

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), Reverend E McDonald (United Reform Church), Mr N McFarlane (Salvation Army), Mrs S Sreenivasan (Hindu Community), Mr F Sperring (Society of Friends) and Professor B Winston (Lincolnshire Jewish Community).

The Church of England (Group B)

Mr D Clements and Mr D Scoffield.

The Teachers Panel (Group C)

Mrs J Austin (National Association of Head Teachers), Miss C E Turner (Primary Schools) and 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 (Diocese of Lincoln Adviser) and Mr G Watts (Democratic Services Officer).

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor Mrs C A Talbot be elected as the Chairman of the Lincolnshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Hornsby (Methodist Church) and Councillor C L Strange (Lincolnshire County Council).

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2011

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 March 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

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4. NOTES OF THE INFORMAL MEETING HELD ON 21 JUNE 2011

RESOLVED

That the notes of the informal meeting held on 21 June 2011 be endorsed as a correct record.

5. NOTES OF THE INFORMAL MEETING HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2011

RESOLVED

That the notes of the informal meeting held on 8 November 2011 be endorsed as a correct record.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman welcomed Mr D Scofield to his first meeting on the Standing Advisory Council since being formally appointed to represent the Church of England under Group B of the body's membership.

The Chairman had received a copy of the results of an Ofsted subject survey inspection on religious education that was carried out at Boston Haven High Technology College. The majority of the areas inspected were given a grade of 'good' and it was agreed that a copy of the full document would be circulated to all Members of the Standing Advisory Council.

The Chairman had received a copy of a flyer for the Islamic Exhibition held last week, but was disappointed that the Lincolnshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education had not been informed of the event. It was agreed that the Standing Advisory Council's Secretary would contact the Lincoln Mosque to request that correspondence relating to future events was sent via him for wider circulation to all Members of this body.

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

The Standing Advisory Council's Religious Education Adviser informed Members that her work in developing Lincolnshire's new Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and the reduction in her working hours had meant that she had not been able to undertake any monitoring visits to schools.

It was reported that, from next term, reports on Ofsted inspections would be produced but they would not include a grade for spiritual, moral, social or cultural development. Instead, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development would be reflected as part of the whole inspection.

8. SUMMARY OF SECTION 48 INSPECTIONS IN LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS

Members considered a report by the Diocese of Lincoln, which set out a summary of those church schools that had undertaken a Section 48 Inspection between September 2010 and December 2011. The Section 48 Inspection process identified and shared the good and positive practice that existed in church schools and highlighted areas for development that would help the school to become more effective in its role as a church school with a distinctive Christian ethos.

A comprehensive explanation was given to Members on the table set out in the report, which included a range of colours and symbols representing different grades and changes in grades from previous inspections. It was agreed that a key would be included in future reports to explain the meaning of the colours and symbols.

The narrative in the report, which outlined the headlines for each school's inspection, was welcomed by Members who thought that it very clearly highlighted the key messages from each inspection. A number of schools had achieved results of 'outstanding', and it was agreed that letters of congratulations would be sent to those schools by the Chairman of this Standing Advisory Council.

It was noted that a new framework for Section 11 Inspections would be introduced in January 2013.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That those schools who received 'outstanding' results as part of their Section 48 Inspections be sent a letter of congratulations by the Chairman of this Standing Advisory Council.

9. UPDATE ON THE DIOCESE DIRECTOR POST

The Acting Director of Education from the Diocese of Lincoln provided the Standing Advisory Council with an update on the vacant Director of Education post.

It was noted that this post had been advertised again due to an appointment not being made in the previous application and interview process, the closing date for which was 5 March 2012. Interviews would be held on 16 March 2012 and all Members of this body would be informed of any appointment.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

10. STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ACTION PLAN

The Standing Advisory Council's Religious Education Adviser introduced a revised version of the body's action plan, which also included an archived version.

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It was agreed that the following items on the archived version of the action plan would be moved to the 'live' version of the Standing Advisory Council's action plan: -

- item 3 – 'to suggest that Acts of Collective Worship be an agenda item at Area Heads/Governors meetings';
- item 7 – 'to monitor recruitment and retention'.

RESOLVED

That the action plan for the Lincolnshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education be approved, subject to the above amendments being made.

11. REVIEW OF THE AGREED SYLLABUS – UPDATE

The Standing Advisory Council's Religious Education Adviser informed Members that excellent progress had been made in the development of Lincolnshire's Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

Meetings of two working groups, one consisting of Members of this Standing Advisory Council and the other of four teachers from primary and secondary schools, had proven to be extremely successful and resulted in valuable debate on key aspects of the Agreed Syllabus. The level and depth of discussion had been extremely high in going through the whole document and making various amendments and updates to the previous version. A draft version of the new Agreed Syllabus should be available for consideration by this Standing Advisory Council at its next meeting.

In closing, Members agreed that it would be preferable to have a copy of the document printed for each school, although they accepted that this would depend on the level of finance that was available.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

12. STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The Chairman informed Members that the Lincolnshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Conference would be held on 12 March 2012 at the Petwood Hotel in Woodhall Spa.

75 delegates had confirmed their attendance, which was sufficient to run all three workshops as originally planned.

The Chairman expressed her thanks to the Diocese of Lincoln for the work they had done in respect of the Conference. Specific thanks was also given to Hazel Chesworth of the School Improvement Service, who had put lots of effort into increasing the number of delegates.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

13. DIOCESE OF LINCOLN REPORT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A report by the Acting Director of Education from the Diocese of Lincoln was considered, which provided Members with information on a number of initiatives and events relating to Religious Education that had taken place since the last meeting.

Updates on the following initiatives and events were noted: -

- Religious Education cluster meetings;
- course on Religious Education and Olympic values entitled 'who comes first?';
- forthcoming Religious Education training;
- leading Religious Education teachers;
- celebrating Religious Education;
- Lincolnshire's Agreed Syllabus;
- Statement of Entitlement;
- Religious Education news.

It was agreed that a comprehensive report on leading Religious Education teachers would be submitted for consideration at the next meeting of the Lincolnshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

In terms of the Statement of Entitlement, copies were circulated at the meeting. Members agreed that the Chairman should be given delegated authority to consider this document for inclusion on the Standing Advisory Council's Website.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That a report on leading Religious Education teachers be submitted to the next meeting of the Lincolnshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for consideration.
- (3) That the Chairman be asked to consider the Statement of Entitlement for inclusion on the Standing Advisory Council's Website.

14. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Chairman informed Members that, in view of the fact that the last two meetings of this body had been inquorate, senior Councillors at the County Council had questioned the need for there to be three meetings per year.

It was noted that the County Council was still obliged to maintain a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education as a statutory responsibility under the Education Reform Act 1988.

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In discussing the number of meetings per year, Members unanimously agreed that this body should continue to meet three times a year. This frequency of meetings helped to keep everyone informed of the framework in terms of the inspection regime and criteria, as well as maintain an important working relationship with the Diocese of Lincoln.

RESOLVED

That future meetings of the Lincolnshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education be held on the following dates at County Offices, Lincoln, commencing at 2.00 p.m.: -

- 26 June 2012
- 20 November 2012
- 12 March 2013

The meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.