACRE meeting should include an item to undertake a revision of the constitution.

Action ii: Form a sub-committee to review the constitution

Action iii: At the next AGM present the reviewed constitution with tracked changes so that the differences can clearly be seen.

Action iv: To include an agenda item at WASACRE to consider whether the Humanists UK, Wales should be offer observer status on WASACRE. GV to respond to Kathy Riddick inviting her as a speaker to the next WASACRE meeting – ‘What can Humanists offer to SACREs and WASACRE’. The discussion/presentation will go back to SACREs for discussion prior to a vote.

9. *Withdrawal from RE document and discussion paper on withdrawal from Collective Worship*

The document has been formatted and updated to include a statement from the Roman Catholic Church. It will be produced free to all schools both in printed and PDF versions. GV reported that colleagues in England are very interested in the document and we could consider whether they might be prepared to purchase the document. She raised the issue of whether we could have ISBN numbers. This will be investigated. New logo designs were shared as the logo used for the withdrawal document would need to be used on all future documentation. After a lengthy discussion PL put a proposal forward that we update the current logo so that it was softer and more contemporary. BJ thanked GV and David Rose for the hard work they had put into the logo design.

The committee discussed a paper written by EE on Collective Worship. This was written following a concern regarding schools withdrawing children and young people from collective worship in order to give extra tuition. GV suggested there were a number of documents available on collective worship and that we could bring them together into a pack for schools. It was suggested that we consider all the current documents we have available and combine them to create a similar document to the Withdrawal from RE Guidance document. The new Estyn framework has recently been uploaded to the website so EE’s paper will be revised and edited in light of this. It was suggested that the WASACRE guidance could be also included with the documents. Members acknowledged that school timetables are overloaded so help in sourcing resources for Collective Worship would be beneficial to schools, as would guidance to managing Collective Worship. GV said that she has already created a zip-file that can be offered to schools.

Action i: GV to investigate the use of ISBN numbers for WASACRE productions.

Action ii. GV to liaise with the designer to restyle the current logo.

Action iii: LJ to send EE a PPT on Collective Worship.

Action iv: GV to share a zip-file on Collective Worship.

Action v: EE produce a text on Collective Worship from documents already in existence.

10. *Training needs and funding*

Discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

11. *Gwefan CCYSAGauC /WASACRE Website*

Discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

12. *Gohebiaeth / Correspondence*



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No correspondence to be discussed.

**13. Agenda argyfercyfarfod y Gymdeithas (Bridgend), 10 Tachwedd
2017/ Agenda for the
Association meeting (Bridgend), 10 November 2017.**

Requests for presentation/updates at the WASACRE meeting will be made to the following:

- i. Update from Manon Jones
- ii. Lead practitioners – Catherine Rees and Lisa James from CSC and Clare Lane and Rhian Davies from EAS
- iii. Kathy Riddick
- iv. Update from WJEC (Linda or Andrew). Write to invite for an update.

The agenda will also include discussion on the Secretary and clerking service. The agenda is to be written and shared for observations.

14. U.F.A. / A.O.B

There was no other business discussed.

15. Dyddiad cyfarfod nesaf y Pwyllgor Gwaith / Date of the next Executive meeting:

Spring– Llandrindod Wells – Thursday 11th January, 2018 10.00am -3.00pm

Summer - Cardiff

Autumn – Llandrindod Wells