

**Carmarthenshire
Standing Advisory Council for
Religious Education
(SACRE)**

**Annual Report
2016-17**



Table of Contents

Information about SACRE	3
Composition of Carmarthenshire SACRE	4
Meetings held during September 2016 - August 2017	5
Religious Education	6
The Carmarthenshire Agreed Syllabus	6
Present position	6
Welsh Government curriculum review	6
Supporting and monitoring the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus	7
External examination data analysis for Religious Studies summer 2016	8
Actions taken on the findings of the external examination results	9
Revised specifications for external Religious Studies examinations	10
Analysis of Estyn inspection reports for 2016-17	11
Estyn thematic review on RE at KS2 and KS3 – Autumn 2017	11
Continuing Professional Development for RE	12
Teaching resources	13
ERW Hwb network for GCSE Religious Studies	13
Collective Worship	15
Advice on collective worship	15
Monitoring collective worship – Estyn inspection reports 2016-17	15
Determinations	15
Other Issues	16
Membership of the Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE)	16
Carmarthenshire Holocaust Memorial Day Sixth Form Conference – 27 January 2017	16
A history of the Christian/Religious Education Movement Wales 1965-2015	17
Revd Wyn Maskell	17

Information about SACRE

Duty to establish SACRE

All Local Authorities are required to constitute a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education within their local area.

Composition of SACRE

Representation on SACRE is required as follows:

- such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the Local Authority, will appropriately reflect the religious traditions in the area
- associations representing teachers
- the Local Authority

It is the duty of the Local Authority to ensure that members of the groups are appointed and that they are representative.

Functions of SACRE

- To advise the Local Authority on worship and the religious education to be given in accordance with the agreed syllabus, including methods of teaching, advice on materials and the provision of training for teachers;
- To consider whether to recommend to the Local Authority that its current agreed syllabus should be reviewed by convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference;
- To consider applications from schools for determinations (to be exempt from the requirement that worship be “Christian”);
- To report to the Local Authority and Welsh Government on its activities on an annual basis.

Composition of Carmarthenshire SACRE 2016-17

Education Authority

Councillor Gwyneth Thomas	(Chairperson)
Councillor Jean Lewis	
Councillor Edward G. Thomas	(before May 2017)
Councillor Jan Williams	(before May 2017)
Councillor Shahana Najmi	(after May 2017)
Councillor Jim Jones	(after May 2017)

Religious Denominations*

Revd Aled Jones	Free Church Council (Vice chairperson)
Mrs Christine Rees	Free Church Council
Revd John Talfryn Jones	Free Church Council
Mrs Rachel Lawrence	Roman Catholic Church
Mrs Clare Williams	Church in Wales

Teacher Representatives

Miss Jane Thomas	
Mrs Delyth Rees	
Miss Valerie Davies	(before January 2017)
Mrs Wendy Jones	(after January 2017)

Co-opted Members

Miss Meinir Wynne Loader
Dr Geraint Davies
Mrs Helen Gibbon

* **Muslim representation** SACRE contacted the Muslim Council of Wales in 2016 for details of an appropriate Muslim group in Carmarthenshire who could nominate a Muslim representative for SACRE. They suggested the Carmarthen-based 'West Wales Islamic Cultural Association'. The LA's Associate Challenge Adviser for RE subsequently made valuable links with the Association, attending various meetings and functions at the mosque. Teachers were invited to the official opening weekend of the Carmarthen mosque later in 2016, pupils from a number of Carmarthenshire schools have visited the mosque and Association representatives have spoken to teachers on RE in-service training events. However, the Association has not as yet nominate a representative to be a member of the Carmarthenshire SACRE.

SACRE meetings held during 2016-2017

The Carmarthenshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) met on two occasions during this period:

8th November 2016

19th September 2017

The third meeting was cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control. However, issues relating to SACRE during this period were discussed with the chair and other members where relevant.

A summary of the main issues discussed at each meeting is given below:

Meeting held on 8th November 2016

- ERW support for GCSE Religious Studies – a presentation by Tonia Antoniazzi, ERW Leader of Learning for non-core subjects at GCSE
- Discussion on the revised Religious Studies GCSE specification
- Update on developments on the new curriculum for Wales
- RE training for teachers provided by the LA
- Preparation for the WASACRE meeting held in Carmarthen on 18th November
- Update from Wales Association of SACREs

Meeting held on 19th September 2017

- Analysis of external examination data for Religious Studies 'A' Level and GCSE
- Analysis of Estyn Inspection reports on Carmarthenshire schools for Collective Worship and Religious Education
- Update and discussion on developments for the new curriculum for Wales
- Update on ERW/Carmarthenshire support for GCSE Religious Studies
- Estyn thematic review on Religious Education at KS2 and KS3.
- Holocaust Memorial Day Sixth Form Conference 2017
- Update from the Wales Association of SACREs

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Carmarthenshire Agreed Syllabus

Present position

The current Carmarthenshire Agreed Syllabus was adopted in March 2009 for implementation from September 2009. It is based on the National Exemplar Framework for RE 3-19 produced by DCELLS (and the Welsh Assembly Government), with slight adaptations to suit the needs of schools and pupils in Carmarthenshire. Copies of the Agreed Syllabus have been distributed to all schools in the LA both as a hard copy in book form and as an electronic copy on a CD. It is also available on the RE section of the Carmarthenshire website, Amdro, either to view or to download.

There is a statutory requirement to review RE Agreed Syllabuses every five years and to revise them if necessary. However, following advice from WASACRE, SACRE has advised the LA to delay any revision in the light of the National Curriculum review so that any changes can be made in line with the new Curriculum for Wales.

Welsh Government curriculum review

SACRE members have kept abreast of progress in developing the new curriculum for Wales. They were pleased to receive the assurance from Welsh Government that RE will remain a statutory curriculum requirement in line with Recommendation 9 of the Donaldson report. Welsh Government confirmed that RE will form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE) but will be identifiable within it, and that subjects in general will continue to be important within the new framework.

Members have read and discussed the Welsh Government document 'A new Curriculum for Wales: the story so far ...' outlining the progress in the Strand 1 and Strand 2 development stages. They are confident that RE has a significant role to play in developing the four purposes which are at the heart of the curriculum, and are, at present, satisfied with the broad statements which reference aspects of RE within the Humanities AoLE – e.g. that pupils will “engage in learning experiences about rights, values, ethics, beliefs, religion, philosophy and spirituality”. However, they recognise that Strand 1 and 2 are high level curriculum development stages and that Strand 3 will be the crucial stage for RE, when individual subjects/disciplines are looked at in detail. They resolved to monitor this stage carefully.

Members welcomed the fact that Welsh Government intend to send termly information updates to SACREs on the curriculum developments and to ask for their views. They were pleased to note that the first update (end of summer term) acknowledged SACREs as key partners in developing the Humanities AoLE and stated that when work on developing the detail of the curriculum began in the autumn term 2017, they would work closely with WASACRE colleagues. A planning group had already been established consisting of representatives from WASACRE, Welsh Government, regional consortia and Estyn. SACRE

has sent a response to Welsh Government expressing their views on the developments to date, as requested.

Supporting and monitoring the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus

The role of one of Carmarthenshire's Associate Challenge Advisers, Mrs Mary Parry, includes responsibility for RE. She acts as the professional officer to SACRE and provides members with the necessary information for them to carry out their role effectively. She supports and monitors the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus by, for example:

- providing advice and continuing professional development for teachers,
- producing and drawing attention to relevant resources and documentation including exemplar planning documentation and bilingual classroom materials
- school visits by herself and other members of the LA's advisory team
- sharing examples of good practice
- analysing external examination results
- analysing Estyn inspection reports and following up on any issues raised.

These points are expanded upon in the relevant sections of this report.

Religious Studies external examinations

Analysis of external examination results – summer 2016

SACRE considered the statistics for the external examination results in GCSE Religious Studies (RS) full course and short course and GCE Advanced Level RS. They looked at the results of each individual school as well as the LA summary for the subject.

GCSE Religious Studies full and short course data

The table below gives a summary of the Carmarthenshire results:

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES 2016 CARMARTHENSHIRE / WALES					
		Short Course		Full course	
		Carms	Wales	Carms	Wales
Actual total entries		753	11,666	320	11,051
Actual Girls		397	5,301	186	6,468
Actual Boys		356	6,365	134	4,583
Percentage Grades All	% A*-A	34.00%	11.43%	39.38%	27.80%
	% A*-C	69.59%	45.35%	81.56%	71.98%
	% A*-G	97.34%	90.36%	99.38%	97.76%
Percentage Grades Girls	% A*-A	39.80%	15.92%	48.92%	33.81%
	% A*-C	75.57%	53.63%	82.80%	78.71%
	% A*-G	98.99%	93.25%	99.00%	98.79%
Percentage Grades Boys	% A*-A	27.53%	7.70%	26.12%	19.31%
	% A*-C	62.92%	38.46%	79.85%	62.49%
	% A*-G	95.51%	88.33%	99.25%	96.29%
% difference between girls and boys	% A*-A	12.27%	8.22%	22.81%	14.50%
	% A*-C	12.65%	15.17%	2.94%	16.22%
	% A*-G	3.49%	4.91%	-0.25%	2.50%

GCE Advanced Level data

GCE ADVANCED LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES 2016 CARMARTHENSHIRE AND WALES			
		Carmarthenshire	Wales
Actual total entries		82	1446
Actual Girls		56	1107
Actual Boys		26	339
Percentage Grades All	% A*-A	24.39%	18.33%
	% A*-C	84.15%	78.91%
	% A*-E	100%	99.10%
Percentage Grades Girls	% A*-A	25.00%	18.70%
	% A*-C	83.93%	79.49%
	% A*-E	100%	99.10%
Percentage Grades Boys	% A*-A	23.08%	17.11%
	% A*-C	84.62%	76.99%
	% A*-E	100%	99.12%
% difference between girls and boys	% A*-A	1.92%	1.59%
	% A*-C	-0.69%	2.50%
	% A*-E	0%	-0.02%

Analysis the results

Unfortunately, the Fischer Family Trust value added data is no longer available to Carmarthenshire and so only raw data could be used this year. Members were very pleased with the comparative data between the LA and Wales, which showed Carmarthenshire pupils outperforming pupils from the whole of Wales in all aspects – and often by a considerable percentage.

Actions taken on the findings of the external examination results

- i. Members congratulated all the students who succeeded in their RS examinations, and also the teachers for their hard work and dedication.
- ii. The LA's RE Associate Challenge Advisor has answered queries and given advice to teachers on external examinations in order to help raise standards. This has included discussion with individual RE departments when advice has been sought and also during in the LA's twice yearly Heads of RE meetings and training.

Revised specification for external Religious Studies examinations

Advanced Level

Members were informed that the teaching of the new 'AS' level RS examination began in September 2016 and was examined for the first time in June 2017. Teacher representatives raised concerns about this specification, including: the increased amount of content which has made completing the course in time for the June examination extremely difficult; the limited choice of options with philosophy of religion and religion and ethics being compulsory and consisting of two thirds of the examination (the teachers stated that the great majority of their students did not want to study philosophy and would prefer to study another religion – they had chosen a subject entitled 'Religious Studies' but were only able to study one religion); the lack of resources published in time for the start of the course – a situation exacerbated for students studying through the medium of Welsh. The teacher representatives stated that teachers are even more concerned at the 'A2' specification to be taught from September 2017.

GCSE

Members considered the format and content of the revised RS GCSE specification which was to be delivered from September 2017, having been deferred for a year. Teacher representatives raised concerns that there was now only one specification for RS GCSE and so it would no longer be possible to study both the short course in the statutory RE lessons and the full course as an optional subject. They stated that although the syllabus would be suitable for pupils with an academic interest in RS, they had serious concerns about the suitability of the new specification for the statutory Religious Education lessons. It had significantly more content and much less emphasis on contemporary issues and on pupils' own viewpoints and responses to these issues – the aspects which most pupils enjoyed and valued because they found them relevant to their own lives. These aspects are an essential part of Religious Education, although not of Religious Studies. Members were concerned that the big revival made by GCSE RS over the past 20 years, as shown by the fact that it had the highest number of entries of all the non-core subjects in Wales, would come to an end. They worried that if students were not able to take an examination at the end of the statutory RE lessons in KS4, then standards would fall considerably, as evidenced by the Estyn report, 'Religious Education in Secondary Schools' (2013).

SACRE response

SACRE members were alarmed to hear of the problems which faced students and teachers with the new examination specifications. They worried about the effect it was having on the current students and also on the implication for the uptake of RS at GCSE and A level in the future. The RE Associate Challenge Advisor has raised the concerns of Carmarthenshire teachers and SACRE members with relevant officers in WJEC and Qualifications Wales, and also with WASACRE. In addition, Councillor Edward Thomas has raised the concerns with the Curriculum Director at WJEC. As yet, the problems have not been resolved.

Analysis of Estyn Inspection Reports – April 2016 – March 2017

SACRE has continued to monitor the provision of religious education in schools in the LA by examining Estyn Inspection reports for the period April 2016 – March 2017, although it was recognised that due to the current nature of the reports, any reference to RE would be brief. Twelve Carmarthenshire schools received an Estyn inspection during this period, consisting of ten primary schools, one secondary school and one special needs school for children with learning difficulties.

All comments referring to RE were positive. Estyn did not draw attention to any breach in statutory requirements or any shortcomings for RE. Comments included:

- The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum which meets the requirements of the Foundation Phase, the National Curriculum and religious education.
- Pupils skim read for information skilfully to gather information, for example when researching information about Passover during religious education lessons.

Follow-up on shortcomings noted in Estyn inspection reports last year

Last year, Estyn noted shortcomings in RE in two primary schools. The LA's Associate Challenge Advisor for RE has worked with these schools to address the Estyn recommendations. Members were pleased to hear that when re-inspected by Estyn this year, the report for one of the schools stated that very good progress had been made in addressing the issue and in the other school, that good progress had been made. One of the schools, Ysgol Bro Banw, has since achieved the RE Quality Mark bronze award. Members congratulated the school and invited the RE co-ordinator, Mrs Louise Rees, and the Foundation Phase RE co-ordinator, Mrs Sarah Pierce to give a presentation at its next meeting.

ESTYN THEMATIC REVIEW ON RE AT KS2 AND KS3 – AUTUMN 2017

Members were pleased to learn that there would be an Estyn thematic review on RE in Wales at Key Stages 2 and 3 in the next academic year and that inspectors would visit around 20 schools throughout Wales during the autumn term, in addition to phoning some schools. They would also be seeking the experiences and views of all SACREs through a questionnaire. Members thought that this thematic review had the potential to provide very useful information about RE provision and standards in schools and hoped that it would send out a positive message about the status of RE in the curriculum. The report would be published in the summer term 2018.

Teacher training for Religious Education

Continuing Profession Development training courses 2016-17

Funding for Continuing Professional Development for teachers comes from the Welsh Government's Education Improvement Grant. Central training courses for RE for both primary and secondary teachers took place during the academic year, provided by the LA's Associate Challenge Adviser for RE, Mrs Mary Parry.

Primary schools

A central training course, 'Providing Effective Religious Education at KS2' was held for Carmarthenshire teachers in September 2016. The aims of the course were:

- To consider planning for effective RE to incorporate the statutory requirements of the Carmarthenshire Agreed Syllabus, and whole school aspects such as the Literacy and Numeracy Framework and the four purposes of the revised curriculum (Donaldson).
- To explore practical learning and teaching strategies and resources in RE in order to engage learners, develop their skills and raise standards.
- To discuss and share good practice.

For the last session of the day, course participants visited the newly-opened mosque in Carmarthen to see the building and to speak to some of the leaders there on various aspects of Islam. This also gave them the opportunity to arrange a visit for their pupils, and subsequently, a number of the schools have taken their pupils to the mosque.

Secondary schools

The Heads of RE PLC has continued to meet twice this year, allowing teachers to receive training and share good practice. The main aspects addressed have been:

- The new curriculum for Wales and the place of RE within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience
- The revised GCSE and 'A' Level Religious Studies specifications
- ERW support with GCSE resources through the Hwb website, including presentations by Tonia Antonazzi, ERW Leader of Learning for the non-core subjects and Alex Roe, one of the Lead Practitioners, on creating and sharing resources

Advice and support

The LA's Associate Challenge Adviser for RE has also provided advice and support for Religious Education through school visits and through answering questions relating to the subject by e-mail and phone. Such advice has included planning, methods of teaching and teaching resources.

Teaching resources

1. Primary schools

Following the LA's RE training course for KS2 teachers last September, Mrs Mary Parry uploaded the resources distributed or referred to on the day to 'sharepoint' - the LA's intranet site. These can be accessed by all schools in the LA. She subsequently uploaded a range of Foundation Phase RE resources to this site as well.

2. Secondary schools

A wealth of English language materials has been uploaded this year on the ERW Hwb website for GCSE Religious Studies. ERW have given assurances that more Welsh language materials will be uploaded in the near future (see section below 'ERW Hwb network for GCSE Religious Studies').

3. Artefacts

The LA's religious artefact loan system is still operational and primary school teachers are able to borrow a range of artefacts related to their schemes of work. They are stored in the Carmarthen museum in Abergwili. Bilingual background information to these artefacts is provided for pupils and teachers on the LA's Religious Education internet site: <http://credo.ysgolccc.org.uk> This website also contains information on other aspects relating to RE in Wales.

ERW Hwb network for GCSE Religious Studies

In the autumn term meeting, members were informed that the South, West and Mid Wales regional education consortium, ERW, had set up online networks for GCSE non-core subjects on the Welsh Government education website, Hwb. The aim was for teachers to create and share resources online for the new GCSEs and to network with each other. This was being co-ordinated by Ms Tonia Antoniazzi, the ERW Leader of Learning for the non-core subjects at GCSE. Three Heads of RE from schools in the ERW region had been appointed to lead on the Religious Studies section, namely, Ms Alex Roe, Ysgol Coedcae, Llanelli who was lead for Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire schools, Ms Alison Lewis, Ysgol Cefn Hengoed, Swansea and Ms Ailee Sotero, Dyffryn School, Port Talbot. Ms Antoniazzi attended the autumn term SACRE meeting where she gave a presentation on this project to members and discussed issues which arose with them. Members welcomed the project as they felt that it had the potential to be of great benefit to Carmarthenshire RE departments and pupils.

Members received an update on the project from Mrs Parry at the end of the year. They were informed that a wealth of RS GCSE English medium material had been uploaded onto the ERW Hwb website, mainly by the three lead practitioners, including Ms Alex Roe of Ysgol Coedcae, Llanelli, and members thanked them for their hard work and dedication. However, there was a problem with Welsh medium resources. Although assurances had been given that materials would be translated, this had not been the case and very little Welsh language material was available on the site when the teaching of the new syllabus began after the May bank holiday. Members felt that given the lack of published Welsh medium

resources for RS, this should have been a priority, and that ERW should have appointed at least one Welsh speaking teacher who taught through the medium of Welsh as a lead practitioner. Mrs Parry informed members that she had contacted GwE, the North Wales region, for help and Ms Mefys Jones, the GCSE lead practitioner for Gwynedd and Anglesey had very kindly offered to share the Welsh medium resources that they had created. Carmarthenshire teachers were very grateful for this. Members resolved that Mrs Parry should contact ERW to ask them to appoint a Welsh medium teacher as a lead practitioner as a matter of urgency.

Members were also informed that Ms Tonia Antoniazzi had been elected as Member of Parliament for the Gower constituency in the General Election in June and that Mr Julian Nicholds had been appointed to succeed her in the role. Members congratulated Ms Antoniazzi and resolved to invite Mr Nicholds to attend the autumn term 2017 SACRE meeting to give an update on the project and to address the concerns regarding Welsh language materials.

Collective Worship

One of SACRE's roles is to work with its LA to monitor and advise on the provision for collective worship in schools and to make recommendations regarding determinations.

Advice on Collective Worship

Advice and support is given by the LA's Associate Challenge Adviser for RE and other members of the LA's advisory team during school visits and in answer to questions and issues raised by headteachers and teachers. There is also a section on collective worship on the county's website, Amdro, which provides useful documentation and gives links to bilingual resources.

Monitoring Collective Worship – Estyn Inspection Reports 2016-17

SACRE has continued to monitor Estyn inspection reports for judgements on Collective Worship in schools in the LA. Twelve inspection reports on Carmarthenshire schools were considered for the period April 2016 – March 2017, which consisted of ten primary schools, one secondary school and one special needs school for children with learning difficulties. Most of the reports referred to the positive contribution of collective worship on pupils' spiritual and moral development. Such comments included:

- The school's arrangements for collective worship are good and contribute successfully to pupils' moral and spiritual development. In their morning assemblies, pupils are given an opportunity to reflect and respond to spiritual and moral issues. Regular visits by a group that promotes information about the Bible (Agor y Llyfr) contribute positively to pupils' spiritual development.
- Staff provide regular opportunities for pupils to develop their awareness of spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects successfully through regular collective worship services and curricular activities.
- Well-planned assemblies reinforce the school's values successfully. They provide valuable opportunities for pupils to reflect appropriately on the world around them.
- The school promotes pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural development effectively. Collective worship sessions reinforce values suitably and promote spiritual development through beneficial opportunities to reflect.
- Pupils take pride in performing in front of other pupils in school assemblies.

Estyn did not note any shortcomings or breaches in the statutory requirements for collective worship.

Determinations

No determination requesting disapplication of the statutory requirements for collective worship was received.

Other issues

Membership of the Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE)

Carmarthenshire SACRE has continued to affiliate to WASACRE and the LA's Associate Challenge Adviser for RE, Mrs Mary Parry, has continued to be a member of the executive committee. Carmarthenshire representatives have been actively involved in WASACRE meetings, and matters arising in these meetings have been discussed in SACRE meetings. SACRE has also referred a number of issues to WASACRE for consideration.

Termly meetings of WASACRE are held in each of the 22 LAs in Wales on a rota basis and by invitation of the LAs. Carmarthenshire were pleased to host the autumn term 2016 meeting in the Council Chamber in County Hall, Carmarthen. Councillor Emlyn Dole, the Leader of the Council and a former member of SACRE, gave an introductory speech, welcoming WASACRE members to Carmarthenshire. The choir of Ysgol Gynradd Llangennech, winners of 'Songs of Praise Junior School Choir of the Year' in 2015, sang at the beginning, setting the ambience for the meeting. The meeting itself was very worthwhile, and amongst the agenda items, Dr Llinos Jones, Headteacher of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin, gave a presentation on the excellent provision of Collective Worship at her school, as noted in the recent Estyn inspection report. Seven members of Carmarthenshire SACRE attended, and Councillors Gwyneth Thomas and Jean Lewis helped to facilitate the smooth running of the meeting.

Carmarthenshire Holocaust Memorial Day Sixth Form Conference – 27th January 2017

SACRE has been endorsing the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project for many years and have received several presentation from students and a headteacher who have taken part in it. Members were very pleased to hear that Carmarthenshire intended to provide a sixth form conference to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January 2017, and they were keen to endorse it. The conference was organised by three members of the LA's school improvement team, Mary Parry, Geraint Bevan and Polly Seton.

The Sixth Form conference was held in the Council Chamber in County Hall and attended by approximately 8 student delegates from each Carmarthenshire secondary school with a sixth form. A musical prelude was provided by Carmarthenshire Music Service. The event was opened by the Chairman of the County Council, Cllr Eryl Morgan who reflected on the 2017 Holocaust Memorial Day theme, 'How can life go on?' Mr Steve Perkins, Headteacher of Ysgol Dyffryn Aman shared his experiences of the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme and talked movingly about his visit to the death camps and the impact the visit had had on him. At 10 o'clock the delegates joined a live webcast with 50,000 other students across the UK to hear the testimony of a Holocaust survivor. Following this, Nia Price, a former pupil of Ysgol Tre-gib, shared her experiences as a Holocaust Memorial Trust Youth Ambassador. Workshops for the students addressing 'Media Portrayals' and 'Dilemmas, Choices and Responses' were provided by the Holocaust Trust and the Education Development Trust.

Members were pleased to hear that the conference had proved to be a very worthwhile experience for the students and that as a result it would be held again next year. SACRE county council members have been able to assist with facilities at County Hall to ensure the

smooth running of next year's conference and all SACRE members have been invited to the conference.

'Encouraging Religion: a history of the Christian/Religious Education Movement Wales 1965-2015'

The Christian Education Movement Wales, renamed the Religious Education Movement Wales has played a significant part in the life of the Dyfed and the early years of the Carmarthenshire SACRE and in Religious Education in Carmarthenshire schools. Rev Aled Jones, Vice Chair of SACRE, has written the above book, in English and Welsh, on the history of the movement which has now come to an end. Members were shown a copy of the book and Revd Jones explained that it chronicles the life of the institution which was at the heart of religious education in Wales for much of its existence. Generations of children and young people, as well as their teachers, benefitted from the Movement's services, innovations and advocacy on their behalf.

Revd Wyn Maskell

Members were pleased to learn that Mr Wyn Maskell, a previous SACRE minutes clerk, has been ordained as a deacon in the Church of Wales. Cllr Jean Lewis informed members that she had attended the ordination at St David's Cathedral on 24th June. Members congratulated Revd Maskell and wished him every success in his role.

Changes in membership of SACRE

Mrs Wendy Jones, a teacher at Ysgol Gynradd Tycroes was welcomed to the committee as the NUT (now NEU) representative. She replaced Miss Val Davies who retired from teaching at the end of the Christmas term. Members were also made aware that two other members had retired at the end of term, Mrs Delyth Rees, teacher at Ysgol Gynradd Llandeilo and Dr Geraint Davies, co-opted member representing Trinity St David University. Also, following the county council elections, Cllr Jan Williams has now retired and Cllr Edward Thomas is no longer a representative on SACRE. Members thanked the retired members for their support and contributions to this Committee over a number of years.