

Present: Councillor Mrs C A Talbot (Chairman)

Christian Denominations and Other Religions in the Area (Group A)

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) and Mrs C Dring (Baptist Church).

The Church of England (Group B)

Mr D Clements, Mrs J Sheldrake and Mr D Scoffield.

The Teachers Panel (Group C)

Mrs J Austin (National Association of Head Teachers) and Mrs C A Williamson (Secondary Schools).

Lincolnshire County Council (Group D)

Councillors Mrs C M H Farquharson and C L Strange.

Officers/Advisers

Wendy Harrison (Religious Education Adviser) and Steve Blagg (Democratic Services Officer and Clerk to SACRE).

PRAYERS

Prayers were said by Mr N McFarlane.

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr B Ahmed MBE (Islamic Association of Lincoln), Reverend E McDonald (United Reform Church) and Professor B Winston (Lincolnshire Jewish Community).

17. WELCOME TO MRS J SHELDRAKE AND MR C BURKES

The Chairman welcomed new representatives to SACRE, Mr C Burkes (Catholic Church, Group A) though Mr Burke was not present and Mrs J Sheldrake (Church of England, Group B).

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18. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2012 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

19. WENDY HARRISON – PART TIME ASSESSOR (minute 6, SACRE, 26 JUNE 2012)

Wendy Harrison stated that she had withdrawn from the post of part time Assessor for the new Religious Education Quality Mark because of time constraints and had been awarded the contract to provide support for Religious Education (RE) and SACRE in Leicester.

20. LINCOLN MOSQUE – FUTURE EVENTS ARRANGED BY THE MOSQUE (minute 5, SACRE, 26 JUNE 2012)

The Chairman stated that Steve Blagg had contacted the Lincoln Mosque and they had agreed to provide information in connection with future events at the Mosque for members of SACRE. The Mosque had also indicated that they wished to invite the Chairman and RE Adviser to attend a meeting at the Mosque to explain the role of SACRE.

21. SUMMARY OF OFSTED INSPECTIONS OF LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS WITH REFERENCE TO PUPILS' SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (SMSC) (minute 7, SACRE, 26 June 2012)

Wendy Harrison stated that NASACRE had informed her that they did not keep information on the action taken by other SACREs in connection with the requirements of the new OFSTED framework.

(See minute 23 in connection a decision made by SACRE at its meeting on 26 June 2012, in connection with the concerns of SACRE about the current framework).

22. UPDATE ON THE DIOCESE OF LINCOLN DIRECTOR POST (minute 10, SACRE, 26 June 2012)

The Chairman stated that a meeting with the new Diocesan Director of Education, Jackie Waters-Dewhurst, had been arranged for 11 December 2012 and added that she had been unable to attend the meeting with the new Director arranged for 14 September because this had clashed with a full meeting of the County Council.

23. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

(a) Resignation of Cathy Turner from SACRE

The Chairman stated that Cathy Turner, representing the Primary Schools (Group C), on SACRE, had retired as a teacher and therefore could no longer be a member of SACRE. A collection for Cathy would be arranged at the end of the meeting and the Chairman agreed to send a card to her to thank her for her service.

(b) Letter from Director, Strategy, Ofsted - Ofsted Inspections

The Chairman read out a letter, dated 9 August 2012, she had received from Richard Brooks, Director, Strategy, Ofsted, in response to the letter she had sent to the Secretary of State for Education, the Chief Inspector and the All Party Parliamentary Group of MPs on Religious Education, in connection with the concerns of SACRE about the current OFSTED framework. She stated that no response had been received from either the Secretary of State or the All Party Parliamentary Group of MPs on Religious Education and added that Richard Brooks had not answered any of the questions posed in her letter. It was the Chairman's opinion that there was little point in discussing the letter except to draw the attention of SACRE to the websites in the letter.

The Chairman referred to the remit of SACRE, in particular the effects of the Education Reform Act, 1988 Act which required the County Council to constitute a SACRE. However, SACRE was now receiving less information which, added to the lack of information from academies, meant that SACRE's monitoring role had become almost impossible. She was also concerned that the role of the Religious Adviser in Lincolnshire could be lost if the present situation was allowed to continue.

SACRE agreed that the Chairman should reply to Richard Brooks stating that he had not answered any of the questions in her letter and to also refer to the request for information from the All Party Parliamentary Group of MPs on Religious Education in their article "Call for Evidence". The Chairman agreed to report to the next meeting on this matter.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman respond to Richard Brook's letter by stating that he had not answered any of the questions in her letter and to also refer to the request for information from the All Party Parliamentary Group of MPs on Religious Education in their article "Call for Evidence".

(c) Involvement of Diocese of Lincoln in SACRE

The Chairman referred to an email sent to the Clerk from Paul Thompson, Diocese of Lincoln, stating that following the appointment of the new Diocesan Director of Education Paul Thompson would no longer be attending future meetings of SACRE and that the Diocese would no longer be producing reports for SACRE. The email had also stated that if SACRE wished to receive advice on RE from the Diocese, the Diocesan Director of Education would be happy to discuss the procurement of services for this purpose. The email stated that David Clements would continue to

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attend meetings of SACRE as a member of the Church of England group and respond to questions in connection with Diocesan matters.

The Chairman stated that she and the RE Adviser would be meeting the new Diocesan Director of Education on 11 December 2012 but in the meantime expressed concern about what appeared to be a new way of working.

SACRE expressed its disappointment at the response of the Diocese and emphasised the need for continued partnership. The difficult financial climate faced by the County Council would make the funding of procurement of services difficult. It was requested that the Diocesan Director of Education should be invited to the next meeting of SACRE to explain her new approach and further suggested that the matter should be raised with the new Archbishop of Canterbury when he took up his post.

David Clements stated that as a member of Group B it was his understanding that SACRE and the Diocese both had a responsibility for RE and added that joint working between the two bodies had been beneficial.

The Chairman agreed to raise the concerns made by SACRE with the Diocesan Director of Education on 11 December 2012 and would report on the outcome before the next meeting.

(d) The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Religious Education – “Call for Evidence”

The Chairman stated that the APPG for Religious Education was conducting an inquiry on the supply of and support for RE Teachers.

It was agreed that SACRE should send their responses to the questions asked by the APPG to Wendy Harrison, by 3 December 2012, who would prepare a composite response on behalf of SACRE. Wendy Harrison agreed to report the responses to the next meeting of SACRE.

24. SUMMARY OF OFSTED INSPECTIONS OF LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS WITH REFERENCE TO PROVISION FOR PUPILS’ SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Wendy Harrison presented a report summarising the positive features and areas for development in those schools inspected by OFSTED. She stated that the present inspection framework (still under Section 5) did not require Inspectors to grade pupil’s spiritual, moral, social and cultural development but asked for it to be embedded throughout the report. There was no longer a requirement to report on community cohesion.

Reference was made to the current practice of the Chairman sending a letter to a school which had received an excellent grade for SMSC from OFSTED but this would be impossible under the new framework. The Chairman agreed to send a letter of congratulations to Billingborough Primary School for achieving a grade 1 under

“outcome/overall effectiveness” and receiving extremely positive comments about provision for SMSC development.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and that the Chairman write a letter to the Headteacher of Billingborough Primary School to congratulate the school on receiving a grade 1 under “outcome/overall effectiveness” and for the positive provision for a pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

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

Wendy Harrison presented a report which provided a summary of the positive features and areas for development in schools monitored since the last meeting of SACRE.

Wendy Harrison stated that overall the schools in the report were showing encouraging signs of development. In School 1, there was a need for the Co-ordinator to be more vigorous in her approach to monitoring the quality of work produced by pupils. Assessment remained an area for development. The new syllabus offered new guidance on this.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

26. SUMMARY OF SECTION 48 INSPECTIONS IN LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS

SACRE agreed that as there was not a report this item would not be considered.

27. AGREED SYLLABUS REVIEW UPDATE

Wendy Harrison stated that the Agreed Syllabus had been completed some time ago and submitted to the County Council. A reply from the County Council was awaited. Tim Lomas, Senior Principal of CfBT, whose responsibilities, included, amongst others, RE, had left CfBT and therefore progress on the Agreed Syllabus had been slow.

Wendy Harrison thanked the Diocese of Lincoln for helping in the collection of numerous pictures for inclusion in the Agreed Syllabus and any surplus pictures would be put in an album and placed on the SACRE website.

Wendy Harrison stated that Agreed Syllabus would be made available as a hard copy for schools as well as on CD and the SACRE web site.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

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28. SACRE ACTION PLAN

Wendy Harrison presented a report on items currently included in the SACRE Action Plan.

Wendy Harrison commented on the Action Plan stating that her contract had been renewed from 2012 but she did not know whether it would be extended to 2014.

Comments in connection with other paragraphs in the Plan included:-

1. No.2 (recommend key actions for the RE Adviser) – Wendy Harrison agreed to examine amendments to the words in the Plan to reflect the comments made by SACRE in connection with the implications of the new OFSTED framework.

2. No.4 - (to suggest that Acts of Collective Worship be an agenda item at Heads/Governors meetings) - Steve Blagg to contact CfBT.

3. No.6 (to support schools not meeting legal requirements) - the Chairman stated that SACRE had a statutory duty but this could only be done if Wendy Harrison visited a school.

4. Wendy Harrison stated that she had received a request to visit an Academy because the RE Teacher had concerns about whether there was a necessity to teach RE. The Chairman stated that because of the actions of the Secretary of State many schools were confused about the status of RE in the curriculum. The situation had been made worse by the decision not to include RE in the EBacc.

5. No.7 (to maintain effective liaison between SACRE and the Diocesan Authority) - the Chairman stated that this would be discussed at the meeting on 11 December.

RESOLVED

That the report and actions identified be noted.

29. DIOCESE OF LINCOLN REPORT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SACRE agreed that as there was not a report this item would not be considered.

30. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

2.00pm on Tuesday 12 March 2013

Mrs L Gaylard agreed to say prayers before the start of the meeting on 12 March 2013.

The meeting closed at 3.35 p.m.