

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
22 NOVEMBER 2022**

PRESENT:

Christian Denominations and Other Religious Denominations (Committee A)

Chris Burke (Chairman) (Roman Catholic Church), Andrew Hornsby (Methodist Church), Swathi Sreenivasan (Hindu Community), Claire Simons (Salvation Army) and Sian Wade (Assemblies of God Pentecostal)

The Church of England (Committee B)

Cherry Edwards OBE (Vice-Chairman), Lynsey Norris and Mark Plater

Associations Representing Teachers (Committee C)

Jennifer King (NAS/UWT)

Officer/Advisers

Gillian Georgiou (Diocesan RE Adviser), Wendy Harrison (RE Adviser), Emily Wilcox (Democratic Services Officer) and Jess Wosser-Yates (Democratic Services Officer)

1 OPENING REFLECTIONS

Reflections were given by Cherry Edwards OBE.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Chris Burke be elected as the Chairman of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education for 2022/23.

3 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED :

That Cherry Edwards OBE be elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education for 2022/23.

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4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/MEMBER CHANGES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor J Brockway, Amanda Grant, Elizabeth Moore, Atikur Rehman Patel and Jill Chandar-Nair.

5 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF SACRE HELD ON 14 JUNE 2022

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE CHAIRMAN (IF ANY)

No correspondence had been received by the Chairman.

8 GUEST SPEAKER: JASMIT KAUR PHULL: SHERIFF OF LINCOLN

SACRE welcomed Jasmit Kaur Phull, the Sheriff of Lincoln to the meeting. The Sheriff reflected on her experiences of growing up with Sikh faith and the importance of teaching faith and the lessons it teaches about morals, respect and love.

9 ANALYSIS OF OFSTED REPORTS: MARCH 16TH - 20TH JULY 2022

Consideration was given to a report by the RE Adviser, which provided an analysis of Ofsted reports for the period of March 16th – 20th July 2022.

The RE Advisor highlighted an increase in reports of consistency in some key stage 2 pupil's knowledge of different faith and beliefs and assurance was provided that schools who had received reports of concern would be contacted and supported to address any issues with teaching and to highlight the issues.

During discussion on the report, concerns were raised regarding the teaching of the 'life' curriculum for R.E and the assumption being made by some inspectors that this equated to good quality religious education. The importance of offering a balance of religions within the syllabus was highlighted.

In response to a question, it was noted that the RE Adviser would engage with Chapel St Leonards Primary School to obtain further information on their 'Deep Dive' in Religious Education and report back at the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and that further information on their 'Deep Dive' in Religious Education at Chapel St Leonards Primary School be reported at the next meeting

10 ANALYSIS OF SIAMS INSPECTIONS

Consideration was given to a report by the Diocesan RE Adviser, which provided an update on Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspections since the last meeting, as detailed in the report.

Members were advised that only one inspection had taken place, which was likely due to an increase in the retiring inspectors during the pandemic and difficulties in training new inspectors whilst closures of schools were ongoing. It was expected that the number of inspections would increase as many of the trainee inspectors had completed the necessary training.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

11 DIOCESAN UPDATE

Consideration was given to an update by the Diocesan RE Adviser which provided an update on the recent work undertaken, including work on the national Worldviews Project, work on action research projects to determine the measures for good quality education in RE, school visits and training and mentoring staff.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

12 REVIEW OF LINCOLNSHIRE AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Consideration was given to a report by the RE Adviser, which asked SACRE to agree the *process for the review of Lincolnshire's Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education* through an agreed syllabus conference which would produce and recommend the syllabus.

The report noted that it was not anticipated that a detailed re-write was required, however many changes had taken place since the present syllabus was produced, which were set out in the report.

Due to the publication of the Worldviews Project Materials, including guidance resource for syllabus writers, in early 2024 and the expectations set out in the Ofsted RE Research review

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(2021) members that a more in-depth re-write of the syllabus may be required and members unanimously voted to request a deferral of the review of the agreed syllabus.

The Diocesan RE Advisor noted that the current syllabus was rooted in building knowledge of particular religions whilst providing a balance of religious worldviews, and questioned whether there was a need to move towards looking at concepts of worldviews to transform learning, rather than focussing solely on teaching specific religious worldviews.

RESOVLED:

That it be recommended to the Local Authority that the review of the agreed syllabus be deferred for a year.

13 UPDATE FROM LOCAL AUTHORITY ADVISER

Consideration was given to an update from the RE Advisor on her recent work with schools, which included online training sessions for teachers, providing support within schools, working on the SACRE Annual Report, and working towards creating the new syllabus. An increase in demand from teachers for in person meetings was also noted.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

14 SACRE SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

Consideration was given to an update by the Vice-Chairman which invited SACRE to review the SACRE Self-Assessment Tool which noted the challenging and diverse work of SACRES and highlighted an opportunity for SACRE members to provide input into the strengths of Lincolnshire SACRE and areas for development.

Agreement was sought that the Democratic Services Officer circulate a copy of the SACRE Self-Assessment to all members for completion, with the aim for the Vice-Chairman to collate all responses into an action plan for consideration by February 2023. The Local Authority Adviser will then provide the expertise and support in drawing up a draft action plan for consideration by February 2023.

RESOLVED:

That the SACRE Self-Assessment be circulated by the Democratic Services Officer for completion.

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15 A REVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Consideration was given to an update by the RE Adviser, which invited members to discuss a report on the Review of the Performance of Religious Education, as set out in the agenda pack.

SACRE raised issue with the section on Government Performance and the removal of any form of funding in terms of training or broader curriculum projects, highlighting a need for funding for those training in the teaching of religious education. In relation to Educational Priorities, concerns were also raised that religious education often did not include learning on wider issues such as the climate crisis and the understanding of diversity.

It was agreed that a letter be drafted to the Local Authority on behalf of SACRE outlining their concerns as recorded.

RESOLVED :

That a letter be drafted to the Local Authority on behalf of SACRE outlining their concerns, as recorded.

16 REFLECTIONS AT THE NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that Sian Wade provide opening reflections at the next meeting.

17 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 7 March 2022.

The meeting closed at 3.23 pm