

Minutes of a Meeting of the **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN CEREDIGION** held Hybrid/Chamber  
**Thursday, 09 November 2023**

**PRESENT:**

Representing Ceredigion County Council: Councillor Ifan Davies

Representing Teacher Association: Miss Joyce Howells (NASUWT) (Chair)

Religious Denominations: Mrs Anna Uruska- – The Catholic Church,  
Rev Dr John Tudno Williams- Presbyterian Church of Wales, Prof Densil Morgan,  
Baptist Union of Wales, Ms Noha Haroun, Representative of the faith of Islam,  
Rev Mark Ansell, The Church in Wales

Co-opted Members: Mr Lyndon Lloyd MBE

Representing Primary Sector: Mrs Non Jones McEvoy

Also in attendance: Mrs Rhiannydd James, School Support Advisor and Mrs Dana Jones, Democratic Services and Standards Officer

(9:30pm- 11:10pm)

**1 Prayers**

The Meeting commenced with Rev Mark Ansell leading the Committee in prayer.

**2 Apologies**

Councillor Keith Evans, Keith Henson, Ceris Jones together with Mrs Alwen Roberts and Professor Catrin Williams apologised for their inability to attend the meeting.

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Mrs Rhiannydd James, School Support Advisor who would be attending the meeting on behalf of Mrs Mary Davies who was currently unwell, and all wished her well on a speedy recovery. Best wishes were also extended to Councillor John Roberts who was in hospital, and all extended their deepest condolences to him and his family on the death of his granddaughter.

**3 To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 05 July 2023 and to consider any matters arising from those Minutes**

It was AGREED to confirm as a true record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing Advisory Council held on 05 July 2023 subject to  
(i)amending the surname of Rev Aled Davies to Jones and that he was representing The Union of Welsh Independents and not The Presbyterian Church of Wales as recorded;

- (ii) amending the name of Guto Gwynfor to Guto Prys ap Gwynfor and that he was representing The Union of Welsh Independents and not The Presbyterian Church of Wales as recorded; and
- (iii) confirming that Mrs Laurie Hughes, Wellbeing Advisory Teacher would be providing further presentations to the Committee, as the information provided had two additional elements to consider

### **Matters arising**

Forward Work Programme – It was reported that Miss Nia Wyn Jones would attend the summer term meeting as there would be less focus on exam preparation.

#### **4 Membership**

An update was provided on the membership of the committee. Following discussion, it was AGREED that:-

- (i) the School Support Advisor would contact Mrs Medi James to confirm her position in relation to becoming a member of the Committee,
- (ii) that Mrs Manon Lewis, Head of School of Education, Aberystwyth University would be approached to join the committee as a co-opted Member,
- (iii) that Mr Colin Patridge be contacted to attend the next meeting, as the School Support Advisor was unsure if an invite had been sent to him prior to this meeting

#### **5 Religion, Values and Ethics**

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Mr Aled Rumble to make a presentation on - Religion, Values and Ethics. The following information was outlined:-

- Assessment
- Progression
- RSE
- Cross Curriculum skills
- Significant addition of RE in the Act
- Road map
- Religious Value & Ethics- Section of RVE in the professional development website, visiting primary and secondary schools, sharing nationally created resources

Following discussion on the content of the presentation, it was AGREED to note the current position and that pupils would be provided with information on after school clubs provided by various religious denominations that were available to assist them to become moral citizens.

#### **6 Update on the numbers studying RE**

It was reported that the numbers were the same as provided at the previous meeting. The official figures would be available after December. It was also reported that the figures studying in the new term could fluctuate as pupils had up to October half term to decide if they wished to pursue studying the subject.

Concerns were raised on the number of teachers that would be studying RE in the future and the courses available, it was reported that Mrs Manon Lewis could assist if she attended the next meeting to facilitate the discussion on this, together with Professor Catrin Williams. It was reported that there were already several examples of good practice of resources that could assist teachers, such as the Peace Assembly and Philosophy/RE Department in Cardiff University and the opinion of atheists should also be considered. It was reported that regular seminars were held to assist new teachers in this subject.

## 7 **WASACRE**

An update on the recent WASACRE meeting was provided by the School Support Advisor as follows:-

### **1. Updates from Welsh Government**

Summary of legislation published – thanks to all LEA's for their work

Annual report template – no update

Sharing of data

### **2. National Professional Learning Resources - Repository - Hwb** ([gov.wales](http://gov.wales))

**3. WASACRE Conference** – Summer 2024 – Workshops / Training – need to identify priorities

<https://forms.office.com/e/u6HV5uNHY2>

### **4. Qualifications**

Qualifications Wales – Religious Studies GCSE 2023 [gcse-religious-studies-qualification-outline-consultation-version-e.pdf](https://www.wjec.co.uk/gcse-religious-studies-qualification-outline-consultation-version-e.pdf) ([wjec.co.uk](http://wjec.co.uk))

Equality and Diversity Qualification

Agored Cymru qualifications

### **5 EFTRE conference**

### **6. Other updates**

EFTRE resources – on website

ESTYN, REMW, NAPRE – none

REC discussions around GSCE, A level and ITE uptake

Cytûn – request to explore relationships and to apply for membership on Interfaith Council.

### **7. Sharing of information –**

Increasing number of requests by parents to remove pupils from mandatory RVE lessons – WASACRE to prepare guidance on how to support LEA's.

One request in a Ceredigion primary school this term.

InterFaith week – November 12th – 19th 2023

Inter Faith Week 2020: Connection, learning and cooperation at the time of COVID - Resources - Inter Faith Week

Next meeting – date to be confirmed

Members stated that with new curriculum, that all teaching material should be provided bilingually at the same time, as this had not been the case when the previous curriculum was introduced.

## 8 **Request for items/Forward Work Programme**

Previously discussed.

9 **Any Other Business**

Mr Lyndon Lloyd MBE emphasised the need to protect RE as a subject within the recent proposals to review the 6<sup>th</sup> form in the County. There was also a need to remind all of the existence of this statutory committee.

The Chair thanked all for attending and wished all Seasons greetings.

10 **Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Friday, 15 March at 130pm (subject to change if the WASCRE meeting was held following this date)

**Confirmed at the Meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education in Ceredigion (SACRE) held on 15 March 2023**

**Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_