

Present:-

Lincolnshire Council of Churches (Group A)

Mr B Ahmed MBE (Islamic Association of Lincoln)
Mrs C Dring (Baptist Church)
Mrs L Gaylard (Ground Level Network)
Mr A Hornsby (Methodist Church)
Mr N McFarlane (Salvation Army)
Mrs S Sreenivasan (Hindu Community)
Mr F Sperring (Society of Friends)
Professor B Winston (Lincolnshire Jewish Community)

The Church of England (Group B)

Mr D Clements

The Teachers Panel (Group C):

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

Lincolnshire County Council (Group D)

Councillors Mrs C M H Farquharson and Mrs C A Talbot

Officers/Advisers

Ms W Harrison – Religious Education Adviser
Mr P Thompson – Adviser from the Diocese of Lincoln
Mrs S West – Democratic Services Officer, Lincolnshire County Council

15. PRAYERS

Prayers were led by Mr N McFarlane.

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Reverend E McDonald (United Reform Church), Councillor P Robinson (Lincolnshire County Council) and Mr M Plater (Bishop Grosseteste University College, Lincoln).

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
8 MARCH 2011**

17. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman welcomed Mrs L Gaylard to the meeting, whose appointment as the SACRE representative for Ground Level Network of churches in Lincolnshire had been approved at the County Council meeting on 17 December 2010.

The attendance of Mr A Hornsby, representing the Methodist Church, was also welcomed by the Chairman, his appointment had been approved at the meeting of the County Council on 21 May 2010.

It was reported that the NASACRE Conference had been arranged for 31 March 2011 in Birmingham which unfortunately coincided with the RE event due to be held on the same day at Bishop Grosseteste University College, Lincoln.

The Chairman informed the Committee that the celebration of the Christian season of Advent and Jewish festival of Hanukah, held in December, had been very well attended.

Mention was also made of various events arranged by the County Council in relation to Holocaust Memorial Week, which had included a talk by Hanneke Dye (Holocaust Survivor) on 26 January 2011, a commemorative evening of Remembrance and Reflection through music, poetry, readings and personal stories on 27 January 2011 and a film screening on 29 January 2011.

The Chairman made reference to The Schools White Paper 2010 on education and the removal of religious studies from the English Baccalaureate. In response to an e-mail received from Revd Dr John Gay seeking evidence to help argue the case for retaining religious studies within the English Baccalaureate, it was reported that a letter of support had been sent by the Chairman on behalf of SACRE to assist with the submission to the Education Select Committee.

Members were informed that disappointing statistical information had been received from Mark Plater stating that trainees for RE post graduate certificate in education had reduced dramatically, with HE institutions cut by almost 50%. He also referred to the non-inclusion of RE in the English Baccalaureate and the devastating effect nationally.

The Committee noted that a letter of response had now been received from the Priory Federation of Academies Trust, which included an invitation to meet with representatives of SACRE in order to explore how academies operated and delivered religious education. It was proposed that the Chairman, Wendy Harrison and Neville McFarlane would attend this meeting. At this point of the meeting Councillor Mrs C Talbot declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Priory Federation of Academies.

It was agreed that the letter previously sent to Trent Valley Academy would be re-issued (Minute No. 11 of 9 November 2010 refers).

The Chairman also made mention of the 'Taking the Jewish Way of Life' exhibition.

18. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2010

RESOLVED

That subject to including the following sentence at the end of the third paragraph 3 of Minute No. 4: 'It was reported that outcomes from SACRE meetings would need to be fed back to Debbie Barnes', the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2010, be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

With regard to minute no. 6 of 9 November 2010, it was reported that it had not been possible to obtain a representative from the British Humanist Association to attend this meeting. It was hoped they would be available for the next meeting on 21 June 2011.

It was reported that further to minute no. 8 of the previous meeting, support would be provided by the Diocese of Lincoln in respect of schools facing Section 48 Inspections. Although no progress had been made whilst in the transition period, an update would be provided to the next meeting of SACRE in June.

19. SUMMARY OF OFSTED INSPECTIONS OF LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS WITH REFERENCE TO PUPILS' SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOOLS' PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY COHESION

A report was submitted by the Religious Education Adviser which summarised the positive features and areas for development in various schools inspected by OFSTED.

Members were informed that a new framework was to be introduced in January 2012 and it was likely that the areas for spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development would no longer be graded. Grading for community cohesion would also possibly be removed. It was noted that further information would be available at a later date.

The Chairman expressed her concern that SACRE would no longer be required to monitor schools as a result of the new framework, thereby resulting in a diminishing role for the Committee. More information would be available at the end of April 2011.

RESOLVED

1. That the report and comments made be noted.
2. That a letter of commendation be sent to Mount Street Infant and Nursery School for achieving grade 1 for SMSC.

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

The Religious Education Adviser submitted a report which detailed the positive features and areas for development in nine primary and two secondary schools monitored since the last meeting on 9 November 2010.

During consideration of this item, a member congratulated the Chairman and Wendy Harrison for all their hard work, in particular to the recent correspondence they had issued in relation to the Schools White Paper.

RESOLVED

That the report and comments made be noted.

21. SUMMARY OF SECTION 48 INSPECTIONS IN LINCOLNSHIRE'S SCHOOLS

The Diocesan Director of Education presented a report regarding the overall distinctiveness and effectiveness of Church schools where a Section 48 Inspection had been carried out since summer 2010. The report also detailed the inspection grades following the introduction of a revised framework in September 2009.

It was reported by David Clements that the National Society for the conduct of Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools had recently announced changes which now required schools in receipt of outstanding reports to only be inspected every five years. Although the picture was still unfolding, it was agreed that the information received to date be sent to the Chairman and Wendy Harrison.

RESOLVED

That the report and comments made be noted.

22. LINCOLN INTER-FAITH FORUM MEETING

An update was provided by June Austin following her attendance at a meeting of the Lincoln Inter-Faith Forum in February 2011.

It was reported by Mrs Austin that the main discussion at the meeting had been based on making the public aware of the group's existence and its activities, together with increasing the membership and encouraging people from other faiths to be represented.

Thanks were extended to Mrs Austin for attending the meeting. It was highlighted however that due to commitments, it would not be possible for her to attend every meeting (2nd Monday of every month) but she would make every effort to be present when she could.

RESOLVED

That the update and comments made be noted.

23. UPDATE ON ACADEMIES

A report by Debbie Barnes was submitted regarding academies, in particular to the number of schools within Lincolnshire which had now converted to academies, a list of which was provided.

It was emphasised that SACREs were only able to undertake their duties of monitoring religious education with the full consent of an academy due to the freedom they had over their curriculum. It was also reported that academies were not necessarily required to follow the locally agreed syllabus.

The Chairman made reference of the letter received from the Priory Federation of Academies Trust and the invitation to meet with representatives of SACRE to discuss the delivery of religious education.

RESOLVED

That following the meeting due to be held between the Priory Federation of Academies Trust and the Chairman, Wendy Harrison and Neville McFarlane, regarding the delivery of religious education:-

1. an update be provided to Debbie Barnes and to the next meeting of SACRE on 21 June 2011.
2. letters be sent to the remaining academies within Lincolnshire.

24. REVIEW OF THE AGREED SYLLABUS

It was reported by the Religious Education Adviser that a meeting had recently been held with various teachers to discuss amendments to Section 1 of the Agreed Syllabus. Members were also informed that funding of £4,000 had been allocated towards the review whereby it was hoped that this could be carried forward into next year's budget.

Members noted that a meeting with SACRE representatives who had previously volunteered their time to help with the review (as agreed at the meeting on 13 July 2010) would be arranged in due course. It was envisaged that the syllabus would be updated by the summer.

RESOLVED

That a meeting of the SACRE working group be arranged to review the agreed syllabus, and an update regarding progress be provided at the next SACRE meeting on 21 June 2011.

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25. SACRE ACTION PLAN

A report by the Religious Education Adviser was presented which updated members on items currently included in the Action Plan.

RESOLVED

That the status of the current Action Plan and Archive version be approved and a further report regarding future items to be archived be provided at the next meeting on 21 June 2011.

26. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2009/2010

Consideration was given to the draft annual report for 2009/2010, as produced by the Religious Education Adviser.

The Chairman reported that funding to publish the document in a glossy format as in previous years would be sought, however it was acknowledged that due to a reduction in budgets, this may not be possible.

RESOLVED

That the annual report for 2009/2010 be approved.

27. NASACRE/WESTHILL AWARDS FOR INTER-FAITH PROJECTS – 2011/2012

The Chairman reported that due to late notification for submitting a project, SACRE would not be partaking this year.

RESOLVED

That consideration of compiling a project for the 2012/2013 NASACRE/Westhill awards be given at the 21 June 2011 meeting.

28. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT – UPDATE FROM THE DIOCESE OF LINCOLN

A report was presented by Paul Thompson, Diocesan Deputy Director of Education, which updated members on the developments and forthcoming events in religious education.

During discussion it was suggested that future electronic documents be published on the SACRE website to ensure wider publication.

The Chairman questioned whether discussions had taken place with regard to the Schools White Paper 2010 on education and the failure to include religious studies in the English Baccalaureate. In response it was reported that as a member of AREIAC (the Association of Religious Education, Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants), concerns had been expressed through Jane Chipperton (Chairman of AREIAC). It

was agreed that minutes of future AREIAC meetings would be sent to the Chairman and Wendy Harrison.

It was also emphasised by the Chairman that a closer working relationship was needed with the Diocese of Lincoln and therefore a meeting between the Chairman, Debbie Barnes, Wendy Harrison and Paul Thompson was suggested as a way forward.

Regular updates in respect of meetings with leading teachers in religious education would also be reported back to the Chairman and Wendy Harrison.

RESOLVED

That the update and the comments made be noted.

29. UPDATE ON CELEBRATING RE EVENT – 31 MARCH 2011

It was reported by David Clements that despite numerous invitations and reminders sent out to schools in respect of the Celebrating RE event, arranged for 31 March 2011, the response had been very disappointing.

Although a few schools had expressed an interest in exhibiting their religious education work at the event, it was considered by a member that a poor impression would be given to those attending if it proceeded. It was therefore felt that the event should be cancelled.

RESOLVED

1. That the Celebrating RE event arranged for 31 March 2011 be cancelled, due to a lack of response and support.
2. That David Clements, Wendy Harrison and Paul Thompson arrange for visits to be undertaken to the respective schools who had expressed an interest in attending the event, to look at their religious education work.
3. That future correspondence of this nature be sent addressed to Heads of Religious Education.

30. LINCOLNSHIRE SACRE CONFERENCE – 10 NOVEMBER 2011

The Chairman reported that the Lincolnshire SACRE Conference had been arranged for 10 November 2011.

It was suggested by a member that in view of the cancellation of the 'Celebrating RE' event, those schools who had previously expressed an interest in attending should be invited to the conference. It was also recommended that an invitation should be extended to Dr Sarah Smalley (AREIAC and the Religious Education Council).

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RESOLVED

1. That invitations to attend the Lincolnshire SACRE conference on 10 November 2011, be sent to schools who had previously expressed an interest in the 'Celebrating RE' event, asking them if they would to display any of their pupils' work at the conference..
2. That Dr Sarah Smalley be invited to conduct a workshop at the conference.

31. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members were reminded that the next meeting of SACRE would be held on Tuesday 21 June 2011 at 2.00pm.

Mrs C Williamson volunteered to lead on prayers at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 4.00 pm.