



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

**Dydd Mawrth, 10 Mai 2016, Eglwys Ddiwygiedig Unedig y Ddinas,  
Caerdydd/ Tuesday, 10 May 2016, City United Reformed Church,  
Cardiff**

**Minutes**

**Members present:**

Officers- Phil Lord, Libby Jones, Edward Evans, and John Mitson

NAPfRE Representative- Bethan James

Elected Members- Cllr Ernie Galsworthy, Mary Parry, Vicky Thomas and Gill Vaisey

1. Croeso / *Welcome* – Chair, Phil Lord welcomed members to the meeting in Cardiff and also welcomed and introduced Rudi Lockhart from the RE Council of England and Wales, who was present.
2. Ymddiheuriadau / *Apologies* – Tania ap Sion
3. Cofnodion cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith diwethaf (4/02/2016) / *Minutes of the last Executive meeting (4/02/2016)*  
The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Vicky Thomas and seconded by Gill Vaisey.
4. Materion yn codi / *Matters arising*

Item 5. Libby confirmed that there is nothing more to report on the curriculum review. Members request the up-date from Welsh Government to be sent out again.

Item 7. Mary Parry and Jen Malcolm attended a meeting with WJEC on 15 April

Item 8. Welsh Government is currently chasing SACREs for copies of the SACRE annual reports in Welsh from as far back as 2011-2012. Members request a definitive contact that does not change for Clerks to send the SACRE annual report to each year.

Item 10. Discussion ensued on the response Huw Lewis gave to the letter they received from Edward Evans regarding the residual powers of Westminster for Education in Wales. Members did not consider the response to be satisfactory and agreed for a letter to be sent from WASACRE in reply to Mr Lewis.

Item 16. Gill Vaisey wrote to Estyn regarding the mistake in their recent guidance document and Estyn have changed the guidance to reflect the correct legal requirements for post 16 collective worship.

**Actions:**

1. Libby will send out the most current WG up-date on the curriculum review to all SACREs and Advisors
  2. Libby to request a non-changing contact name from Welsh Government.
  3. Edward will liaise with Gill and respond to Huw Lewis according. Libby will send Edward's original letter and Huw's response to Gill again.
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5. Cofnodion cyfarfod CCYSAGauC, 8 Mawrth 2016 / *Minutes of the WASACRE meeting, 8 March 2016*

It was noted that Phil Lord was not present at the meeting and needed to be removed from the attendance sheet. With the exception of the above the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.



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P2. Item 5. Bursaries for RE PGCE students- Vicky Thomas proposed that WASACRE asks Rachel Bendall to write a paper for the next meeting or to give a short presentation on this issue for the next WASACRE meeting.

P2. Item 5. Withdrawal from RE Guidance Document- Gill Vaisey reported that the guidance in its current form has been well received by those whom had used it. A Headteacher had responded to say the guidance document was very useful. However, Gill feels that there is more work to do. It was agreed that Gill will work with NAPfRE on finalising the document, which will be completed in time for the AGM in June for ratification. Members also agreed that the document should be published bilingually and with a specific design element. It should be made available in hard and electronic format. Copies of the document will be sent to members of the Executive Committee as well as SACREs and can also be shared with Welsh Government.

P7. Item 10. Welsh Government refused to supply WASACRE with a statement to confirm that all 22 SACREs have adopted the National Exemplar Framework as the Agreed Syllabus, therefore making it statutory. This was on the basis that Incerts is a commercial enterprise. All LAs have been made aware of the problems with accessing the correct RE levels and Advisors have contacted all schools to share the information.

P5. Item 7. Libby has written to the main political Parties in Wales to request their standpoint on RE and DACW in schools, but has had no response. Members agreed that WASACRE should write a second letter to Parties to ask if they are planning on making amendments to the legislation surrounding RE in order to help the subject fit in with the new curriculum by removing the withdrawal clause.

**Action:**

1. Libby will invite Rachel to give a short presentation at the WASACRE meeting in June regarding Bursaries for PGCE RE Students, including data on projected jobs for RE teachers etc.
  2. Gill will liaise with her designer regarding the format of the withdrawal from RE guidance document. Libby Jones will arrange translation of the document. Edward will send Gill an official sentence to include regarding liability.
  3. Libby to liaise with Gill regarding the specific re-wording of the letter to political Parties before sending it to the Parties.
6. Cyngor AG Cymru a Lloegr / *RE Council for England and Wales*
- *Rudi Lockhart, Chief Executive Officer, REC*

Rudi thanked Phil and the Executive members for the warm welcome and for the opportunity to attend the meeting. He explained that the REC is an umbrella organisation for lots of different RE related Bodies across England and Wales. He said that it is important for the REC to forge a good relationship with WASACRE in order to improve the relationship between England and Wales. Rudi assured members that the REC has not taken a position on religious education in Wales without consultation with WASACRE and other relevant Bodies in Wales and was interested to find out what the REC can do to work better with WASACRE to support RE in Wales. With regard to the residual powers of Westminster for Welsh education legislation, Rudi proposed that WASACRE might want to make a case to Nick Gibb for Westminster to relinquish these powers as part of the current RE Commission, reviewing the legal frameworks for policy on RE.

Phil Lord thanked Rudi for his presentation and summarised some points for further discussion:

- The importance of giving a Welsh overview/context at the meetings
- WASACRE's involvement in the various boards and committees at REC



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- Having a secured place for one English representative and one Welsh representative on the REC Board.
- Invitation for Rudi as the Executive Director of REC, to attend more WASACRE meetings

**Action:** REC to be put on the agenda for the September Executive meeting.

7. Manylebau TGAU diwygiedig ar gyfer Astudiaethau Crefyddol (cyfarfod â CBAC) / *Revised GCSE Specifications for Religious Studies (meeting with WJEC)*

Mary confirmed that WJEC will not be producing a second, new specification for and that there will only be one specification for the Religious Studies GCSE Full and Short Course qualifications. WJEC said that it is the responsibility of each school to work out the structures to enable students to study a Short Course in RE and still give students the option of studying a Full Course RE qualification. WJEC will investigate good practice on this in schools and share what it finds with WASACRE. Vicky Thomas has asked Lynda Maddock for a list of comparisons between the new specification and the old ones to assist the teaching of year 9 pupils starting the RE GCSE in 2016/17, which many schools now do. Mary confirmed that the current Yr 9 can start the current specification and be examined in Yr10 only. Gareth Pierce will be writing to Estyn to request that they keep an eye on Short Course entries and RE being taught within the Welsh Baccalaureate.

**Action:** WASACRE needs to keep a watching brief on this situation.

8. Materion Llywodraeth Cymru / *Welsh Government matters*

- Cyfarfod Llywodraeth Cymru/ *Welsh Government contact meeting*
- *Adolygiad o Adroddiadau Blynyddol CYSAG /Review of SACRE Annual Reports*

Members agreed that this item had already been discussed under Item 4. Matters Arising.

**Action:** Bethan will circulate the NAPfRE *What is Good RE?* document to Executive members for their information.

9. EFTRE up-date- Phil Lord

Phil showed members the leaflet for the EFTRE Conference in August 2016. The leaflet is available in English only. Places on the Conference can be booked through the EFTRE website. Some members were concerned about the time scale stating that the information comes out too late for teachers to request the time off and/or bid for a grant to pay for their attendance. Teachers need the basic information much sooner e.g. Dates and an idea of costs, a year in advance would be helpful.

**Action:** Phil will look into this.

10. Canlyniadau Arolwg Bagloriaeth Cymru / *Welsh Baccalaureate Survey results*

A full presentation of the results analysis will be given at the WASACRE meeting in June.

**Action:** Libby Jones will send the Welsh Baccalaureate and RE results analysis powerpoint presentation out to Executive members for their information.

11. Swyddogion y Association- Ffordd ymlaen /Officers of the Association- A way forward



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Libby will send out the pen portraits to all SACREs and to Advisors on Thursday.

The document containing the pen portraits of all nominees for the Executive Committee election, due to take place on the 23 June 2016, is now ready bilingually and will go out to SACRE this week.

Members were informed of Libby Jones desire to resign from the post. Members agreed that a new way forward was needed and ideas for this were discussed.

**Action:**

1. Libby will send out the nominations for the Executive Committee elections to all SACRE and Advisors
2. Libby Jones will continue in her post as Secretary until August 2016, with support from members.
3. The Executive Committee will investigate the possibility of employing a Clerk to take over all administrative duties for the Association, which could be paid for by the honorarium currently paid to the Secretary.

**12. Gwefan CCYSAGauC /WASACRE Website**

No information to share

**13. Gohebiaeth / Correspondence**

An email has been received from the Wales Humanists Development Officer, Kathy Riddick, requesting an invitation to observe a WASACRE meeting. Kathy has been invited to attend the meeting in Carmarthenshire on 18 November, 2016.

**14. Agenda ar gyfer cyfarfod y Gymdeithas (Sir Ddinbych), 23 Mehefin 2016 / Agenda for the Association meeting (Denbighshire), 23 June 2016.**

Members received a copy of the draft agenda for this meeting in an email following the Executive meeting, for their information and comments.

**15. U.F.A. / A.O.B**

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

Autumn- 29/9/2016 Llanerch Inn Llandrindod, Wells

No dates have been set for the following meetings.

Spring-

Summer-