

Present: -

Lincolnshire Council of Churches (Group A)

Mrs L Gaylard (Ground Level Network), Mr A Hornsby (Methodist Church), 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, C L Strange and Mrs C A Talbot.

Officers/Advisers

Ms W Harrison (Religious Education Adviser), Mr P Thompson (Diocese of Lincoln Adviser) and Mr S R Blagg (Democratic Services Officer).

PRAYERS

Prayers were said by Mr D Schofield.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

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

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Mr N McFarlane be elected Vice-Chairman of the Lincolnshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

**2**  
**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON**  
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**  
**26 JUNE 2012**

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr B Ahmed MBE (Islamic Association of Lincoln) and Mrs C Dring (Baptist Church).

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

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 March 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the replacement of "11" by "48" in the last paragraph before the resolution (minute 8).

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (minute 6, SACRE, 6 March, 2012)

The Chairman stated that Graham Watts had tried to contact the Lincoln Mosque to request that correspondence relating to future events should be sent to Graham in his capacity of Secretary but, to date, it had not been possible to make contact. It was agreed that the Secretary would continue to try and make contact.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Councillor C L Strange, Executive Councillor with responsibility for Waste Services and Green Issues, to his first meeting of SACRE.

The Chairman stated that Mrs C Wright, representing the Church of England, had resigned from her teaching post and had therefore resigned from SACRE. She also added that Mrs J Austin was retiring after 39 years teaching having been a member of SACRE since 1997. The Chairman thanked both of them for their contribution to the work of SACRE.

The Chairman stated that Graham Watts, Clerk to SACRE, was getting married in Cyprus on 3 July 2012.

The Chairman congratulated Wendy Harrison on being appointed as a part time Assessor for the new Religious Education Quality Mark. This was a national initiative and it was hoped that some Lincolnshire schools would apply for the award.

7. SUMMARY OF OFSTED INSPECTIONS OF LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS WITH REFERENCE TO PUPILS' SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (SMSC)

Wendy Harrison presented a report summarising the judgements made about Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) in schools inspected by OFSTED since January 2012 under the most recent framework. She made reference to the new slimmed down framework for inspection which now emphasised provision for pupils' SMSC development. There was now no separate grade for SMSC but judgements about all four aspects should be referred to throughout reports. However, some of the comments from the reports were varied with both specific and generic comments. Members comments included the unhelpful comments made in some of the inspection reports; that the new framework made it difficult for SACRE to fulfil its

statutory duties; that RE was still inspected and graded in Church schools under Section 48 inspection requirements; that collective worship had been promoted by SACRE for many years but had not been rigorously inspected under Section 5 for some time; that the current Section 5 framework made it difficult for SACRE to monitor the quality of RE and that church schools had a good record in this area compared to maintained schools and it would be useful to know the action being taken by other SACREs in this area.

RESOLVED

- (1) That a letter be sent to the NASACRE to request details of the action being taken by other SACREs in this area especially when the legal requirements of SACRE were considered.
- (2) That a letter be sent to (a) the Secretary of State for Education, (b) the Chief Inspector for Education and (c) the all Party Parliamentary Group of MPs on Religious Education, to highlight the concerns of SACRE about the current OFSTED framework.

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

Wendy Harrison presented a report summarising the positive features and areas for development in schools monitored since the last meeting of SACRE on 21 March 2012. She stated that it was often assumed by headteachers that the RE co-ordinator had responsibility for Acts of Collective Worship but this was incorrect. Members stated that it was important for the RE co-ordinator to receive the support of the school's senior management team; that in addition to the headteacher, the Chairman of the Governing Body should receive a copy of the monitoring visit and that the RE Adviser should follow up any action arising from the visit.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That it be recommended that the report of a monitoring visit should be sent to the Chairman of the Governing Body, in addition to the Headteacher.

9. SUMMARY OF SECTION 48 INSPECTIONS IN LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS

David Clements presented a report on the Section 48 inspections of Church Schools, showing inspection grades under revised framework from September 2011 to April 2012.

Members agreed that the loss of any reference to a pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in OFSTED inspections did not support the work of SACRE unlike Section 48 reports and that this should be mentioned in the letters to the Secretary of State for Education and others, detailed in minute 7.

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
26 JUNE 2012**

RESOLVED

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the style adopted in Section 48 inspections for church schools be supported and mentioned in the letters sent to the Secretary of State for Education and others, in connection with OFSTED inspections.

10. UPDATE ON THE DIOCESE DIRECTOR POST

Paul Thompson stated that Jackie Waters-Dewhurst, from the Diocese of Bristol, had been appointed to the post of Diocesan Director of Education. The attendance of representatives from the Lincoln Diocese would be clarified and people notified in due course. A meeting between the new Diocesan Director, Debbie Barnes, Wendy Harrison and Councillor Mrs C A Talbot, would be arranged as soon as possible. NOTED.

11. SACRE ACTION PLAN

Wendy Harrison presented SACRE's Action Plan and requested that members should consider how they wanted to develop the Action Plan and the priorities for the next two years at the next meeting of SACRE.

Members comments included the need to keep recruitment and retention under review.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the current Action Plan be approved.
- (2) That ways of monitoring recruitment and retention be explored.
- (3) That the development and priorities for the Action Plan be considered at the next meeting.

12. REVIEW OF THE AGREED SYLLABUS - UPDATE

Wendy Harrison reported verbally on the latest situation of the review of the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education stating that the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) would complete its review on the 29<sup>th</sup> June. The review included a new statutory section and non-statutory guidance. The next step would be to prepare the new syllabus for printing and incorporate aspects of the previous documents, e.g. schemes of work. It was noted that the schemes of work need updating (as they date back to at least 2000) but funding would have to be found to take this forward. How the revised syllabus was sent to schools also needed to be considered as this would need funding.

The Chairman thanked Wendy Harrison, and the ASC for their work on reviewing the syllabus. She stated that the launch of the new syllabus had been discussed with Debbie Barnes and Meredith Teesdale. She stated that when the syllabus was last reviewed the County Council was able to fund the cost of production and she would pursue this matter with Debbie Barnes and Meredith Teesdale following the meeting of the Panel on 29 June 2012. NOTED.

13. LINCOLN DIOCESAN REPORT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Paul Thompson presented the Lincoln Diocesan report for RE, highlighting the various events arranged or participated in by the Lincoln Diocese since the last meeting of SACRE.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted and that details of the resources available for RE, detailed in the report, be emailed to Graham Watts, Clerk to SACRE, for inclusion on SACRE's website.
- (2) That the outcome of the Special Schools Festival be reported to the next meeting of SACRE.

14. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL OF ENGLAND AND WALES

The Chairman referred to a news release item issued by the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, which had coincided with the report on RE, from the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) in connection with the wide public support for RE in schools, adding that over 50% of all adults in England and Wales thought that RE should remain a compulsory subject in state funded schools; 58% thought it was beneficial for pupils for study RE and that the percentages rose to 63% for 18-24 year olds.

Members agreed that the outcome of the all party group of MPs and the Religious Education Council was heartening news. Paul Thompson added that details of the outcome of the Religious Education Council had been to all in the Diocesan members and the Diocese would be getting more involved in this area in the future. NOTED.

Wendy Harrison tabled a paper and summarised the first meeting of the APPG. She noted that following a very difficult time for RE there were some signs to be cautiously optimistic about the future of the subject.

15. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

20 November 2012  
12 March 2013

(Note: Neville McFarlane would say prayers for the meeting on 20 November 2012).

The meeting closed at 3.50 p.m.