



Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAG au Cymru, yn  
Siambr y Cyngor, Canolfan Ddinesig Cyngor  
Abertawe SA1 3SN  
Dydd Gwener, 9 Mawrth 2018 (10.30am –  
3pm)

*Wales Association of SACREs meeting, at the  
Council Chamber, Swansea Council Civic  
Centre SA1 3SN. Friday, 9 March 2018  
(10.30am – 3pm)*

**Presenoldeb/Attendance**

<p><b>Ynys Môn / Anglesey</b></p>	<p><b>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire</b> Phil Lord (PL)</p>	<p><b>Abertawe / Swansea</b> Alison Lewis (AL) Vicky Thomas (VT) Rachel Bendall (RB) John Meredith (JT) Norma Glass (NG) Claire Foley (CF) Brian Cainen (BC)</p>
<p><b>Blaenau Gwent</b> Paula Webber (PW) Kathy Riddick (KR)</p>	<p><b>Gwynedd</b></p>	<p><b>Torfaen</b> Paula Webber (PW)</p>
<p><b>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend</b> Edward J. Evans (EE) Vicky Thomas (VT) Alice Parry (AP)</p>	<p><b>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil</b> Paula Webber (PW)</p>	<p><b>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan</b> Paula Webber (PW) Dafydd Trehearn (DT)</p>
<p><b>Caerffili/ Caerphilly</b> Vicky Thomas (VT) Rev. Emyr Williams</p>	<p><b>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire</b> <b>Sir</b> Gill Vaisey (GV) Cllr Dr. Louise Brown (LB)</p>	<p><b>Wrecsam / Wrexham</b> Tania ap Siôn (TaS) Libby Jones (LJ)</p>
<p><b>Caerdydd / Cardiff</b> Gill Vaisey (GV)</p>	<p><b>Castell-nedd Port Talbot /Neath and Port Talbot</b> Rachel Samuel (RS)</p>	<p><b>Sylwedyddion / Observers</b> Manon Jones (MJ), Llywodraeth Cymru Rachel Bendall (RB) Drindod Dewi Sant</p>
<p><b>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire</b> Helen Gibbon (HG) Christine J. Rees</p>	<p><b>Casnewydd / Newport</b> Vicky Thomas (VT) Huw Stephens (HS) Sally Northcott (SN)</p>	<p><b>Cyflwynwyr/Presenters</b> Rachel Bendall (RB) Drindod Dewi Sant Manon Jones (MJ), Llywodraeth Cymru</p>
<p><b>Ceredigion</b> Lyndon Lloyd MBE (LL)</p>	<p><b>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire</b></p>	
<p><b>Conwy</b> Phil Lord (PL)</p>	<p><b>Powys</b> John Mitson (JM)</p>	
<p><b>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire</b> Phil Lord (PL)</p>	<p><b>Rhondda Cynon Taf</b> Paula Webber (PW) Mathew Maidment (MM)</p>	

## Minutes

### 1. **Cyflwyniad a chroeso / Introduction and welcome**

Prior to the meeting members enjoyed a choir performance by pupils from Bishop Vaughan RC Comprehensive School. EE thanked the choir acknowledging the significant amount of work put into creating a high standard performance by both the pupils and the teacher who had inspired them.

Mayor Cllr. Phil Downing welcomed members to the council chamber. He reported that Swansea is a city of welcome and sanctuary where refugees are offered a home. It celebrates diversity. In the past year the Mayor has attended a variety of events including the celebration of Chinese New Year and the opening of a new mosque in Swansea. Cllr. Downing reported that the mosque was open to everyone and that the open event was well attended. Swansea is a place where people feel safe and welcome regardless of religion, ethnicity or culture. The Mayor spoke positively about the role of WASACRE in supporting teachers. He said RE enables open, objective and exploratory learning that helps understanding in a rapidly changing world. The Mayor acknowledged the major changes in RE including the new examination syllabuses and the new curriculum and that WASACRE has the important role of making sense of these changes.

EE thanked Cllr. Downing and opened the meeting.

### 2. **Adfyfrio tawel / Quiet reflection**

EE read a poem by Pastor Niermoller, a victim of a concentration camp, and then reflected upon how important each person is and how each individual has a part to play in the community.

### 3. **Ymddiheuriadau / Apologies**

Apologies were received from Chris Abbas, Tudor Thomas, Susan Cave, Rheinallt Thomas, Mary Parry, Marilyn Frazer, Alwen Roberts, Bethan James, Nicholas Richter, Sharon Perry-Phillips, Neeta Baicher and Meinir Wyn Loader.

### 4. **Cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd yn Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, Dydd Gwener, 10 Tachwedd, 2017 / Minutes of meeting held in Bridgend Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2017**

Members requested amendments to be made on p8 of the draft minutes from the previous meeting. With the rectification of this issue and the correction of some typos the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**Action: PW to liaise with VT to amend the Autumn Term minutes**

### 5. **Materion yn codi / Matters arising**

#### *i. Managing the Right of Withdrawal from RE*

EE informed members that the document has been published and is available for purchase. He confirmed this document would be much appreciated by those who make decisions in schools. GV informed members that one copy has been made available to every school in Wales. Spare hardcopies have also been distributed to SACRE members. A PDF has been made available to SACRE members and a hard copy to Diocesan Directors of Education. GV reminded WASACRE members that the document is subject to copyright and is for sale via Amazon or Books@Press. GV informed members that there has been a lot of positive feedback on the document. LJ reiterated thanks to Gill Vaisey for the work she had done on the document and said that she had already made use of it to support a school in Wrexham.

A discussion took place on the withdrawal from RE. A concern was raised by LJ that there had been a request to partially withdraw a pupil from RE and explicitly from the study of Islam only. Both LJ and the school in question were concerned that this might be classed as an identity based incident and sought further advice from the LA Community Cohesion Co-ordinator and their local police prevent contact. It had been decided that this was not an identity based incident as it was not directed against an individual. However, it was decided that it did still raise concern and the school should keep an eye on the situation. GV said that the withdrawal document recommends that a local authority has a policy and procedure to deal with this type of incident.

LB suggested that the document should be consulted on. GV confirmed that it had been widely consulted on. GV also confirmed that copies of the document had been sent to all who had contributed towards it.

*ii. Humanists on SACREs and letter to Welsh Government on Circular 10/94*

EE reported that as Chair of WASACRE, he had sent a letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams, asking Welsh Government to resolve the anomalies of Circular 10/94. He read a response he received from the Cabinet Secretary, Kirsty Williams acknowledging that 'there has been an increased focus on the requirements and governance of Collective Worship, and the role and membership of SACRES, and whether current practices and arrangements comply with the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the Equality Act 2010.' Kirsty Williams pointed out that Circular 10/94 is 'a non-statutory document which is intended to provide guidance on both the teaching of religious education and collective worship in maintained and special schools.' She has, however, instructed her officials to review this area 'including a focus on the specific issues around legislation and the compatibility of the current requirements with human rights law.'

It was confirmed in the meeting that Peter Kennedy will be taking a lead in this review and that legal advice is being sought. Welsh Government will be looking at this in light of the New Curriculum and will consult stakeholders.

VT requested that a copy of the letter from the Cabinet Secretary go to all SACRE Clerks. She also suggested that it was necessary to have a timescale for the review. She reported that NAPfRE colleagues had discussed this and requested that WASACRE write to Welsh Government to ask that the specific request for Humanists representation on Committee A be dealt with separately and not be tied up with the curriculum review.

***Action: EE - to respond to the letter from Kirsty Williams raising the issue that the specific issue surrounding Humanist representation on SACREs be dealt with separate to curriculum review and that an earlier time scale be set.***

*iii. Minutes Clerk*

EE confirmed that an advertisement had been sent to SACREs for the role of Minutes Clerk. A further communication giving a deadline for 31<sup>st</sup> March was also communicated.

A discussion pursued on the application process and a suggestion was made that the clerk be appointed on a trial basis. JM pointed out that this is not a job and that there would be no contract. He confirmed that the arrangement would be made along the same lines as the translation arrangement. An honorarium would be paid. The question of whether the Minutes Clerk should be bilingual was also

discussed. PW pointed out that, even if the new clerk is bilingual, to translate is a separate job as it would be more time consuming. It was pointed out that the Welsh Language Commissioner might write to object as any institution in Wales should be providing a bilingual service. LJ confirmed that bilingualism is important and that we are communicating bilingually.

#### **6. Cyflwyniad NAPfRE / NAPfRE presentation: Rachel Bendall Furlong's Report: What does it mean for ITE and RE?**

RB reported on the ITE course at Trinity St David (TSD) and the impact of the changes on the new curriculum. She reported that the Furlong Report is about training tomorrow's teachers. The accreditation criteria make clear future ITE provision in Wales must have:

- an increased role for schools (the responsibility and accountability for schools playing a more important role in training)
- a clearer role for universities
- joint ownership of the ITE programme between schools and universities (schools will assess students)
- structured opportunities to link school and university learning (tutors will work in schools and schools will go into universities)
- centrality of research.

<http://learning.gov.wales/docs/learningwales/publications/170310-accreditation-criteria-for-initial-teacher-education-en-v4.pdf>

RB reported that institutions needed to submit bids for accreditation by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017. Five institutions applied to deliver the courses. Site visits have taken place to assess resources. RB reported that TSD will know the outcome by the end of June. If TSD is successful it will have students, if not, it will move to another hub. RB reported that TSD have twenty one student places for RE and Bangor train eight, making a maximum of twenty nine every year. RB queried whether this tally will change as the new curriculum is brought into place.

Discussion took place on problems with recruitment. A query was raised as to whether training will change in light of the New Curriculum and whether Humanities will be taught or RE will still be taught as a subject on its own.

RB reported that the current provision for RE is just four hours per year. This raises the question about professional development for the primary sector and highlights the provision needed for additional training for RE in the primary sector. RB reported that students have been out on placement visits to the Buddhist Centre in Swansea. WASACRE members viewed video clips of Kirsty Williams talking with students about the New Curriculum. The Minister was heard speaking about the New Curriculum change being more challenging for the secondary sector and that is why they will be rolling out the programme over a number of years. A student asked about what GCSEs would look like and the Cabinet Secretary said that Qualifications Wales were around the table every step of the way as the New Curriculum is being developed as examinations would have to be compatible.

RB reported on why current students wanted to be RE teachers. Reasons included influencing the lives of children; having been taught by inspirational teachers; RE is always open and relevant; the subject shapes identity; it encourages people to explore their beliefs; it develops good, moral, open-minded citizens and it teaches tolerance and respect for one another.

RB confirmed that collaboration between schools and HE institutions has been developing. Pilot projects, networks and working parties are collaborating. RB also confirmed that there is an expectation upon students to teach other subjects such as the Welsh Baccalaureate.

VT expressed concern about the number of hours training in primary education. She stated that RE has a unique place on the curriculum and, therefore, four hours training is insufficient. She stated that mistakes can be made when you are dealing with the sensitivities brought up in RE. RB said that the four hours are spent navigating students through the legal requirements and the National Exemplar Framework and that there is no time for enrichment.

VT said that CPD is a huge issue and that she has asked that this be included in the agenda of the next Humanities Planning Meeting with Welsh Government. She stated that this would be crucial to the success of the New Curriculum in which RE has a unique place.

RB pointed out that in university the pedagogical side of RE is taught, but the expertise should come from the schools.

LJ pointed out that the Commission on Religious Education in England reports that in England 3 hours of training is given. However, one of the recommendations of the CoRE is that a minimum of 12 hours should be given to RE.

HS queried whether the input of the lecturer is decreasing. RB explained the shift that has taken place has built a bridge between what happens in school and in university. She said that students are seeing tutors less often and that there is more pressure on teachers in schools, who are already very busy. HS said that he had trained for 3 years and raised the concern that this is now expected in a year. RB confirmed that BEds still exist.

A member raised the concern that very few teachers have faith backgrounds and that this means that this may lead to a confused concept of what Christianity is. She asked whether there should be more opportunity to have faith leaders involved with training. RB confirmed that TSD welcomes partnerships with faith communities. Input from people speaking to students is good.

A member asked whether things could be made more uniform in terms of delivering Religious Education. LJ confirmed that we already have the National Exemplar Framework, but that this is not content based and is locally determined. She also reiterated that the Donaldson approach is about making partnerships and that there is more emphasis upon the core beliefs of Christianity at GCSE. MM confirmed that, as a teacher, he would like more involvement of faith communities. RB confirmed that the majority of PG students have a Religious Studies degree or have done modules at some point in their degree. Some have a degree in another relevant subject. Therefore, they would have a relevant background. PW reminded members that the CoRE interim report stated that there should be an increased role for SACREs and suggested that this might include a stronger partnership between schools and faith representatives sitting on SACREs. A member raised a query about whether RE should be kept as a distinct subject and raised the concern that if it was not, teachers might lose their specialism. A member expressed concern for the children who are affected by this 'educational experiment,' stating that they might not have the background in the subject or feel confident enough to take specialist subjects at GCSE. A concern was expressed that there might be a danger of losing the essence of what the subject is. A member expressed concern that teachers are now expected to pick up and teach any other subject and that this could impact upon the education system as a whole.

A member suggested the idea of joint ownership is brilliant as schools would like to have a say in what happens in practice. A member expressed concern about the need for mentor training days on the ITE course. RB confirmed that two are held every year and that they are running mentor training programme in Bridgend.

**7. Cyflwyniad CCYSAGau Cymru/WASACRE presentation: Humanities in the New Curriculum for Wales – Manon Jones**

MJ informed WASACRE that her role in Welsh Government has changed and that she is now responsible for consistency over the six AoLE.

MJ confirmed that the Welsh Government Newsletter had been sent to every SACRE and that feedback had been very useful and that it would be good to receive more comments.

MJ gave an update on progress made within the Humanities AoLE in the New Curriculum. She confirmed that RE should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience and will remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception. MJ confirmed that Humanities had taken a 'What Matters' approach and that the purpose of the statements was to provide the key concepts to be explored during a learner's education. She shared an example of one of the statements and the rationale behind it. MJ confirmed that Welsh Government had commissioned work in the related disciplines and WASACRE provided a discussion paper as part of this process. WASACRE representatives had attended a Humanities AoLE workshop in Swansea to present the paper to the teachers. MJ said that the Four Core Purposes would be at the heart of the New Curriculum and that the Humanities AoLE would contribute to these. MJ shared the structure that would shape the Humanities AoLE. This will include a statement detailing how the AoLE supports the Four Purposes; 'What Matters' statements and their accompanying rationales; reference to key subject Knowledge, Skills & Experiences which would support the development of school level curriculum development; specific Disciplines, Domains & Dispositions; Cross-Curricular & Wider-Skill Responsibilities. The structure details the Progression Framework; Achievement Outcomes; Cross – Curriculum Elements and Guiding Principles to help turn What Matters into practice.

MJ confirmed that the New Curriculum is not losing sight of the disciplines but is seeking a more holistic approach.

MJ confirmed that further guidance on RE might be necessary as it is a statutory requirement at KS4 and because of the local level of the subject. Therefore this could mean looking at providing a National Exemplar Framework.

VT queried whether the 'What Matters' statements have changed from those being consulted upon at the moment. MJ confirmed that they are a work in progress and that they have been updated. She said that they will be defined further in the future because it is important to keep coming back to them to make sure nothing is missing. LJ stated that responses are still being written and queried whether the humanities working group consider feedback. MJ confirmed that comments feed into the way the workshops are organised and that feedback is valuable because it provides a check for what is being developed.

A member raised a concern that the statements were diluting religion and spirituality. She asked what consultation there had been with faith communities. MJ reiterated that Welsh Government do not want

to lose anything in terms of the discipline and expertise. MJ informed WASACRE that a planning meeting was to be held within two weeks and that feedback from SACREs would be on the agenda. During the planning meeting it was hoped that they would be in the position to share the development to date. Welsh Government are looking at ways of engaging with SACREs and will be seeking the views of WASACRE/NAPfRE representatives at the planning meeting. MJ raised the question about how Welsh Government might best engage with SACREs when the curriculum development is moving so quickly.

GV expressed concern that the Humanities AoLE had moved on so quickly and that SACREs are being asked to consult on something that has already changed. She reported that this is a big job for SACREs; they are spending a lot of time on it only to find out that the development has moved on. She said it is concerning that we are seeing a major change of the curriculum in Wales conducted in this way.

A member asked whether resources for the curriculum would be made available before the new course starts. Discussion ensued about how the new curriculum would be resourced as there are problems with the resourcing of the new GCSE specification at the moment, particularly Welsh resources. MJ confirmed that there would be a specific team looking at how the new curriculum will be resourced.

VT asked whether Welsh Government would be circulating the new revised papers. MJ confirmed that this would happen. VT suggested it would be helpful for a member of WASACRE to be included in the Humanities AoLE meetings. MJ confirmed that this was a really helpful idea.

MM expressed the opinion that confidence, expertise and passion lead to good teaching and raised his concern that teaching outside one's specialism does not lead to that. He reiterated that it is important not to lose the disciplines. MJ said that she would take the point on board, but reiterated that it would be up to the school to decide how the curriculum will be delivered.

PW suggested that one way in which Welsh Government might consult with SACREs could be to have an additional extraordinary WASACRE meeting. EE confirmed that this would be permissible should it be necessary.

GV reminded MJ that professional expertise is available if there weren't enough people with RE expertise in the Humanities working group and that WASACRE could help.

**Action: MJ to send the newest version of the Humanities AoLE statements to PW to be circulated.**

#### **Following lunch LJ reported on correspondence she had received**

LJ informed WASACRE members of communications she had received from the Inter Faith Network advising WASACRE of a meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March and the upcoming meeting for young people. The IFN Diversity of Religion and belief conference guidance document for schools is out for consultation and the IFN are asking for advice and feedback by the 13<sup>th</sup> April. A resource pack will go out free to schools.

#### **Actions:**

- i. Those interested in attending the Inter Faith Network meetings to contact LJ for information.**
- ii. LJ to liaise with PW on circulating information from IFN.**

#### **8. Cyfarfod Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru Cyfansoddiad / Wales Association of SACREs Constitution**

The WASACRE constitution has been revised. The Executive Committee are currently consulting on this.

Adjustments to the constitution will then go out to SACREs and there will be a vote to adopt the constitution at the AGM meeting in Anglesey in the Summer Term.

**Action: to agenda a vote on adopting the reviewed constitution at the AGM**

## 9. *Diweddariadau/Up-dates:*

### i. REC update: The Commission of Religious Education in England (CoRE)

LJ and PW presented a paper: *CoRE and its relevance to Wales: A paper for discussion*.

The Commission made initial recommendations on

1. A national entitlement for RE
2. Holding schools to account for the provision and quality of RE
3. A national plan to improve teaching and learning in RE
4. A renewed and expanded role for standing advisory councils on religious education (SACREs)

LJ and PW suggested that Wales consider the following questions

1. Are the outcomes of the interim report relevant to Wales?
2. Do members agree with the recommendations in the report?
3. What do members want Welsh Government to do?
4. What action, if any, should WASACRE take now?
5. Should Wales initiate its own commission on RE?

MJ requested a digital copy of the paper.

**Action: PW to send a digital copy of the paper to Manon Jones**

### ii. *Estyn – Michelle Gosney*

Michele Gosney introduced herself to members. In January she became the lead Estyn officer for faith schools. MG will be attending WASACRE and the Humanities Planning Meetings on behalf of Estyn. MG reported that the Humanities remit looking at History and Geography had recommended that CPD be improved. MG was not involved with the Estyn team working on the Thematic Review of RE. She said that Mark Campion would be attending the summer WASACRE meeting to feedback on the thematic review of RE.

A member commented that the consortia are not providing CPD training following the Humanities report and suggested that the recommendations from Estyn are not being backed up by further action. MG reported that there isn't currently a system for following recommendations up. She raised the query as to where that role lies. She confirmed that it lies with the local authority but asked where the funding would come from.

MG reported that the new Estyn Framework looks at the preparation, planning and execution of Collective Worship. She reported that where there is no comment in a report then there are no concerns and that it would then be middle of the road in terms of the quality. Estyn have been asked to use exemplification in reports, so if RE is seen as a strength within the school, then you will see that in the exemplification. In terms of SMSC Estyn will be talking about strengths and areas of concern and they will be looking at the spiritual development of schools. GV reported that there had been discussion in NAPfRE that some reports under the new framework say nothing about SMSC. MG will take this back to Estyn.



KR queried what definition of spirituality Estyn would be using. MG confirmed that Estyn would be looking at the broader context, e.g. you can have a spiritual experience in an art lesson. Estyn will be reporting on where opportunity for spiritual development is good and where there are concerns.

*iii. EFTRE – Phil Lord*

PL informed WASACRE that EFTRE are working towards a conference in Dublin in 2019. The theme will be Reconciling Realities in Religious Education. PL pointed out that other countries are grappling with things that our curriculum grappled with a number of years ago and that Wales are ahead of the game in Religious Education. He informed WASACRE that 47 European countries are entitled to become members of EFTRE and that there are currently 25 countries represented on the Board. EFTRE are presently looking for reps from Eastern Europe. PL expressed that it is interesting to see the diversity right across Europe. The reports from 25 countries are on the EFTRE website <http://www.eftre.net/> PL informed WASACRE that he had held responsibility for the Website.

PL informed WASACRE that he would be stepping down from the role of EFTRE representative.

Discussion pursued upon who would replace PL as EFTRE representative. GV was subsequently voted EFTRE representative.

*iv. AREIAC – Gill Vaisey*

GV reported that the AREIAC conference will be taking place in Bristol on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Everyone interested in promoting excellence in RE is welcome to attend. Booking forms are available from Gill Vaisey or can be accessed via the AREIAC website. Anyone who has responsibility for supporting teachers is able to become a member of AREIAC. There is a £30 discount off the conference for AREIAC members. This year's conference is on Reflecting Plurality in RE. It will run over two days. There will be a balance between workshops and key note speakers. GV attends AREIAC as a Wales representative. PW has also recently become a member of AREIAC.

At the NAPfRE meeting members discussed the need for support for teachers and opportunities that might be available via Learn Teach Lead RE. There is potentially an opportunity to secure funding that is available to set up RE networks. GV and NAPfRE will be investigating this further.

**Action: PW to circulate correspondence about the AREIAC conference to SACRE Clerks to pass on to schools.**

*v. REMW - Dafydd Trehearne*

DT reported on behalf of REMW that there is a limited pot of money available and that there is no further money coming in because of government cuts. REMW have provided financial help to translate documents into Welsh. However, REMW would prefer to offer wider support than that. DT confirmed that the Encouraging Religion book had now been published. He said that REMW were not giving up yet but that their role had been reduced because of lack of finance.

**10. Adroddiad ar gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith a gynhaliwyd ar 13 Medi 2017/ Report from the Executive Committee held on 13 September 2017**

A report from the Executive Committee was circulated. EE informed WASACRE that minutes from the meeting would not be circulated until they had been ratified by the Executive Committee. This decision had been made as there had been an inaccuracy in the content of the meeting which required

rectification before they the minutes were made public. Changes were made to the Executive meeting notes and EE informed WASACRE members that co opted members are in fact able to attend WASACRE.

#### **11. Dangos a dweud/ Show and tell**

Phil Lord reported to WASACRE that the REMW had provided funding for translation of resources he has been developing which is a four year Scheme of Work for Collective Worship. One of the years is now available in Welsh. The others will be translated as funding is gained. The resources are called *Simply Collective Worship*. The Scheme of Work includes reflective questions and thoughts, shorter themes and Thoughts for the Day. A free 6 week resource is available on the site <https://simplycollectiveworship.co.uk/>

#### **12. Gohebiaeth /Correspondence**

- i. GV reported on correspondence received from a reporter from BBC online. The reporter had read, in Newport SACRE papers and WASCRE papers, about Humanist representation on SACREs. She had requested a response from WASACRE which was then given by GV. An article was subsequently published by BBC Online. EE confirmed that he had read the article and considered it to be a fair and balanced report. This view was supported by both GV and KR who had been questioned by the reporter.
- ii. WASACRE received correspondence from Christine Abbas from Wales Bahá'í's with best wishes for members on the occasion of the Bahá'í New Year. PW reported that she had attended the Bahá'í Bicentenary celebration at the Senedd on behalf of WASACRE. Rheinallt Thomas and Kathy Riddick were also in attendance. The event was very well planned and informative and a good celebratory occasion.

#### **13. U.F.A. / A.O.B.**

- i. GV, on behalf of NAPfRE stated that roles of employees and officers are changing and NAPfRE had discussed this issue and were concerned that there was a great disparity in the amount of time that is allocated to professional officers to SACREs. NAPfRE asked WASACRE whether they would consider writing to Local Authorities to raise this issue. They also expressed the need for SACREs to be consistently supported by a dedicated LA officer and SACRE Clerk. HS reiterated the importance of ensuring good practice and said that WASACRE are grateful to those authorities who are already following good practice. A WASACRE member confirmed the importance of teacher attendance at SACRE meetings and WASACRE. It was agreed that a letter would be written to all LA Directors / Heads of Education.
- ii. LB queried whether the WASACRE document 'What Matters in RE' that had been commissioned by Welsh Government would be going out for consultation. PW confirmed that this was a discussion document solely intended for the teachers working on the Humanities AoLE, and not a guidance document. Therefore, it would not be consulted upon. It remains a discussion paper. MJ confirmed that consultation would be on the Humanities AoLE document that was written as a result of the process.

#### **14. Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf / Date for next meeting:**

- i. Summer 2018 – Ynys Môn / Anglesey 06/07/2018
- ii. Autumn 2019 – Bro Morgannwg /Vale of Glamorgan (TBC)

VT raised the issue of holding the meeting on days other than a Friday. It was confirmed that WASACRE will be rotating the days to encourage greater representation from teachers.

EE thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Thanks were also expressed to Cllr. Phil Downing, James Craven - Clerk to Swansea SACRE, Kate Phillips the LA representative on SACRE, Vicky Thomas RE consultant to Swansea SACRE, SACRE members from Swansea in attendance today to support the hosting SACRE, Bishop Vaughan RC Comprehensive School choir and teachers along with Swansea Music Service and Sarah Gray, who provided the translation for the meeting.

DRAFT