

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR MRS C A TALBOT (CHAIRMAN)

Lincolnshire Council of Churches (Group A)

Mr B Ahmed (Islamic Association of Lincoln)
Mrs C Dring (Baptist Church)
Reverend E McDonald (United Reformed Church)
Mr N McFarlane (Salvation Army)
Mr F Sperring (Society of Friends)
Mrs S Screenivasan (Hindu Community)
Professor B Winston (Lincolnshire Jewish Community)

The Church of England (Group B)

Mrs A Parry-Jones
Ms C Wright
Mr D Clements

The Teachers Panel (Group C)

Mrs J Austin (National Association of Head Teachers)
Miss C E Turner (Primary Schools)

Lincolnshire County Council (Group D)

Councillors Mrs C M H Farquharson, P A Robinson and Mrs C A Talbot

Officers

Ms W Harrison - Religious Education Adviser
Mrs D Barnes - Assistant Director of Children's Services
Mr M Plater - Adviser
Miss R Wilson – Clerk to the Committee, Chief Executive's Office

Apologies for absence:- Mark Plater (Advisor), Councillor P A Robinson (Lincolnshire County Council), Miss C E Turner (Primary Schools), Professor B Winston (Lincolnshire Jewish Community) and Ms C Wright (Church of England).

Mrs C Dring led prayers.

41. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman reported the death of Helen Longland, former Assistant Director of Children's Services, on 13 December 2009. She stated that Helen had been seconded to GOEM and was the Director of Children's Services representative on this Committee. The funeral had been held in Leeds and the local authority had been well represented.

The Chairman reported the sudden death of Peter Douglas, Head Teacher of Kirby on Bains CofE Primary school.

The Chairman reported that Mr Neil Wright, Clerk to the Committee, would be retiring from the Council on 12 March 2010 having served over 40 years in local government and added that she would write to him to wish him a long and happy retirement.

She stated that Miss Rachel Wilson would take over the clerking of the Committee with effect from 1 April 2010.

The Chairman reported that she and Wendy Harrison had attended Beth Shalom, the Holocaust Centre, Laxton, on 26 January 2010 as part of the Holocaust Memorial Day. (The Day was entitled "The Legacy of Hope"). The theme of the day at Laxton had been -"Hope without memory is like memory without hope". Children from the Louth Lacey Gardens Junior School had also been in attendance and had lit candles. There had also been a talk by Denis Avey, a British Army Officer, who had been in a prisoner of war camp and had swapped places with a Jewish person in the nearby concentration camp and had kept a diary of events while there. Unfortunately, the diary had been stolen during a burglary after the war. The service was also attended by a survivor, Arek Hersch, who lit one of the candles of remembrance. The Chairman stated that there had been a national debate on Holocaust Day on 28 January 2010, in the House of Commons.

The Chairman thanked all of the people involved in setting up the Holocaust Centre at Laxton and she had visited the new exhibition, 'The Journey', about Jewish children who had been helped to escape Germany just before the start of the Second World War.

The Chairman reported the need for two volunteers to attend the new primary curriculum meeting on 24 March 2010 and the NASACRE AGM on 12 May 2010. It was agreed that Mr N McFarlane, Salvation Army, and Wendy Harrison, R E Adviser, would attend the NASACRE AGM on 12 May 2010 and Wendy Harrison would attend the new primary curriculum and new syllabus meeting on 24 March 2010.

The Chairman reported that the evaluation of Inter-Faith week would be completed retrospectively by Wendy Harrison.

The Chairman reported that she would attend a seminar by the Chief Executive of the Holocaust Centre, James Smith, on "Reading the Signs" at Beth Shalom on 17 March 2010. The course was for Councillors and James Smith would be talking about the "democratic deficit" and its effects on the dynamics of communities. Details of this event would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

The Chairman stated that this year there would be no application for the "Westhill Awards" as the local authority had been unsuccessful in the past. Fortunately, funding had been found from another source (hence the Storysacks) so the Council might re-apply next year to further develop these packs.

The Chairman drew attention to an article which Professor B Winston had written for the Jewish Community magazine on schools he had visited.

The Chairman welcomed Paul Thompson, the new Deputy Diocesan Director of Education who was due to take up his post with effect from 19 April 2010.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 November 2009 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to:-

1. minute 23 - deletion of the word "pool" and the addition of the word "Hall".
2. minute 30 – deletion of second paragraph.
3. minute 31 – amended to read "that SACRE review in a year's time the effectiveness of reports in the new format as a tool for monitoring religious education".
4. minute 32 – resolution 1 amended to read "that advice be sought on the best way to approach Academies in relation to the provision of religious education in Academies".
5. minute 40 – deletion of "resolved that the report be noted".

43. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE (Minute 23, SACRE, 24 November 2009)

The Chairman reported that she had not had an opportunity to meet Debbie Barnes and Wendy Harrison, to date, to examine how to disseminate good practice around the county to help schools that wished to improve their teaching of RE but would do so as soon as possible.

The Chairman reported that there had been a further donation to the Retirement Fund of Paulette Bissell and she had bought Paulette a glass angel and a cyclamen plant which was presented to her at the Christmas party held by the Diocesan Board.

44. SUMMARY OF OFSTED INSPECTIONS OF LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS WITH REFERENCE TO PUPIL'S SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (Minute 28, SACRE, 24 November 2009)

The Chairman stated that the question of sending letters to those schools inspected by OFSTED would be resolved outside of the meeting.

45. MARCH 2010 SACRE Conference (Minute 35, SACRE, 24 November 2009)

The Chairman thanked Debbie Barnes and support staff for their work in connection with the SACRE Conference in March 2010 and the additional mailshot sent out on 2 March 2010.

46. VISIT OF ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY (Minute 40, SACRE, 24 November 2009)

The Chairman stated that she had attended a lecture by the Archbishop of Canterbury during his visit to Lincoln Cathedral in March 2010.

The Chairman referred to the attendance by Bishop John Saxbee at the Bishop King Primary School which she had attended and added that it had been a very good event.

47. DEVELOPMENT OF MULTI-FAITH STORYPACKS

SACRE received a presentation from Ms Sarah Bonner, RE co-ordinator from Spalding Monkshouse Primary School, on the development of the multi-faith storypacks. The title of the project was 'Re-Play' and members were shown the logo and some of the items included in one pack on marriage. Each pack had cost approximately £70 to date and would help teachers to deliver quality teaching of RE. It was possible to add to the pack which was designed for Key Stage 1 only. Ms Bonner stated that the packs would be trialled in two primary schools in the county and that the timescale for rolling out the packs was that they would be ready by the end of the academic year for rolling out in the next academic year.

Members welcomed this valuable resource and foresaw demand growing; enquired whether the pack would be patented; the problems of saving garments for children; asked whether Islam was included and had all of the £5k allocated been used?

Ms Sarah Bonner stated:-

1. The resources in the pack only covered Key Stage 1 (Hinduism, Judaism and Christianity at present). Islam was covered more often in Key Stage 2.
2. The £5k allocated had not all been used.
3. Development of the pack was at an early stage and how it was rolled out would need to be considered further.
4. Consideration needed to be given to who would have responsibility for the packs in schools.
5. The patenting of the pack would be examined.
6. Role play for children and visitors to schools from religious communities was important.

The Chairman thanked Ms Bonner for her presentation and welcomed this positive development. She hoped the packs would eventually be self funding. There would be a link on the new SACRE website to make schools aware of this important new resource.

RESOLVED

That the presentation and comments be considered in the development of the storypacks.

48. SUMMARY OF OFSTED INSPECTIONS OF LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS WITH REFERENCE TO PUPILS' SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE SCHOOL'S PROVISION FOR COMMUNITY COHESION

SACRE received a report from Wendy Harrison summarising the positive features and areas for development in those schools inspected by OFSTED since the last report on 24 November 2009.

The Chairman drew members' attention to the fact that inspections were carried out by a range of different Inspectors and noted that some schools were struggling with multi-cultural development, that there was a need for better faith and community links and a better understanding of different faith communities. This could be achieved by

schools linking with schools with a different character, e.g. in inner cities. However, SACRE could not instruct schools directly what to do.

Wendy Harrison stated while there was no jurisdiction over Academies she would continue to report on any monitoring visits carried out by Ofsted.

RESOLVED

1. That the report and comments made be noted.
2. That letters of commendation be sent to the outstanding schools and those outstanding schools reported to the Committee in November 2009.

49. SUMMARY OF SECTION 48 INSPECTIONS IN LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS

The Committee received a report from David Clements, CofE Adviser, summarising the positive features in areas for development in those Church Schools where a Section 48 Inspection had been carried out in the Autumn Term 2008. He stated that for future meetings he would provide information showing whether a school had shown progress since the previous inspection.

RESOLVED

That the report and comments made be noted and actioned.

50. SUMMARY OF MONITORING VISITS TO LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS FOLLOWING OFSTED INSPECTIONS, WITH REFERENCE TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND ACTS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

SACRE received a report from Wendy Harrison summarising the positive features and the areas for development in schools monitored since the last meeting on 24 November 2009. She stated that OFSTED had introduced a new Framework from September 2009. Religious education remained statutory in all schools.

Wendy Harrison drew attention to the following:-

1. A visit to a school where religious education had been provided by a supply teacher. This was not acceptable and the school had agreed that it should not continue.
2. Assessment remained an issue, particularly in the way it was used to make judgements about standards and achievement.
3. Paganism had been raised by a parent who considered that it should form part of the curriculum. This would be looked into.
4. The six day training course for Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs) teaching RE which ran during the Autumn Term had proved so successful that it was being run again in Autumn 2010.
5. The Horncastle Cluster Group (secondary) had been very successful and a third Cluster was being arranged.
6. Two schools from Lincolnshire were involved in the national Resilience Project (one secondary and one special).

Wendy Harrison stated that many HLTAs were involved in the teaching of RE.

RESOLVED

That the report and comments made be noted.

51. NEW OFSTED FRAMEWORK - UPDATE

SACRE received details of the new inspection report from OFSTED and were presented with a completed form to examine.

Wendy Harrison stated that all OFSTED reports were in the public domain and that pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development had now been relocated on the report in the 'outcomes' section. There was no separate paragraph for RE and just one grade for SMSC. She stated that the effectiveness with which the school promoted community cohesion now came under the heading of leadership and management.

Comments by SACRE included the fact that it was now more difficult to ascertain those areas of the curriculum which SACRE needed to monitor, the different language used and comments relating to pupils' SMSC development were becoming less obvious.

RESOLVED

That the inspection report and comments made be noted.

52. SACRE WEBSITE – REPORT FROM THE WORKING PARTY

SACRE received a report from David Clements, CofE adviser, on the new SACRE website.

Comments made by members included the need to detail Christian names. Members would let David Clements know these details together with contact details, by email. There was a need to produce details of all faith groups involved in the production of the syllabus. Some pages needed images to back up the text, links to YouTube and information for parents/schools should be examined.

Members were asked to check spelling. It was noted that the website would operate from 11 March 2010. There was a hyperlink to GEORGE and to the county website.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the presentation and comments made be noted and actioned.
- (2) That SACRE place on record its appreciation to David Clements for all his hard work in setting up the website.

53. REVIEW OF AGREED SYLLABUS – DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE

SACRE received details of the proposed questionnaire which would begin the process of the review of the agreed syllabus for religious education.

Comments made by SACRE included:-

1. The need to consider reviewing the agreed syllabus.

2. It was not proposed to re-visit the whole document but there was a need to remove irrelevant text and to add new text where appropriate.
3. At the briefing it was considered that the text needed to be strengthened to highlight comments of best practice relating to RE and for RE to be managed by specialist teachers. Leadership and management were important.
4. It was important that RE was recognised in young peoples' lives.
5. RE should be the golden thread that ran through the curriculum. This would help SACRE to monitor performance. Where it was taught well it would help the whole curriculum.
6. The importance of the overarching benefits of RE for community cohesion.
7. The questionnaire needed to be returned before the end of the academic year (term 5, instead of term 6).
8. The questionnaire would be sent by email to schools and to chairmen of governors.
9. The questionnaire needed to be tidied up before it was sent out.

The Chairman stated that she would respond in writing to Mrs Dring's comments in connection with Christianity being taught as a foundation upon which other teaching was built outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED

That subject to the tidying up of the questionnaire with a date for return by term 5 (not term 6) and the addition of an electronic signature, the questionnaire be re-examined at the next meeting.

54. MARCH 2010 SACRE CONFERENCE

The Chairman stated that the SACRE Conference in March 2010 was successful. She had attended two workshops - 'Controversial Issues' in the morning and 'Collective Worship' in the afternoon. She stated that when planning took place for next year's conference a workshop on Hinduism would be included. She thanked the Diocese and Wendy Harrison for helping to organise the conference and stressed the need for the conference to be publicised on the website in future and to give as much notice as possible to enable people to reserve the date in their diaries.

RESOLVED

The report and comments be noted.

55. DRAFT OF ANNUAL SACRE REPORT 2008/09

SACRE received the draft annual report of Lincolnshire SACRE 2008/09 from the RE Adviser.

Wendy Harrison stated that the last paragraph under paragraph 2, (background) should be deleted and that Academies needed to be emphasised on page 13.

The Chairman stated that she would be writing to the Academies regarding SACRE and its work and also to raise other matters in view of OFSTED inspections.

RESOLVED

1. That the report be sent to the Qualification and Curriculum Authority and the Executive Councillor for Children's Services including Post 16 Education, be noted.
2. That the amendments and comments made be actioned.

56. SACRE ACTION PLAN

SACRE received its Action Plan for 2009/2010.

Members noted the following:-

1. Wendy Harrison would review INSET (paragraph 7).
2. Monitoring recruitment and retention would be kept under review.
3. A meeting had been arranged with Canon Peter Staves in April 2010 on the maintenance of effective liaison between SACRE and the Diocesan authority. Paul Thompson's role was different from Paulette Bissell's and there would be a need to examine how this was taken forward. It was noted that Wendy Harrison was the local authority adviser, not the Diocesan Adviser.
4. A member from SACRE was required to serve on the Lincoln Inter-Faith Forum. Meetings took place at 7:30pm at the Friends Meeting Hall, Lincoln. It was agreed to defer this matter to the next meeting as not all members of were present.
5. Funding of Storypacks by the Executive Councillor Peter Robinson on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council needed to be added to the work programme.

RESOLVED

That the SACRE Action Plan 2009/2010 and comments made be noted and actioned.

55. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Tuesday 13 July 2010, Tuesday 9 November 2010, Tuesday 8 March 2011 at 2:00 pm at the County Offices, Newland, Lincoln.

It was agreed that Mrs A Parry-Jones would lead on prayers at the next meeting.

56. MRS PAULETTE BISSELL - RETIREMENT

The Chairman stated that she had received a "Thank You" card from Paulette Bissell thanking members for their thoughtfulness and kind words. Paulette stated that the generous gift from members had been a huge surprise and sent her good wishes to all members.

57. ARTICLE IN THE DAILY MAIL – JONATHAN AITKEN

The Chairman referred to an article in the Daily Mail by Jonathan Aitken before last Christmas on spirituality making a come back with people getting more involved in the voluntary sector and the increase in students taking RE.

The meeting closed at 4:02 pm.