

 <p>CCYSAGauC Cymdeithas Cyngorau Ymgynghori Sefydlog ar Addysg Grefyddol Cymru</p> <p>WASACRE Wales Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education</p>	<p>Cyfarfod Pwyllgor Gwaith Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru/ Wales Association of SACREs Executive Committee meeting</p> <p>11 Ionawr 2018 yn Llanerch Inn, Llandrindod / 11th January 2018 at Llanerch Inn, Llandrindod Wells</p>
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Adroddiad /Report

WASACRE Executive Meeting Attendance - Members present: Edward Evans (EE), Phil Lord (PL), Paula Webber (PW), John Mitson (JM), Bethan James (BJ), Libby Jones (LJ), Mary Parry (MP), Huw Stephens (HS), Mathew Maidment (MM), Alison Lewis (AL). **Guests:** Rudi Lockhart, RE Council for England and Wales. **Apologies** - Gill Vaisey

1. **Minutes of the last meeting** - Following further analysis of the WASACRE constitution amendments were needed to the last paragraph on p 3 regarding members of the public attending WASACRE meetings. It was decided by the committee that because the constitution does not state that members of the public can attend it means that they cannot. Members agreed that in future Executive minutes will not go out in the WASACRE papers until they have been ratified and are accurate.
2. **Minutes Clerk and role of Secretary** - A letter has been written to SACRE Clerks to request names of possible colleagues/members of SACRE who would be interested in the role of Minutes Clerk.
3. **Humanists on SACRE** – Discussions regarding a letter from Vale of Glamorgan SACRE and the Chair’s reply to members. Vale of Glamorgan SACRE requested advice from WASACRE, as part of the agreement following a judicial review, on whether Humanists should be lawfully included on committee A and given equal voting rights and status on SACRE as Faith representatives. The following points were made:
 - Humanists UK believe that the Human Rights Act (HRA) supports the inclusion of humanists on SACREs. Section 3 of the HRA requires that legislation previous to the HRA be interpreted to meet its requirements; so that, for example, references to “religion” should be interpreted to mean “religion and belief”. Thus a case could be made for humanists to be full members of Committee A (which includes “other religions”).
 - The direction of the law would seem to suggest in this case that it is a breach of equality for non-religious world views not to be given equal standing or not recognised on par with religious views on SACRE, therefore Humanists possibly should be invited to sit on committee A.
 - Some members argued against this and it was agreed that as it is still not clear what advice WASACRE can give without its own legal advice and that perhaps WASACRE should also request further guidance from Welsh Government.
 - Humanists UK are a Member organisation of the REC. Its views on religion, and schools of a religious character, are separate from its views on Religious Education.
 - A letter is to be written to WG to request a definitive answer/solution to the Humanist debate -Should Humanists be given a place on Committee A, in line

with the amended human rights act which now gives equal value to faith and belief? The Chair will also reply to VoG SACRE.

4. **Withdrawal from RE document** - The Secretary has experienced difficulties obtaining contacts to whom hard copies of this document could be circulated to SACRE and requests support from Executive members in this regard for the SACREs they represent.
5. **WASACRE Logo** - It was agreed that all WASACRE correspondence will now include the new logo with a slight adjustment to be made to the Welsh part of the logo for a better translation. Instead of CCYSAGC it will read CCYSAGCymru.
6. **Survey on withdrawal from RE** - The issue of the number of applications for withdrawal or partial withdrawal from RE was discussed and WASACRE will write a letter to all Directors of Education to request number of applications for withdrawal from RE including partial withdrawals.
7. **WASACRE commissioned work** – the document on protocol/procedure for WASACRE commissioned work is to be uploaded to the WASACRE website.
8. **Minutes of WASACRE meeting** in Bridgend (11.11.17) - With amendments the minutes were agreed as accurate.
9. **Code of conduct** for SACREs- this item was briefly discussed but no action was agreed.
10. **Commission on RE in England**: presentation by Rudi Lockhart (REC).
 - RL gave members the context of the independent commission and shared the lessons the organisation has learned from carrying out such a commission.
 - The commission was established 18 months ago by the RE Council for England and Wales, but the planning began 12 months before that. Terms of reference were set up with a diverse set of commissioners.
 - An interim report was published in September. Having an interim report has given the commissioners chance to consider how they are working and to improve their work. In the beginning there was a consultation which included regional evidence gathering with around 50 people presenting to the commission in the first year, including general public with an interest and key people in education and government. There was a second consultation that included more detailed questions which were directed at a more specialist audience. 900 responses were received, 600 of which were meaningful. All responses were analysed and commissioners will be looking at this report on Monday 15 January 2018.
 - The final report is due out in September 2018. There will be an official launch event in Westminster, which will take place before the elections and the hope is that MPs will take the recommendations seriously and refer to them in their manifestos.
 - Members discussed the merits of carrying out a similar commission for Wales and discussed the ways in which this commission, although an England only commission, could inform practice in Wales. Discussion included the following ideas:
 - The commission will to be useful for Wales;
 - WASACRE could commission a piece of work to identify the relevant points for Wales;
 - RL will be available for consultation on the above work;
 - It would be good to find commonality and to avoid having to complete a separate commission from scratch in the midst of a curriculum review.

- LJ/PW will go through the REC Commission on RE report and look for commonality and issues relevant to Wales.
- WASACRE Exec are to ask Welsh Government about data on RE provision in schools.

11. Welsh Government matters- Curriculum review

- *Commissioned papers and Humanities AoLE workshops* - the paper has been written and was submitted to Welsh Government by the deadline given. It has also been presented at the recent Humanities AoLE planning meeting in November, by Mary Parry, Gill Vaisey and Paula Webber. Members discussed the benefits of circulating the paper more widely and questioned whether this was possible as a Welsh Government commission. WASACRE will email Manon to ask if the **WASACRE paper and Barbara Wintergill's paper can be shared more widely e.g. to SACREs and REC.**
- *Humanities planning meeting* - EE requested agenda items from members present and proposed that they send ideas to himself or the Secretary. Members discussed SACRE responses to the last newsletter. Some SACREs have responded in writing to Welsh Government following their meeting and the perusal of the curriculum review newsletters that Welsh Government sends out, with thanks. The question was raised as to when the next newsletter will be received and will it be in time for this term's SACRE meetings, which are soon to begin. It was also noted that it would be useful for SACREs and schools to see some of the statements for the Humanities what matters areas as part of that newsletter. The Secretary is to send curriculum up-date newsletter out to the Exec and SACRE clerks.

12. WASACRE Constitution - It was noted that there are some anomalies in paragraph 4 sub paragraph 3 regarding two members representing the same SACRE. It should read 'at any one time', not 'in any one year'. The issue of when two or more members tie in a vote at the AGM needs to be clarified. Gill Vaisey will forward her paper on what needs changing in the WASACRE Constitution to Edward and both come together to amend the constitution line by line. The revised constitution to be sent out to SACREs by 6th March.

13. Self-Evaluation templates - The self evaluation template developed for schools and SACREs by NAPfRE/WASACRE members (2013) does not reflect ESTYN's new inspection framework. Bethan James has adapted the guidance and template in line with the new inspection framework. The main question when putting the document together was, how do we evaluate standards in RE and CW? Bethan has outlined the statements/questions that teachers/schools might use as they evaluate standards and provision against the five new inspection areas:

1. Standards
2. Wellbeing and attitudes to learning
3. Teaching and learning experiences (planning/provision/lessons)
4. Care, support and guidance (does RE make a difference for your learners?)
5. Leadership and management

Bethan is happy to share the current version of this template with any SACREs that might find it useful. Members should email Bethan James for a copy for SACREs.

14. Nominations for the Executive Committee - There is one vacancy this year. A letter to be sent out to SACREs requesting nominations. Members agreed the dates for submissions.

- 15. Format and timing of meetings** - A decision was taken to write to SACREs to suggest suitable arrangements for musical items at the beginning of WASACRE meetings in the future, so as not to cut in to meeting times. Members also agreed that one NAPfRE presentation was sufficient and that other important information could be included in the meetings as updates. It was also agreed that the day chosen for WASACRE meeting should vary so that teachers are able to attend without an impact on teaching and learning.
- 16. Training and funding needs** - Members discussed the benefits of and capacity for the use of WASACRE funding to offer training similar to the WASACRE conference in 2013. PL said that GwE is looking for funding for training. It was agreed that any WASACRE training provided would need to be high profile and should highlight the work of WASACRE. There was a call for consistency across Wales with possible conferences either in a central location, or to take place both in the north and the south. It was suggested that WASACRE provide training on the New Curriculum. It was agreed that potential dates will be sought to share with schools as soon as possible so that training can be accommodated within the school calendar.
- 17. WASACRE Website** - The main focus of the discussion was SACRE annual reports. It was noted that the 2015/2016 reports were not all there and this needs to be rectified.
- 18. Correspondence** - LJ informed members of correspondence she had received from a parent in the Vale of Glamorgan regarding withdrawal from RE and collective worship. Libby shared the context of the request and the advice she had given and members were satisfied that the matter had been dealt with. LJ offered to share the letter she sent detailing the full advice given, to members for their information.
- 19. Agenda for the Association meeting in Swansea (9.3.18)** - This will be finalised via email. Chair of NAPfRE, Bethan James is to liaise with Vicky Thomas from Swansea SACRE regarding confirmation of the NAPfRE presentation.
- 20. A.O.B.** - PL informed members that he would like to step down from his role as the WASACRE representative on EFTRE. However he is happy to attend the next meeting in March as his last meeting. A vacancy will be raised at the next meeting so that a replacement can be found.
- 21. Date of the next Executive meeting** - Summer in Cardiff Tue 15th May