



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)  
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)

Councillor Mrs C A Talbot.

Officers/Advisers

Ms W Harrison – Religious Education Adviser  
Mark Plater – Bishop Grosseteste University College, Lincoln  
Paul Thompson – Adviser from the Diocese of Lincoln  
Mr G Watts – Democratic Services Officer, Lincolnshire County Council

1. PRAYERS

Prayers were led by Mrs C Williamson.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Standing Advisory Council due to the fact that the meeting was inquorate.

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It was agreed that the meeting should proceed on an informal basis and that the previous Chairman, Councillor Mrs C A Talbot, would facilitate proceedings until a Chairman was formally elected at the next meeting.

**COUNCILLOR MRS C A TALBOT IN THE CHAIR**

**3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Standing Advisory Council due to the fact that the meeting was inquorate.

**4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C M H Farquharson (Lincolnshire County Council), Reverend E McDonald (United Reform Church), Mrs A Parry-Jones (Church of England), Councillor P A Robinson (Lincolnshire County Council), Mr F Sperring (Society of Friends) and Ms C Wright (Church of England).

**5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2011**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 March 2011 would be considered as a correct record at the next meeting, due to the fact that this meeting was inquorate.

A number of updates were reported to Members on some of the actions agreed at the last meeting, which were noted as follows: -

- minute number 17 – the meeting between members of the Standing Advisory Council and a representative from the Priory Federation of Academies Trust had not taken place, however, provisional dates had been put forward to meet in July 2011. This would enable those in attendance to explore how academies operated and delivered religious education. Councillor Mrs C A Talbot declared a personal interest at this stage of proceedings as she was a trustee of the Priory Federation of Academies;
- minute number 18 – a representative from the British Humanist Association had still not been identified to attend a future meeting of the Standing Advisory Council;
- minute number 23 – following the meeting outlined in the first bullet point above, a meeting would be scheduled between the Standing Advisory Council's attendees, representatives of the Diocese of Lincoln and the Assistant Director of Children's Services at Lincolnshire County Council regarding Academies;
- minute number 26 – the draft annual report for 2009/2010 had been finalised, however, funding was not available to publish the document in a glossy format. It was suggested that the document could be emailed to all schools, with a covering note publicising its content. Councillor Mrs C A Talbot and the Religious Education Adviser agreed to produce a suitable covering email.

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**6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

Councillor Mrs C A Talbot made the following announcements at the meeting: -

- a letter had been received from the Executive Headteacher of the Federation of Sutterton Fourfields and Swineshead St Mary's Church of England Primary Schools, thanking the Standing Advisory Council for recognising the work it had done to strive for excellence in faith based education;
- Councillor Mrs C A Talbot had received correspondence from Mrs A Parry-Jones which set out her personal decision to retire at the end of July 2011. Her position on the Standing Advisory Council was therefore vacant and the Church of England would shortly be nominating a replacement;
- Councillor Mrs C A Talbot received a response to her letter to Lord Hill of Oarford, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools, via Sir Peter Tapsell MP, Member of Parliament for Louth and Horncastle. Attached to his letter was a response from the Director General for Education Standards, which agreed with the concerns raised by the Standing Advisory Council in relation to the importance of religious education and its inclusion in the English Baccalaureate. However, the letter stated that a decision had been made to restrict the humanities option in the English Baccalaureate to address a serious decline in the study of history and geography.

**7. 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**

A report by Lincolnshire's Religious Education Adviser was considered, which summarised the positive features and areas for development in those schools inspected by OFSTED since the last report presented to the Standing Advisory Council in March 2011.

It was reported that a new framework was introduced for inspections in September 2009, remaining under Section 5. As with the previous framework, there was still no separate paragraph for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. These aspects were now covered in 'outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils' and one grade given for all four aspects. From September 2009 inspectors also had to grade the effectiveness with which schools promoted community cohesion.

A table outlining schools that had undergone OFSTED inspections between 25 January 2011 and 25 March 2011 and their respective gradings for overall effectiveness, community cohesion and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development was included as part of the report.

Concerns were expressed at the apparent contradictions between gradings and the fact that only one school had received an outstanding grade. It was noted that future reports were not likely to be as detailed due to the reduction in the Religious Education Adviser's number of working days. However, with the introduction of the

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new Ofsted framework in January 2012 it was agreed that spiritual, moral, social and cultural development should continue to be monitored in some way.

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

The Standing Advisory Council considered a report by the county's Religious Education Adviser, which summarised the positive features and areas for development in schools monitored since the last meeting on 8 March 2011.

It was reported that new inspection arrangements were initiated in 2005. Less notice would be given to schools of inspections, with inspections themselves being shorter and more focussed. The most recent framework under these arrangements was introduced in September 2009. Religious education remained statutory in all schools but inspection reports no longer included a detailed subject paragraph. Acts of collective worship could be referred to in the 'outcomes for individuals or groups of pupils' section.

An overview of the monitoring visits undertaken by the Religious Education Adviser since the last meeting was included as part of the report. A specific point was made about the lack of challenge in one of the primary schools visited. Good religious education continued to be found where there was strong support from the Headteacher, but overall there was still a concern about assessment. Members agreed that more detailed advice and support needed to be included in the new syllabus.

**9. SUMMARY OF SECTION 48 INSPECTIONS IN LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS**

A report by the Diocesan Director of Education was considered, which summarised the overall distinctiveness and effectiveness of church schools where a Section 48 inspection had been carried out since September 2009 and their respective OFSTED inspection grades.

It was reported that the National Society for the conduct of Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools, under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005, had incorporated changes in structure and emphasis that reflected current educational practice in schools and broader developments in school inspections. The framework for Section 48 inspections provided a process for evaluating the extent to which church schools were distinctively and recognisably Christian institutions.

A table was included as part of the report, which outlined the grades of those schools that had undertaken Section 48 inspections since the last meeting.

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10. LINCOLNSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ACTION PLAN

The Standing Advisory Council considered its action plan for 2010/2011, the objective of which was to increase the body's effectiveness.

The Religious Education Adviser agreed to update the action plan to reflect areas of work that had been completed and needed to be transferred to the archived plan, as well as including new pieces of work that had not yet been added. This new document would be included for consideration at the next meeting.

11. LINCOLN INTER-FAITH FORUM

A report by Mrs J Austin, a Member representing the National Association of Head Teachers, was considered, which provided the Standing Advisory Council with an update on the Lincoln Inter-Faith Forum following her attendance at its meeting held on 14 March 2011.

Members of the Forum were provided with a copy of Lincolnshire's Religious Education Syllabus at the meeting on 14 March 2011, where discussion took place on the document itself and religious education in schools in general.

It was noted that members of the Standing Advisory Council found it difficult to consistently attend meetings of the Lincoln Inter-Faith Forum. The Clerk of the Standing Advisory Council agreed to write to the Chairman of the Inter-Faith Forum, requesting update reports following their meetings which could then be forwarded and circulated to all Members of this Advisory Council.

12. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STANDING ADVISORY COUNCILS ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION / WESTHILL AWARDS FOR INTER-FAITH PROJECTS – 2012/2013

The Clerk of the Standing Advisory Council informed Members of an opportunity to apply for the National Association on Standing Advisory Councils' Religious Education/Westhill Awards for inter-faith projects 2012/2013.

Suggestions raised at the meeting for potential submissions included a booklet setting out places of local worship for visitors of schools and the University of Lincoln's community radio station in relation to the community cohesion agenda and links with schools.

A report on how these ideas could be shaped into an application for the Inter-Faith Projects Awards would be submitted to the next meeting of the Standing Advisory Council.

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**13. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT – UPDATE FROM THE DIOCESE OF LINCOLN**

Consideration was given to a report by the Diocesan Director of Education, which provided the Standing Advisory Council with an update on developments and forthcoming events in religious education.

To complement the work of the county's Religious Education Adviser, it was reported that the Diocesan Deputy Director of Education ensured that a range of developmental activities took place to improve the quality of religious education in community schools as well as church schools throughout the Diocese of Lincoln.

A number of initiatives and events took place during the spring term of 2011. These were outlined as part of the report and included the following: -

- religious education cluster meetings;
- religious education newsletter – third edition;
- successful implementation of two religious education courses – ‘Assessment for Learning in Religious Education’ and ‘Godly Play Taster Day’;
- leading teachers in religious education;
- the English Baccalaureate;
- celebrating religious education;
- multi-faith experiences;
- 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of King James Bible;
- creative Bible days in schools;
- Special Schools’ religious education day in Lincoln Cathedral.

A copy of the action plan for the Leading Religious Education Teacher Support Network for May 2011 to July 2012 was appended to the report for information.

Reference was made to the ‘Crosslincs’ newsletter and the fact that the next edition would feature a flavour of the work undertaken as part of the Diocese of Lincoln’s celebrating religious education events. In view of this, it was agreed that all Members of the Standing Advisory Council would be provided with a copy of the newsletter.

It was also noted that details relating to these events were available for viewing on the Lincolnshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education website.

Discussion ensued on the obligation to teach Religious Education by those church schools that became part of Academies. Examples were given of schools in and out of the county where this had taken place and the types of challenges that had been experienced when seeking to retain the church distinctiveness of schools within Academies. It was noted that this would be discussed at the meeting scheduled to be held between representatives of the Standing Advisory Council, the Diocese of Lincoln and the Assistant Director of Children’s Services at the County Council, as referred to in note number five above.

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14. REVIEW OF THE AGREED SYLLABUS – WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The Religious Education Adviser informed the Standing Advisory Council that a very successful meeting of the working group was recently held. A version of the revised syllabus should be available for consideration by November 2011 and it was the aim to have the document complete by Christmas 2011.

15. STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONFERENCE

It was reported that the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education's conference would be held on 10 November 2011, the title of which had yet to be confirmed. The conference would consist of a number of workshops, each focussing on one of the six principal world faiths, promoting diversity and multi-faith.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

That the next meeting of the Lincolnshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education be held on 8 November 2011 at 2.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.50 p.m.