

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
 14 NOVEMBER 2023**

PRESENT:

Christian Denominations and Other Religious Denominations (Committee A)

Chris Burke (Chairman) (Roman Catholic Church), Dr Amanda Grant (Jewish Community), Andrew Hornsby (Methodist Church) and Sian Wade (Assemblies of God Pentecostal)

The Church of England (Committee B)

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

The Local Authority (Committee D)

Councillor Ashley John Baxter, Councillor Mrs Jacqueline Brockway and Councillor Mark Anthony Whittington

Co-opted Member

Eve Darwood

Officer/Advisers

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

17 OPENING REFLECTIONS

Opening reflections were given by Sian Wade.

18 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Members were advised that the meeting was inquorate and therefore would operate as an informal meeting, with any decisions made to be ratified at the next meeting.

AGREED:

That Chris Burke be elected as the Chairman of SACRE for 2023/24, subject to ratification by SACRE.

19 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

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AGREED:

That Cherry Edwards be elected as the Chairman of SACRE for 2023/23, subject to ratification by SACRE.

20 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed the newly co-opted Humanist Representative to the meeting.

21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/MEMBER CHANGES

Apologies for absence had been received by Claire Simons, Elizabeth Moore and Chris Thompson.

22 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None were declared.

23 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF SACRE HELD ON 20 JUNE 2023

It was agreed that Mark Plater be added to the attendance of the minutes of the meeting on 20 June 2023.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting of SACRE held on 20 June 2023 be approved subject to the above amendment and ratification by SACRE.

24 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE CHAIRMAN (IF ANY)

None had been received.

25 ANALYSIS OF OFSTED REPORTS: JANUARY 1ST - OCTOBER 31ST 2023

The RE Adviser provided analysis of Ofsted Reports, as referenced at pages 11-32 of the agenda pack.

Members considered the report and during the discussion the following points were recorded:

- Members highlighted lack of reference to learning on spirituality.
- It was suggested that the RE Adviser begin to analyse reports over the next year to analyse any issues that needed to be addressed. Members welcomed further analysis of reports over a period.

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- Members acknowledged that Ofsted reports often did not fully represent the depth of the investigation and the areas covered and communicated to schools as part of the process.
- The need for children to be exposed to different cultures than their own to understand cultures, was emphasised. There was a need to ensure that syllabus, training and support for teachers and communities reflected this and for SACRE to ensure support was in place.
- It was confirmed that Deepings St James Community Primary School were signed up to a Lincolnshire curriculum.
- It was clarified that academies must include RE as part of their curriculum, but they did not need to adopt the Lincolnshire Curriculum or notify the Local Authority of which curriculum they were using.
- The Lincolnshire Curriculum was sent to all Lincolnshire's schools free of charge, including academies.
- Concerns were raised over a lack of deep dives into RE during Ofsted inspections, which was a concern of many other organisations in the RE world.

26 AGREED SYLLABUS

As the meeting was inquorate, the Agreed Syllabus Conference could not be established. An invite to an Agreed Syllabus Conference would be sent to members of SACRE via email.

27 UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITY ADVISER

The Local Authority Adviser provided an update on her recent work with schools, highlighting that many schools did not feel supported in their planning of RE lessons and did not fully understand the current syllabus and how to apply it to lessons. Face to Face support continued to be provided to teachers.

28 DIOCESAN UPDATE

Lynsey Norris provided an update on behalf of the Diocesan RE Adviser, advising that training continued to be provided to schools with a main focus on 3 areas of R.E – substantive, disciplinary and personal knowledge around assessment. The Diocesan RE Adviser was working on an 18-month project on R.E and assessment with schools.

29 ANALYSIS OF SIAMS INSPECTIONS

Lynsey Norris provided an update on behalf of the Diocesan RE Adviser which highlighted the introduction of a new SIAMSs framework,

SIAMS inspections had been carried out in 22 schools in the previous year and were all graded good and above, with 5 graded excellent. For collective worship, which was graded separately, 7 had been rated excellent and one requires improvement.

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A new SIAMs framework had been introduced in September 2023, which had removed criteria for 'pass or fail' style judgements and instead rated schools Judgement 1 or Judgement 2. Judgement 2 would highlight things schools were required to work on as a matter of priority.

40 schools were to be inspected this year, with 2 inspected since September.

Consideration was given to the update and the following points were recorded for consideration:

- The rating of judgement 1 or 2 was completely narrative and would outline areas of development or priority. The judgement would be discussed in the feedback given to the school, rather than it being published within a written report.
- Schools would continue to be supported until expectations were met.
- Some members commented that inspections would seemingly still have a pass or fail status without the label, as judgement 2 would be seen as a fail. There was an emphasis on language used within inspections to alleviate stress to teachers and school leaders.
- The move was welcomed by some members, who highlighted it as a more positive way of inspection.

30 HUMANISM AND COMMITTEE A

Given that the meeting was not quorate, it was agreed that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

31 ACTION PLAN

Members supported agreement of the action plan, subject to the change in the start and finish date from 2024 – 2026. Progress against the action plan would be reported at future meetings.

AGREED:

That the action plan be agreed, subject to ratification at the next meeting.

32 REFLECTIONS AT THE NEXT MEETING

Councillor Ashley Baxter volunteered to give reflections at the next meeting.

33 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 28 February 2024.

34 NASACRE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

This item was for information only.

The meeting closed at 3.53 pm