

FLINTSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL

FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Hawarden Village Church School, Cross Tree Lane, Hawarden, Deeside CH5 3PY
Wednesday 13th June 2018 at 2:00pm – 3:50pm

Present

Religious Denominations

Delyth McIntyre (**DMc**) (Chair); Rev. Huw Powell-Davies (**HPD**); Sue Nuttall (**SN**).

Flintshire County Councillors

Janet Axworthy (**JA**); Chris Bithell (**CB**); Paul Cunningham (**PC**); Dave Mackie (**DM**); Ian B Roberts (**IR**).

Teacher Associations

Lyn Oakes (**LO**) (Alun High School, Mold).

Also in Attendance

Vicky Barlow (**VB**) (FCC, School Improvement Systems Senior Manager);

Philip Lord (**PL**) (GwE, Challenge Advisor); Nathan Evans (**NE**) (FCC, Note Taker).

DMc welcomes everyone and opens the meeting with a short period of silent reflection.

Agenda Item 1 - Apologies for Absence

Rosalind Williams (**RW**) (Church in Wales, Diocese of St. Asaph); Cllr Colin Legg (**CL**); Ibad Hussain (**IH**) (Bryn Coch CP School, Mold).

Agenda Item 2 - Declarations of Interest: Code of Local Government Conduct

DMc Members are reminded that they must declare the existence and nature of their declared personal interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

Agenda Item 3 – Minutes of Last Meeting (21st February 2018)

JA Apologies offered for the previous meeting as it coincided with appointment to the committee.

PL Agenda Item 3, Resolution (a) - Estyn have been contacted in regards to the SMSC comment for Ysgol Pen Coch but there has been no direct response. Questions were raised regarding special school status and Estyn's responsibility highlight

when schools are not meeting statutory requirements for Collective Worship for example in the case of Castell Alun High School.

Furthermore, the new inspection framework appears to show a return back to spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development in its entirety.

VB Additional guidance has been given to inspectors and there will be a strong focus on self-evaluation for schools moving forward.

PL A response from Philip Blaker, Chief Executive of Qualifications Wales was received 1 February 2018 but additional concerns were raised about the lack of Welsh textbooks.

Regarding the new qualifications, they continue to be in line with those in England regarding parity.

This response was shared with WASACRE but Wrexham SACRE have taken the matter further, focussing on the discussion of an interim qualification in Key Stage 4 Religious Education.

All resources for GSCE are available in English and Welsh.

LO Resources at A-Level however are only available in English.

PL The current specification is in play until 2022 when there will be changes in light of the new curriculum for Wales.

PL Agenda Item 5, Resolution (a) – Clarification that concerns raised were more about Estyn and not Castell Alun High School. Estyn's Mark Campion and Michelle Gosney are keen to ensure there is specific training for inspectors in SMSC and collective worship.

PL Agenda Item 6, Resolutions (a) and (b) - the GCSE data tables have been checked to confirm they are accurate. In addition, the Holywell figure showing no results was correct as no pupils were entered for the examination in 2017. The school began teaching courses in 2017 so pupils will be entered for exams in 2018 which should be reflected in the next set of results.

VB Holywell should be shown as Ysgol Treffynnon in future reports as this is the name of the new Holywell High School, replacing the original in 2016.

PL Agenda Item 7, Resolution (a) – Materials are almost ready and the Flintshire SACRE group will have to agree the next syllabus at the next meeting, more than likely keeping the existing programme until 2022.

PL Agenda Item 8, Resolutions (a) and (b) - Minutes from the 10 November 2017 WASACRE were handed out to the committee and it was reported that at the March meeting there were presentations by Welsh Government on the new curriculum and on teacher training.

Resolutions

- (a) PL report back on discussions regarding the interim qualification.
- (b) The minutes of the last meeting are approved as a true and accurate record.

Agenda Item 4 - Analysis of Inspection Reports

PL The information included in the agenda pack was incorrect.

PL distributes the correct analysis amongst the committee.

PL Inspections for the three schools have all be conducted under the new Estyn Inspection Framework. If there was no comment under a particular heading then it has not been included in the analysis.

PL outlines key analysis from the reports.

PL Responding to a question from HPD, it is confirmed that Ysgol Terrig was inspected and not Terrig nursery as identified in the analysis.

Resolutions

- (a) PL to amend “Cylch Meithrin Terrig, Treuddyn” to “Ysgol Terrig, Treuddyn” in the Analysis of Inspection Reports.
- (b) PL to write to the three school on behalf of the committee to congratulate them on their reports.

Agenda Item 5 – Curriculum for Wales

PL Welsh Government are keen that once the new curriculum is published it will be adopted by all SACRE's.
The information has been emailed out by Welsh Government and comments have been invited.

PL distributes the information amongst the committee and outlines the Humanities AoLE proposals.

The committee divides into five small groups, each looking at one of the progression steps to analyse their content and language.

PL It appears that a group of schools would come together to develop curriculum and act ivies in line with the progression steps.

Comments from the groups include:

- It is positive to see the new curriculum taking shape;

- Some statements appear to be influenced by the speciality of the people who have written them;
- The more advanced steps look good and challenging;
- Difficulty varies in the steps across different topics;
- Language is inconsistent in the Foundation Phase;
- It may be possible to blend areas if considered as a whole;
- The detail may cause apprehension amongst staff.

PL invites the committee to provide any specific or general comments via email by 27 June 2018.

Resolutions

- (a) PL to coordinate a response on behalf of the committee.

Agenda Item 6 - WASACRE

PL distributes the minutes of the last meeting, dated 9 March 2018.

PL Kirsty Williams AM, Cabinet Secretary for Education, has confirmed that Humanists can have full representation on a SACRE provided they meet the required criteria.

HPD There is an opportunity to have wider religious representation on Flintshire SACRE.

PL Rachel Bendall delivered a presentation on teacher training.

IR At primary level, training teachers for one year following them gaining a degree in a specific area seems to be flawed as they teach a broad range of subjects. Primary teachers who train for four years (as opposed to one) covering a variety of subject areas can provide a more rounded and balanced education for children.

PL Michelle Gosney has responsibility with Estyn for Religious Education and humanities. Michelle will provide has been appointed the lead Estyn officer for faith schools a presentation on the thematic review of Religious Education will be delivered at the next meeting.

Flintshire can have up to three representatives at WASACRE meetings, with the next scheduled for 6 July 2018 in Llangefni. Details of the meeting can be found on the WASACRE website.

Agenda Item 7 – Future Meetings

- Wednesday 10 October 2018;
- Wednesday 20 February 2019;
- Wednesday 12 June 2019.

Times and venues are to be determined.

DMc thanks everyone for their attendance and closes the meeting.