

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of SACRE held at Caldicot School on Friday, 11th March, 2016 at 1.30 pm

PRESENT: County Councillor: E.J. Hacket Pain (Chair)

County Councillors: A. Easson

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Sharon Randall-Smith	Head of Achievement and Attainment
Gill Vaisey	Religious Education Adviser
Richard Williams	Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES:

County Councillors P. Clarke and J. George and B. Strong

Mrs. V. Howells, Sr. D. O' Donnell, Shezer Khandro, Mrs. F. Jilani, Mrs. R. Davies,
Ms. S. Perry-Phillips, Mrs. A. Wiggins, Mrs. K. Fitter.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 20th November 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Updates since the previous meeting

We received details of the following updates that have occurred since the previous meeting:

- RE Days – As several primary schools were unable to attend the date proposed for the spring, it was noted that the RE Days would now go ahead in the summer term. Andrew Jones (Caldicot School) would shortly prove the RE Adviser with some potential dates for this proposal.
- The RE Adviser advised that the item on developing the work of SACRE's will be put on the agenda for the Autumn meeting.
- Regarding Non-Maintained Setting Provision of RE – Red Robins Nursery had received a visitor from the Hindu faith who was the mother of one of the children who attends the nursery.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of SACRE held at Caldicot School on Friday, 11th March, 2016 at 1.30 pm

- Cross Ash Primary School had contacted Soam Sharma to arrange a visit from him to talk to the children about Divali. This had not yet taken place but it was hoped that the visit could be made in the future.
- The RE Adviser had compiled a contact list of faith members who are willing to work with nursery children. She was trying to update the list with details of what each visitor may provide during a visit.
- The RE Adviser would shortly be writing to all maintained settings to command the work they are doing in RE.
- Castle Park Primary School – The Head of Achievement and Attainment will contact the Education Achievement Service (EAS) indicating the issues surrounding the use of the Incerts Programme in relation to RE. The RE Consultant will contact Castle Park and other schools to ensure they are aware of the need to use the correct version of the RE Levels within the Incerts Programme.

We resolved to receive the updates and noted their content.

4. New Examination Specifications

We received an update regarding the new examination specifications. In doing so, the following points were noted.

WJEC GCE AS and A level in Religious Studies

Having received the report, the following points were noted:

- Implementation was going ahead for 2016.

GCSE Religious Studies (Wales)

Having received the report, the following points were noted:

- WJEC are currently behind in getting the draft document agreed.
- Due to significant pressure WJEC had decided to defer the introduction of the new GCSE until 2017.
- This is good news for most schools in Wales but there are 33 schools in Wales that don't teach the WJEC specification but teach a specification being taught in England. Caldicot School is one of these schools. Therefore, Caldicot School has to teach the WJEC Specification for 2016 and then change to teach the new specification in 2017.
- There will be a short course available. However, due to the amount of content it will be difficult to teach the short course in the time available. There was also a

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of SACRE held at Caldicot School on Friday, 11th March, 2016 at 1.30 pm

concern that the new specification may not appeal to students. This matter was being investigated.

- The Chair indicated that she would be meeting other Cabinet Members in the coming weeks and would raise this issue then.
- The EAS needed to support teachers in this matter.

We resolved that the Chair would write to the EAS and the WLGA outlining the concerns regarding the difficulties that these changes were creating for teachers in respect of this matter.

We resolved to receive the report and noted its content.

5. CYTUN News Bulletin February 2016

We resolved to receive and note the CYTUN Policy Bulletin for February 2016.

6. Information briefings from members for inclusion in SACRE Spring News Bulletin

The following information was received from members of the SACRE Committee:

- Sue Cave would be attending Goytre Fawr Primary School next week to help with the RE Day. Mr. Sharma and Mrs. Jilani would also be in attendance. A report will be presented to the next SACRE meeting regarding this event.
- New advice had been given by Monmouthshire that it is still best practise for visitors into school to have an up to date DBS and if they are regular visitors into school this should be the case. However, if they are making a one off visit, as long as they are not left unsupervised with the children, they do not require a DBS.
- Andrew Jones will be taking Year 11 students to Poland in three weeks on a four day residential visit. During the visit the students will visit Auschwitz and a Kosher restaurant.
- There will be two Hindu festivals in March.
- March 20th is the Baha'i New Year, the first day of spring.

The RE Adviser will put the information raised into the spring SACRE Newsletter once received from members.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of SACRE held
at Caldicot School on Friday, 11th March, 2016 at 1.30 pm

7. Presentation from Andrew Jones: Understanding Islam and Countering Radicalisation and Extremism in Religious Studies

We received a presentation by Andrew Jones (Caldicot School) outlining the work being undertaken by his Year 9 Class regarding understanding Islam and countering radicalisation and extremism in religious studies. Four students from his Year 9 Class were in attendance and took part in the presentation.

Following a question and answer session, the Committee were impressed with the work being undertaken by the students and with the maturity shown by the four students during the presentation and question and answer session.

We resolved that the County Council's Communications Team should liaise with Andrew Jones with view to a press release being prepared to promote the good work that the Year 9 students have been undertaking and to note the maturity of the students in undertaking this work.

8. WASACRE

We received the following information relating to the Wales Association of SACRE's (WASACRE).

WASACRE meeting 25th November 2015 at Ebbw Vale

We noted the minutes of the meeting and the pupil speeches from Ebbw Vale Learning Community Secondary Phase.

Future Dates of WASACRE meetings

23 rd June 2016	-	Denbighshire
18 th November 2016	-	Carmarthen
17 th March 2017	-	Monmouthshire County Council

The new Welsh Baccalaureate and RE:

- King Henry VIII School, Abergavenny – There is no negative impact on RE provision at the school in relation to the Welsh Baccalaureate.
- Monmouth School – Concerns have been raised at the school regarding the Welsh Baccalaureate. The RE Adviser has discussed this matter with other RE Advisers and it has been agreed that it is unsuitable to use the Welsh Baccalaureate as a way of fully delivering the requirements for the provision of RE.
- Caldicot School – The Welsh Baccalaureate will have a negative impact in relation to RE provision at the school. All students currently take full course Religious Studies (RS), but as of September 2016, some RS curriculum hours will be given to the Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate. Therefore, all students will only take short course RS, with full course being taught as an option group.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of SACRE held at Caldicot School on Friday, 11th March, 2016 at 1.30 pm

We noted the updates in respect of WASACRE.

9. Self Evaluation Reports

We received information in respect of the following Self Evaluation Reports:

Pembroke Primary School

The school has indicated in its self-evaluation that outcomes and provision of RE is adequate. However, positive comments were noted throughout the evaluation.

King Henry VIII School

We noted the very detailed and full self-evaluation from the school and commended the achievements of the RE Department.

We resolved to receive the self-evaluation reports and noted their content.

It was agreed that the Head of Achievement and Attainment Officer would pursue obtaining the self-evaluation reports from schools which had not submitted them as requested.

A discussion was held regarding the way in which future self-evaluation reports were requested. It was agreed there was no need to change the process.

10. Curriculum Review Update

We received an update regarding Pioneer Schools and New Deal Schools. In doing so, the following points were noted:

- New Deal Schools - Develop skills across the whole of the workforce. All staff were being supported to ensure that they are able to maximise the benefits available to the students. This process was rapidly moving forward.
- Pioneer Schools – Andrew Jones had obtained information in respect of Pioneer Schools and would forward this information on to the RE Adviser.
- The RE Adviser stated that mixed messages were being received from various local authorities in respect of whether the Pioneer Schools knew which curriculum areas they were going to develop.
- Regarding Trellech and Shirenewton Primary schools, the Head of Achievement and Attainment stated that she would provide the SACRE Committee with information in respect of which areas these schools would be developing as Pioneer Schools, when she receives it.
- It was noted that if religious education falls within the remit of Humanities then it will become a part of the National Curriculum. Concern was expressed that religious education might go the same way as RE provision in the Foundation

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of SACRE held at Caldicot School on Friday, 11th March, 2016 at 1.30 pm

Phase with it being withdrawn from the main (national) curriculum document and remaining in the basic curriculum.

We resolved to receive the update and noted its content.

11. Dates of future meetings

The dates of future SACRE meetings are as follows:

Friday 10 th June 2016 at 1.30pm	-	Innovation House, Magor
Tuesday 15 th November 2016 at 1.30pm	-	Innovation House, Magor
Friday 10 th February 2017 at 1.30pm	-	Innovation House, Magor
Tuesday 16 th May 2017 at 1.30pm	-	Innovation House, Magor

The meeting ended at 3.25 pm