

Present: Councillor Mrs C A Talbot (Chairman)

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

Mrs L Gaylard (Ground Level Network), Mr F Sperring (Society of Friends), Mrs C Dring (Baptist Church), Professor B Winston (Lincolnshire Jewish Community), Mr A Hornsby (Methodist Church), Mrs S Sreenivasan (Hindu Community) and Mr C Burke (Roman Catholic)

The Church of England (Group B)

Mr D Clements and Mr D Scoffield

The Teachers Panel (Group C)

No representation from Group C.

Lincolnshire County Council (Group D)

Councillor C L Strange.

Officers/Advisers

Wendy Harrison (Religious Education Adviser) and Andrea Brown (Democratic Services Officer and Clerk to SACRE).

PRAYERS

Prayers were said by Mrs L Gaylard.

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Mrs Andrea Brown, Democratic Services Officer, who had been appointed as Clerk to SACRE.

31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr B Ahmed MBE (Islamic Association of Lincoln), Reverend E McDonald (United Reform Church), Mr N McFarlane (Salvation Army), Mrs J Sheldrake (Church of England), Mrs C A Williamson (Secondary Schools), Councillor Mrs C M H Farquharson (Lincolnshire County Council).

32. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2012

Minute number 20 regarding Lincoln Mosque, the Chairman noted that the visit by the RE Adviser and Chairman to Lincoln Mosque was yet to be arranged. Given the timescales, it was suggested that this be deferred until after the meeting of SACRE on 9 July 2013.

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Minute Number 23(c) – Involvement of Diocese of Lincoln in SACRE – suggested that the difficulties faced in communications with the Diocese be raised with the Archbishop of Canterbury in addition to inviting the Diocesan Director of Education to the next meeting. David Clements could not recall that contact with the Archbishop of Canterbury had been agreed and asked that this be noted in the minutes.

The Chairman took the opportunity to welcome Jackie Waters-Dewhurst, Diocesan Director of Education, to the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2012 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

33. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

(a) Personal Announcement from the Chairman

The Chairman advised that she was standing for re-election to the County Council in May but had decided, after being a Member of SACRE since 1997 and Chairman for the last ten years that she would not request to be part of the new SACRE, should she be re-elected. Having fought tirelessly to appoint an RE Adviser, constant engagement with OFSTED and the Secretary of State, etc, the Chairman felt it was time to move on, although saddened that she felt unable to continue. The Chairman thanked everyone for their support during the last 16 years and especially to those who supported her in her chairmanship of SACRE. It was time to pass the baton to someone else who would drive the issues forward. The Chairman continued to believe that RE plays an important role both in schools and the community and hoped there would be a better understanding amongst faith communities. Finally, the Chairman again thanked everyone for their support and wished all who chose to continue a very happy and successful future.

(b) "Making a Difference" Conference – 19 April 2013 (Hull)

The Chairman announced that an RE conference was to be held at the University of Hull and suggested that the Vice-Chairman, Mr Neville McFarlane, attend on behalf of SACRE. As Mr McFarlane had offered apologies to the meeting, it was agreed to contact him to offer the opportunity to attend. Should Mr McFarlane be unavailable at the time of the conference, Mrs Christina Dring would attend on behalf of SACRE.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk would make the necessary arrangements to ensure representation from the Lincolnshire SACRE was in attendance.

(c) NASACRE Annual General Meeting (AGM) – 23 May 2013 (Birmingham)

The Chairman announced that the Annual General Meeting of the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils (NASACRE) was to be held on 23 May 2013 in Birmingham. It was suggested that the Vice-Chairman, Mr Neville McFarlane, attend on behalf of SACRE. As previously mentioned, should Mr McFarlane be unavailable at the time of the conference, Mrs Christina Dring would attend on behalf of SACRE.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk would make the necessary arrangements to ensure representation from the Lincolnshire SACRE was in attendance.

(d) Contact Details

To ensure that the most current contact details were held for Members, a proforma had been circulated to those present for completion. This also included Members' preference on how to be contacted in the future.

(e) Letter from the Director of Strategy, Ofsted
(Minute 23(b), SACRE, 20 November 2012)

The Chairman apologised that the agreement made at the last meeting to send a letter in response to Richard Brooks had not yet been sent, despite being drafted by the RE Adviser, Wendy Harrison, and approved by the Chairman. The letter would be amended to reflect any changes and also the future role of SACRE before being forwarded to Mr Brooks.

RESOLVED

That the response to Richard Brook's letter be amended and sent as soon as possible.

At 2.13pm, Mr A Hornsby and Professor B Winston joined the meeting.

(f) RE Syllabus

Members were advised that copies of the RE Syllabus were now available to them and that they were available to collect at the end of the meeting.

David Clements noted that various sections of the Syllabus were available on the SACRE website and asked if the updated versions could be included. The Chairman confirmed that as this had now been circulated to schools it could be added.

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

The RE Adviser, Wendy Harrison, presented a report which summarised the inspectors' judgements on schools' provision for pupils' SMSC development in those schools inspected by OFSTED.

The grading system used was explained which confirmed that the Overall Effectiveness (OE) grade was driven by the pupils achievements in maths and English. This could lead to some confusion as, for example, schools may have a poor OE grade but achieve a "good" judgements for SMSC or vice versa.

Some inconsistencies in the reporting had been highlighted as some schools have no comments noted regarding SMSC and others have quite a detailed narrative. Comments were generally positive even in schools requiring improvement.

Reference was made to the previous practice of the Chairman sending a letter on behalf of SACRE to schools which had received an outstanding grade for SMSC from OFSTED. Given the changes in reporting under the new framework, it was agreed that it would be impossible to continue this practice.

Concern was expressed that OfSTED would only address issues if a school makes a complaint about their own particular report or the quality of it, therefore if a school received a good overall grade it was unlikely that any complaint would be made. It was suggested that schools needed to be monitored by Wendy Harrison, sometimes picking up comments from OfSTED reports, so that any issues could be addressed.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

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

The RE Adviser, Wendy Harrison, gave a verbal update explaining that no visits had been undertaken since the last meeting. Due to staff changes and limited administrative support, the ability to arrange the visits for last term have proved difficult. It was hoped that the visits would be reinstated next term.

In the meantime, Ms Harrison had started to compile the Annual Report for 2011/12 in addition to updating the schemes of work on the syllabus.

The working hours of the RE Adviser had been reduced to almost half but she was confident that she could actively pursue the visits now that the backlog of work had been caught up.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

36. ANNUAL SACRE REPORT 2010/11

The Annual SACRE Report 2010/11 had been sent out for information. Work was currently underway for the 2011/12 Annual Report, which was expected to be finalised at the beginning of the Autumn term.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

37. AGREED SYLLABUS REVIEW UPDATE

It was confirmed that the Syllabus had been issued to schools for their use. Wendy Harrison, RE Adviser, thanked the team at the Diocese, in particular Paul Thompson, for providing the picture for the front cover. A meeting between Wendy Harrison and Paul Thompson was to be arranged to decide how to use the pictures which had been sent in but not used in the AS. It was felt that the pictures, provided by local children, were lovely and reflected the wonderful work being done within RE in schools.

Two days of training was planned in the Summer Term regarding the syllabus for primary and secondary schools. Dates of the training were to be confirmed.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

38. SACRE ACTION PLAN

Introducing the report, the RE Adviser explained that the current action plan dates from 2010 to 2012. It was proposed, if appropriate, to dedicate some time at the next meeting to break into groups in order to formulate an action plan for the future. It was suggested that discussions commence at the next meeting with a workshop type session arranged for the subsequent meeting.

It was confirmed that Andy Breckon at CfBT had been contacted regarding Priority Item 4 – *to suggest that Acts of Collective Worship be an agenda item at Heads/Governors meetings* – but that his response was that this was something schools should be doing and therefore felt it was not necessary to include this on the agenda at that meeting. Although disappointed with the response, the RE Adviser, would mention this issue at her individual meetings with schools, reminding them of their statutory duty in this area.

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Unfortunately, no actual evidence was available due to visits not being undertaken. It was, therefore, difficult to report to CfBT to gain the support needed to rectify potential problems. It was stressed that sharper monitoring was required to be able to categorically state either way if statutory duties regarding Acts of Collective Worship were being met.

RESOLVED

1. That the action plan be noted.
2. That further discussion, regarding the inclusion in the action plan, of proactive roles for SACRE Members to visit schools, take place at the next meeting.

39. MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, DIOCESE OF LINCOLN
- FEEDBACK

The Chairman reported that a meeting had been held on 11th December 2012 between herself, the RE Adviser, Meredith Teasdale (Assistant Director Children's Services) and the Diocesan Director of Education, Jackie Waters-Dewhurst, who had explained the changes due to take place within the Diocese and the position of the Diocese in relation to SACRE:-

- Changes included monitoring standards in schools and, due to the pressure on their budget, the Diocese were unable to support two officers attending future meetings of SACRE.
- The function of the Diocese was not to support SACRE – this was the role of the Local Authority and it was noted that this was not peculiar to Lincoln but all Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education.
- The Diocese were content for David Clements to continue as a member of SACRE in the capacity of a Church of England representative within Group B.
- The Diocesan report, which was previously produced by Paul Thompson was believed to be based on the quarterly reports provided to the Board of the Diocese. It was possible that a summary of this might be made available for SACRE members.
- The relationship with SACRE was valued by the Diocese although it was acknowledged that further discussions were needed between the Diocese and the RE Adviser to clarify the partnership arrangements. Wendy Harrison confirmed that a meeting was in the process of being arranged but that diary pressures on both parties had made this difficult.
- The Diocese would work with all schools with no demarcation between church and maintained schools. They would also input into the SACRE Conference.
- It was hoped that an RE Adviser would be appointed to the Diocese in the future and it was intended that this person would work closely with the RE Adviser to SACRE.

- Should any additional reports or work be requested from the Diocese by SACRE in the future, a procurement process would be required to achieve this due to the limited resources available within the Diocese. The Chairman had expressed disappointment at this but acknowledged the workload at the Diocese and the competing budgets they were faced with.

The Chairman asked the Diocesan Director of Education if this précis was a correct reflection of the meeting. Ms Waters-Dewhurst confirmed that she felt this was a fair update before explaining further the position of the Diocese.

It was reported that the Diocese had an absolute belief in the work undertaken by SACRE and were committed to continued partnership working.

Two main duties of the Diocese were the duty of care to their officers and the ability to manage the amount of time and resources spent on the work of the Diocese. In order to balance these duties, a decision was made in regard to the relationship with SACRE. It had been decided that partnership working, commitment of officer time and resource could continue but they could not undertake additional tasks and produce reports when these roles were the statutory duty of the Local Authority or the role of SACRE. All Dioceses have seen an increase in the work they do with workloads rising to a reportedly unrecognisable extent.

Although previous reports received had been information which had been cut and pasted from other reports, the Diocesan Director of Education confirmed that they could not justify the time of officers to do this, especially as the officer time and budgets are stretched to the limit already. She did, however, advise that she would be happy for the reports from which this information came, to be forwarded to the RE Adviser to SACRE, who could extract the salient points relevant to SACRE.

An update in respect of the RE Adviser role within the Diocese, it was noted that one more attempt would be made to create a full-time post.

In conclusion, Ms Waters-Dewhurst explained that the Diocese hoped to work closely with the RE Adviser to SACRE in the future and that the explanation provided would be understood and accepted by Members.

RESOLVED

1. That feedback from the meeting with the Diocesan Director of Education be noted.
2. That details of the Clerk to SACRE be provided to the Diocese in order for them to forward the relevant Board reports to the RE Adviser to SACRE.

40. DIOCESE OF LINCOLN REPORT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Further to the discussions held at minute number 39, above, it was acknowledged that there would be no report for consideration. However, a copy of the Diocese Spring RE News would be circulated at the end of the meeting.

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41. SUMMARY OF SECTION 48 INSPECTIONS IN LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS

David Clements, Diocesan Schools Adviser, presented a report on Section 5 (OfSTED) and Section 48 (SIAS) Inspection Grades for consideration. He noted that this was a report of the Diocese and so included schools within North Lincolnshire also.

It was confirmed that there had been no Section 48 Inspections undertaken this term. The report also contained comparison details of previous grades alongside the new grades.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

42. SACRE NEWS SPRING 2013 – NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SACRE (NASACRE)

The Chairman introduced this item which had been circulated to Members for their information only.

RESOLVED

That the Newsletter be received.

43. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of SACRE would take place on Thursday 9th July 2013 at 2.00pm.

Mrs C Dring agreed to say prayers before the start of the meeting on 9 July 2013.

Chris Burke proposed a vote of thanks for the Chairman her work and commitment to SACRE. The proposal was seconded by Professor Winston and unanimously agreed by all by way of a round of applause.

The Chairman again gave thanks and wished everyone well for the future.

The meeting closed at 3.19pm