CCYSAGauC
Cymdeithas Cynghorau Ymgynghorol Sefydlog ar Addysg Grefyddol Cymru

WASACRE
Wales Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education

Adroddiad ar weithgareddau'r Gymdeithas 2019-2020

Dyna flwyddyn anodd a heb ei thebyg o'r blaen fu hon i'n Gwlad, i sefydliadau ac i unigolion. Mae'n meddyliau wedi bod gyda'r rheiny a effeithiwyd mewn unrhyw ffordd gan bandemig y Coronafeirws. Rydym wedi bod yn meddwl yn arbennig am y rheiny fu'n wael, neu a gollodd anwyliaid i'r feirws. Gobeithio y gallwn ddychwelyd i ryw fath o normalrwydd heb fod yn rhy hir.

Yn anochel cafodd y pandemig effaith enfawr ar gyfarfodydd CCYSAGauC, ond nid ar ei waith a aeth rhagddo yn ddi-dor.

1. Dim ond ar ddau achlysur y cyfarfu'r Gymdeithas eleni: 28 Mehefin 2019 yng Nghonwy, a 21 Tachwedd 2019 yn Aberaeron. Rydym yn ddiolchgar i'r CYSAGau oedd yn lletya am eu croeso hael. Canslwyd y cyfarfod a oedd fod ar 17 Mawrth 2020 ar fyr rybudd, oherwydd y pryderon cynyddol dros Covid-19. Yn anffodus, ni chafwyd digon o amser i wneud trefniadau amgen ar-lein i allu cynnal y cyfarfod hwn o bell. Wrth gwrs, cafodd ein cyfarfod tymor yr haf a'r Cyfarfod Blynyddol, oedd i fod i'w cynnal ym Mehefin/Gorffennaf eu gohirio o reidrwydd tan ddechrau'r hydref oherwydd yr ansicrwydd ynglŷn â'r pandemig.

2. Cyfarfu'r Pwyllgor Gwaith ar dri achlysur: 30 Medi 2019 yng Nghaerdydd, 11 Chwefror 2020 yn Llandrindod, a 19 Mai 2020 drwy gynadledda fideo. Bu gan y Pwyllgor Gwaith agenda llawn drwy gydol y flwyddyn a oedd yn cynnwys:

a. Ystyried ac ymateb i'r datblygiadau sy'n ymwneud yn uniongyrchol ag AG yn y cwricwlwm newydd i Gymru. Cyfarfu cynrychiolwyr o Bwyllgor Gwaith CCYSAGauC â chydweithwyr Llywodraeth Cymru ac eraill nifer o weithiau drwy gydol o flwyddyn, yn cynnwys cyfarfod â Rudi Lockhart, Prif Swyddog Gweithredol Cyngor Addysg Grefyddol Cymru a Lloegr. Bu'n cydweithwyr o LlC yn mynychu CCYSAGauC a Phwyllgorau Gwaith CCYSAGauC hefyd, ac maent wedi ein diweddaru ar gynnydd;

b. Cyfarfod gyda Kevin Palmer (LlC) a Swyddogion Pwyllgor Gwaith CCYSAGauC ar 18 Mehefin lle y cadarnhawyd y byddai cyllid ar gyfer pecyn dysgu proffesiynol i gyfres o adnoddau yn benodol i AG, ynghyd â hyfforddiant i bawb oedd yn addysgu AG ac yn hyfforddi myfyrwyr cychwynnol. Cydnabuwyd hefyd yr angen penodol am hyfforddiant i leoliadau nas cynhelir.

c. Cyfarfodydd â chynrychiolwyr o Gymwysterau Cymru a Swyddogion y Pwyllgor Gwaith ar ddau achlysur i drafod datblygiadau i'r dyfodol o ran cymwysterau AG yng Nghymru. Cytunodd y cynrychiolwyr CC eu bod mewn sefyllfa well o ganlyniad i'r cyfarfodydd hyn i ddeall effaith cyrsiau arholiad ar ddarpariaeth AG. Cytunwyd i barhau i gynnal cyfarfodydd rhwng cynrychiolwyr CCYSAGauC a Chymwysterau Cymru, ac roedd yr un mwyaf diweddar ar 27 Gorffennaf 2020, drwy gyfrwng Teams;

d. Cynnal a datblygu perthynas CCYSAGauC â Chyngor AG Cymru a Lloegr (REC). Gwahoddwyd Rudi Lockhart, (Prif Weithredwr REC) i fynychu cyfarfodydd y Pwyllgor Gwaith a CCYSGauC ac mae wedi gwneud hynny pryd bynnag roedd modd. Roedd y Pwyllgor Gwaith yn drist i glywed y byddai Rudi'n gadael ei swydd gyda'r Cyngor ym mis Awst a diolchwyd iddo am ei ymrwymiad i AG yng Nghymru. Dymunwyd yn dda iddo i'r dyfodol. Mae'r Pwyllgor Gwaith yn edrych ymlaen yn awr at weithio gyda'i olynydd, Dave Francis;

e. Cafodd y Pwyllgor Gwaith ddyfynbris am adeiladu Gwefan newydd a fyddai'n cynnwys darpariaeth cyfryngau cymdeithasol. Mae hyn ar y gweill ar hyn o bryd;

f. Mynegwyd pryder am arholiad a chymhwyster *Cydraddoldeb ac Amrywiaeth* yr *NCFE*. Ymddengys fod hwn yn cael ei gynnig mewn nifer o ysgolion yn lle AG. Cytunwyd nad yw hyn yn dderbyniol gan nad yw'n bodloni gofynion y maes llafur cytûn ac felly ni fyddai ysgolion sy'n dilyn y cwrs hwn yn cydymffurfio â'u gofyn statudol i ddarparu AG. Ymddengys fod ysgolion yn meddwl fod hwn yn well dewis i'w gynnig i ddisgyblion gan fod y fanyleb yn ddeniadol ac yn rhoi cymhwyster sy'n cyfateb i TGAU. Ystyriwyd a ddylai CCYSGAauC ysgrifennu manyleb ar gyfer cymhwyster addas a chael achrediad iddo;

g. Rhoddwyd ystyriaeth i hyfforddiant i ymgynghorwyr a chlercod CCYSAG gyda pharagraff addas yn cael ei gynnwys yn y llawlyfr CYSAG diwygiedig, yn ogystal â chynnwys mynegai o dermau sy'n gysylltiedig ag AG;

h. Ystyriwyd sut mae'r rheoliad GDPR newydd yn effeithio ar CCYSAGauC. Yr unig wybodaeth y mae CCYSAGauC yn ei dal yw rhestrau o'r rhai sy'n bresennol yn y cyfarfodydd tymhorol a chyfeiriadau e-bost clercod CYSAG. Cytunwyd y dylai taflenni presenoldeb yn y dyfodol gynnwys datganiad yn dweud wrth y rhai oedd yn bresennol sut byddai eu data yn cael ei ddefnyddio a'i gadw gan CCYSAGauC, a'u bod, wrth gofrestru eu presenoldeb, yn cytuno hefyd i gael eu henwau wedi'u cofnodi ar y taflenni presenoldeb. Cytunwyd nad oedd angen gweithredu pellach y tu hwnt i hyn o safbwynt cydymffurfio â'r GDPR;

i. Diweddariadau rheolaidd ar ddogfen Fframwaith AG sydd dal heb gael ei gwneud yn gyhoeddus. Mae cydweithwyr LlC wedi sicrhau'r Pwyllgor Gwaith y bydd yn cael ei chyhoeddi yr hydref hwn;

j. Cytunwyd i weithgor bychan lunio papur ar helpu ysgolion gydag Addoli ar y Cyd yn ystod argyfwng y Coronafeirws, a chyhoeddwyd hwn ddechrau mis Gorffennaf a'i rannau â ChYSAGau. Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn ddwyieithog ar wefan CCYSAGauC www.wasacre.org.uk . Mae'r Pwyllgor Gwaith hefyd wedi ystyried gwerth cael y gweithgor i gynhyrchu papur tebyg ar gyfer AG yn ystod yr Argyfwng Coronafeirws;

k. Nodwyd y dirywiad yn niferoedd y rhai a gofrestrodd ar gyfer TGAU Astudiaethau Crefyddol yn y flwyddyn academaidd ddiwethaf a chytunwyd fod hyn yn frawychus.

l. Cymeradwyo papur i'r Gweinidog Addysg, *Addysg Grefyddol; ffordd well ymlaen* (Chwefror 2020). Roedd y papur yn cynnwys 3 argymhelliad i'r Gweinidog eu hystyried fel a ganlyn:

1. Pecyn Dysgu Proffesiynol yn benodol i AG i'w gyflwyno i'r haen ganol iddyn nhw ei gyflwyno i ysgolion, sy'n cynnwys adnoddau enghreifftiol.
2. Pecyn DP penodol i leoliadau meithrin yn cynnwys adnoddau i helpu cynllunio.

3. Cyllid i 6 Ymgynghorydd AG (4 Saesneg, 2 Gymraeg) i ddiwallu'r pedwar rhanbarth a'u hanghenion.

3. Cyfarfodydd y Swyddogion Gweithredol. Er mai dim ond tri chyfarfod o'r Pwyllgor Gwaith a gafwyd yn ystod y flwyddyn, cafwyd nifer o gyfarfodydd rhwng y Swyddogion. Cynhaliwyd y canlynol gyda chynrychiolwyr o Lywodraeth Cymru:

Dydd Mawrth 18 Mehefin 2019
Dydd Mercher 19 Chwefror 2020
Dydd Mercher 8 Gorffennaf 2020
Dydd Iau 30 Gorffennaf 2020

Cafwyd nifer o gyfarfodydd hefyd rhwng Swyddogion er mwyn cwblhau gwahanol bethau fel Dogfennau Ymgynghori LlC, ayb.

4. Cyfrifon: Adroddiad y Trysorydd am flwyddyn ariannol 2018-19.
Yn ystod y flwyddyn, roedd yr incwm £2662.12 yn fwy na'r gwariant. Dechreuodd y flwyddyn ariannol gyda gweddill o £27948.60 a daeth i ben gyda gweddill o £30610.72. Mae cyllid CCYSAGauC, felly, yn dal mewn cyflwr iach. Derbyniodd a mabwysiadodd yr Aelodau'r datganiad cyfrifon yng Nghyfarfod Blynyddol y Gymdeithas ar 28 Mehefin 2019. Derbyniodd yr aelodau argymhelliad y Trysorydd fod y tanysgrifiad blynyddol i GYSAG am aelodaeth CCYSAGauC yn ystod blwyddyn ariannol 2019/2020 yn cael ei osod ar £461.00 y CYSAG, sy'n cynrychioli cynnydd o 2% ar danysgrifiad 2018/2019.

5. Aelodau newydd ar y Pwyllgor Gwaith: Yng Nghyfarfod Blynyddol haf 2019, etholwyd tri aelod i'r Pwyllgor Gwaith am y cyfnod 2019-2022: Matthew Maidment (RCT) (Ail-etholwyd), Lucy Grant/Marged Williams (Bro Morgannwg) (Rhannu swydd) ac Andrew Jones (Sir Fynwy) (Ymddiswyddodd wedyn a daeth Suzanne Gooding yn ei le)

6. Cadeirydd Oherwydd y ffaith mai dim ond blwyddyn roedd yr Is Gadeirydd wedi cael i ymgyfarwyddo â'r gwaith, penderfynwyd y byddai'r Cadeirydd yn parhau yn y swydd am flwyddyn arall, h.y. hyd at Gyfarfod Blynyddol 2020. Ymddengys fod cynsail i hyn yn barod pan gafwyd sefyllfa debyg flynyddoedd ynghynt.

7. Cyflwyniadau PYCAG a CCYASGauC: Gan mai dim ond dau gyfarfod "corfforol" a gafwyd eleni, bu nifer y cyflwyniadau yn gyfyngedig.

Yn y cyfarfod yng Nghonwy ar 28 Mehefin 2019, cafwyd cyflwyniad gan Sally Holland, Comisiynydd Plant Cymru, a siaradodd am ymateb ei swyddfa i'r cwricwlwm newydd i Gymru. Dywedodd ei bod yn teimlo y dylai fod mwy o bwyslais ar gydraddoldeb profiad ar draws Cymru ac y dylai plant gael cyfle i ddysgu am bobl cred ledled Cymru ac nid yn unig y rhai yn eu hardal. Roedd hi'n cefnogi cael gwared ar hawl rhieni i dynnu eu plant yn ôl o AG gan ei bod yn teimlo ei fod yn rhan o hawl plentyn i gael addysg lawn yn cynnwys AG ac addysg rhyw a chydberthynas. Siaradodd yn fanwl am y pedwar deg dau o hawliau sydd gan blant "waeth beth", yn cynnwys yr hawl i addysg sy'n caniatáu iddynt gyrraedd eu potensial.

Yn y cyfarfod yn Aberaeron ar 21 Tachwedd 2019, cafwyd cyflwyniad gan Gill Vaisey ar Gynhadledd Athrawon AG y Fforwm Ewropeaidd a gynhaliwyd yn Nulyn a Belfast ym mis Awst 2019. Adroddodd Gill yn ôl o Gynhadledd EFTRE fel cynrychiolydd CCYSAGauC a soniodd am werth ac ansawdd y gynhadledd a gynhaliwyd dros chwe diwrnod. Gellir cael manylion ar wefan EFTRE, yn cynnwys papurau'r prif siaradwyr sydd ar gael i'w llwytho i lawr o http://www.eftre.net/ .

Report of the activities of the Association 2019-2020

What a difficult, unprecedented year this has been for our Country, for organisations and for individuals. Our thoughts have been with those who have been affected in any way by the Coronavirus pandemic. We have been thinking particularly of those who have been unwell, or who have lost loved ones to the virus. Hopefully we can return to some normality in the not-too-distant future.

Inevitably the pandemic has had a huge impact on the meetings of WASACRE, but not on its work which has continued unabated.

1. This year the Association met only on two occasions: 28 June 2019 in Conwy, and 21 November 2019 in Aberaeron. We are grateful to the hosting SACREs for their generous hospitality. The meeting scheduled for 17 March 2020 was cancelled at short notice, because of the increasing worries over Covid-19. Unfortunately there was insufficient time for alternative on line arrangements to be made for this meeting to be held remotely. Our summer term meeting and AGM, due to be held in June/July was, of necessity, postponed until early autumn due to uncertainty surrounding the pandemic.

2. The Executive Committee met on three occasions: 30 September 2019 in Cardiff, 11 February 2020 in Llandrindod Wells, and 19 May 2020 by video conferencing. The Executive Committee had a full agenda throughout the year that included:

m. Considering and responding to the developments relating directly to RE within the new curriculum for Wales. Representatives from the WASACRE Executive Committee met with Welsh Government colleagues and others on a number of occasions throughout the year, including a meeting with Rudi Lockhart, Chief Executive Officer of the Religious Education Council for England and Wales. Welsh Government colleagues have also attended WASACRE and WASACRE Executive meetings, and they have given up-dates on progress;

n. A meeting with Kevin Palmer (WG) and Officers of the WASACRE Executive on 18th June at which it was confirmed that there would be funding for a professional learning package for a suite of resources specifically for RE, plus training for all those involved in teaching RE and training of ITT students. The need for training for non-maintained settings specifically was also recognised;

o. Meetings with representatives of Qualifications Wales and Officers of the Executive on two occasions to discuss future developments with regards to RE qualifications in Wales. The QW representatives agreed that as a result of these meetings they were in a better position to understand the impact of examination courses on the provision of

RE. It was agreed to continue to hold meetings between representative of WASACRE and Qualifications Wales, the most recent was on 27 July 2020, via Teams;

p. Maintaining and developing WASACREs relationship with the RE council for England and Wales (REC). Rudi Lockhart, (REC Chief Executive) was invited to attend Executive and WASACRE meetings and has done so whenever possible. The Executive was saddened to learn that Rudi would be leaving his post with the REC in August and thanked him for his commitment to RE in Wales. They expressed their good wishes for his future outside the REC. The Executive now look forward to working with his successor, Dave Francis;

q. The Executive Committee's acceptance of a quotation for the building of a new Website that would include provision of social media. This is currently being worked on;

r. Concern being expressed with regard to the *Equality and Diversity NCFE* examination and qualification, which it appears is being offered in a number of schools in the place of RE. It was agree that this is not acceptable as it does not meet the requirements of the agreed syllabus and therefore schools following this course would not be complying with their statutory requirement to provide RE. It would seem that schools consider this to be a better option to offer pupils as the specification is attractive and gives a GCSE equivalent qualification. Consideration was given to whether WASACRE should write a specification for a suitable qualification and get it accredited;

s. Consideration given to training for advisors and SACRE clerks and a suitable paragraph being included in the revised SACRE handbook, as well as including a glossary covering terms pertaining to RE;

t. Consideration given as to how the new GDPR regulation affected WASACRE. The only information that WASACRE holds is attendance lists of those present at the termly meetings and the e-mail addresses of SACRE clerks. It was agreed that future attendance sheets would include a statement informing attendees about how their data would be used and kept by WASACRE and by registering their attendance they were also agreeing to have their names recorded on the attendance sheets. It was decided that beyond this no further action was necessary with regards to complying with GDPR;

u. Regular updates on RE Framework document which has still not been released into the public domain. Welsh Government colleagues have assured the Executive that it will be published this autumn;

v. Agreement to a small working party to produce a paper on supporting schools with Collective Worship during the Coronavirus crisis, which was published in early July and shared with SACREs. This document is available bilingually on the WASACRE website www.wasacre.org.uk . The Executive has also considered the value of the working party producing a similar paper for RE during the Coronavirus Crisis;

w. Note taken of the decline in entry numbers of RS GCSE in the past academic year and it was agreed that they are alarming.

x. The approval of a paper to the Minister for Education, *Religious Education; a better way forward* (February 2020). The paper included 3 recommendations for the Minister to consider as follows:

4. A substantial PL package specifically for RE to be delivered to the middle tier for roll out to schools which includes exemplar resources.
5. A specific PL package for nursery settings including resources to support planning.
6. Funding for 6 RE advisors (4 English speaking and 2 Welsh speaking) to cover the four regions and their needs.

3. Executive Officers meetings. Although there have been only three Executive Committee meetings in the course of the year there have been a number of Executive Officer meetings. The following have been with representatives of Welsh Government as follows:

Tuesday 18 June 2019
Wednesday 19 February 2020
Wednesday 8 July 2020
Thursday 30 July 2020

There have also been a number of meetings between Officers in order to complete various WG Consultation Documents, etc.

4. Accounts: The Treasurer's Report for the 2018-19 financial year.
During the year, income exceeded expenditure by £2662.12. The financial year commenced with a balance of £27948.60 and ended with a balance of £30610.72. The finances of WASACRE, therefore, remain in a healthy condition. WASACRE is, therefore, in a strong position to fund planned activities. Members received and adopted the statement of accounts at the Association's AGM on 28th June 2019. Members accepted the Treasurer's recommendation that the annual subscription per SACRE for membership of WASACRE during 2019/2020 financial year be set at £461.00 per SACRE, which represents an uplift of 2% on the 2018/2019 subscription.

5. New members of the Executive Committee: At the summer 2019 AGM, three members were elected to the Executive Committee for the period of 2019-2022: Matthew Maidment (RCT) (Re-elected), Lucy Grant/Marged Williams (Vale of Glamorgan) (Appointment sharing) and Andrew Jones (Monmouth) (Subsequently resigned and replaced by Suzanne Gooding)

6. Chair In the light of the Vice Chair having had only one year to accustom herself it was agreed that the Chair would continue in office for another year, i.e. until the AGM 2020. It appears that there had been a precedent for this when a similar situation had arisen a number of years previously.

7. NAPfRE and WASACRE presentations: As there has been only two "physical" meetings this year the number of presentations has been limited.

The meeting in Conwy on 28 June 2019 received a presentation from Sally Holland, the Children's Commissioner for Wales who spoke about her office's response to the new curriculum for Wales. She said that she felt there should be more emphasis on parity of experience across Wales and that all children should have access to learning about all people of belief across Wales and not just those in their locality. She supported the removal of the right of parents to withdraw their child from RE as she feels it is part of a

child's right to a full education including RE and relationship and sex education. She spoke at length about the forty-two rights children have "no matter what" including the right to education that allows them to achieve their potential.

The meeting in Aberaeron on 21 November 2019 received a presentation from Gill Vaisey on the European Forum for RE Teachers' Conference which was held in Dublin and Belfast in August 2019. Gill fed back from the EFTRE Conference as a representative of WASACRE and spoke of the value and quality of the conference which took place over six days. Details can be found on the EFTRE website, including the keynote speakers' papers which are available to download from http://www.eftre.net/ .