



**LINCOLNSHIRE SACRE ANNUAL REPORT
2017 – 2018**

DRAFT

Introduction from the Chair

SACRE has continued to monitor and support the provision of Religious Education and collective worship in Lincolnshire. There were a few changes of membership as personal circumstances led to the departure of some long serving and valuable members, but we have been strengthened by their replacements who quickly had an impact on our work. We continue to value the tireless efforts of our Adviser, Wendy Harrison, and the co-operation and support of both Local Authority officers and the Diocesan authorities. The increase in schools beyond Local Authority governance with academy or free school status has diminished SACRE's direct contact with them. Nevertheless we continue to offer support and many of them continue to use the Local Agreed Syllabus.

SACRE continues to receive regularly from the Adviser invaluable briefings about the SMSC aspects of Ofsted's reports on all Lincolnshire schools. As a consequence we have sent congratulatory letters to a number of schools, together with offers of support where the reports have indicated a weakness. A major part of SACRE's work this year has been to promote the statutory five-year review of the Local Agreed Syllabus. I salute the members of the Syllabus Conference and the Teachers' Panel whose industrious efforts enabled us to present the revised Syllabus, together with some introductory training resources for teachers, in time for the new school year. We trust that this Syllabus will continue to be a sound foundation for the work of preparing our young people for life in a diverse and multicultural world.

On a personal note I need to say that this will be my last Annual Report. After more than two decades as a member of SACRE, including five years as Chairman, I have concluded that it is an appropriate time to step down and pass the baton on to others. I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to Wendy, our Adviser, and to all the SACRE members, past and present with whom it has been a pleasure to share this work.

Neville W McFarlane
Chairman of Lincolnshire SACRE

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1: Background

The Education Reform Act (1988) established compulsory Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACRE). The main function of a SACRE is to advise the Local Authority (LA) on matters connected with RE and collective worship. SACREs also oversee the five-yearly revision of the locally agreed syllabus for Religious Education (RE) and consider any complaints about the provision and delivery of RE and collective worship referred to it by the LA.

The membership of SACREs comprises four groups, together with nominated Advisers. The groups are:

Committee A: Christian denominations and other religions and religious denominations

Committee B: The Church of England

Committee C: Teachers' Associations

Committee D: The Local Authority.

[See Appendix, p. for details of Lincolnshire SACRE membership.]

2: Meetings and Membership

Lincolnshire SACRE met twice during 2017/18 – in November 2017 and July 2018. The meeting planned for March 2018 was cancelled due to the large number of apologies. Business was carried forward to the July meeting.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

In accordance with the procedures for election of the Chairman detailed in SACRE's constitution it was moved and seconded and resolved that

- Neville McFarlane be elected as Chairman of SACRE for the ensuing year 2017/18.
- Chris Burke be elected as Vice-Chairman for 2017/18.

During the November meeting the Chairman welcomed Peter Crosby (Baptist Church-Committee A), Kay Sutherland (teachers' group – Committee C) and Cllr M A Whittington (LCC – Committee D) as new SACRE members. Mark Plater, who has been attending SACRE for some years as an observer, was welcomed onto Committee B (Church of England).

SACRE welcomed Jack Dryden, representing Humanists UK, to the July meeting. The Chairman stated that this was an opportunity for members to decide whether it wished to accept him as a co-opted member. Jack gave a brief talk to explain something about his background and what he thought he could contribute to the group and invited questions from members. A range of questions were put forward after which SACRE agreed unanimously to appoint Jack as a co-opted member.

Other membership issues

The East Midlands Synod of the United Reform Church was approached to fill the remaining vacancy on Committee A but did not respond. The vacancy therefore still exists.

3: SACRE agenda items

3.1: Summary of OFSTED Inspections of Lincolnshire Schools with reference to the provision for Pupil's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Comments are overwhelmingly positive, even when schools are placed into a category by Ofsted.

Examples of positive comments from reports

'Leaders promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, including their physical well-being, exceptionally well and this is a strength of the school...'

[CE Primary Academy]

'The school and staff work tirelessly to support pupils in their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and in their understanding of fundamental British values.'

[Special School]

'The school's work to promote the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and to teach them about British values is a cornerstone of the school's ethos.'

[Primary school]

Occasionally areas are identified for improvement, for example:

- The curriculum does not promote multi-cultural understanding strongly.
- Opportunities for pupils to explore other cultures are limited.

Members noted that the comments made by inspectors regarding SMSC development were inconsistent in quality and quantity. This needed to be monitored and if necessary brought to the attention of OFSTED.

Letters of Commendation sent by the Chairman to the following schools during the year:

Baston CE Primary School
Bourne Elsea Park CE Primary Academy
Louth Eastfield Infants' & Nursery School
Morton Trentside Primary School
North Cotes CE Primary School
Rauceby CE Primary School
St Peter and St Paul Catholic Voluntary Academy
Swineshead St Mary's CE Primary School
The Barnes Wallace Academy
The Old Leake Primary & Nursery School
Waddington Primary school
Waddington Redwood Primary School
Boston Grammar School
Caistor Yarborough Academy

Ambergate Sports College
The Ash Villa School

3.2: School visits made by LA RE Adviser

Schools identified for support through regular SMSC analysis (see above) were offered support for RE, SMSC and British values from the LA RE Adviser.

3.3: Visiting speakers - Thomas Middlecote Academy, Kirton

SACRE received a presentation from Ruth Baldwin, Head of Year 11 and Teacher of Religious Studies and Careers Co-Ordinator at the Thomas Middlecote Academy, Kirton, about the teaching of Religious Education in her school. Following the presentation Ruth responded to comments and questions from members.

3.4: Review of the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus

Previous to the November meeting, a draft of the new agreed syllabus was circulated to all members to check for accuracy. An Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) had been set up to prepare and approve the final draft before it was approved by the County Council's Executive. Training would be provided by the LA RE Adviser and Diocesan RE Adviser to help schools implement the new syllabus. During the November meeting there was some discussion about the omission of Judaism as a compulsory unit. It was confirmed that this religion could still be studied as one of the new 'additional units'. Islam had been included as a compulsory unit (along with Christianity and Hinduism) because the ASC considered it to be vitally important that Lincolnshire pupils were well informed about a religion that is so often misrepresented, e.g. by the media. Hinduism had been included to provide a representation of a dharmic faith. The Chairman stated that there would be an opportunity to review the new syllabus once it had been established in schools.

During the July meeting the Chairman informed SACRE that the new Agreed Syllabus had been completed, approved by the County Council's Executive and delivered to all schools. Training to support the implementation of the syllabus had been well attended and schools which had not attended were followed up. The Chairman thanked the members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference, especially Wendy Harrison (LA Adviser), Gillian Georgiou (Diocesan Adviser) and Jill Chandar-Nair for all their hard work.

3.5: National reports: Updates from the LA RE Adviser, Wendy Harrison (WH)

The State of the Nation: A report on RE provision within secondary schools in England - REC/NATRE/RE Today¹

WH explained that the report showed differences in the provision of RE in different types of secondary schools. Overall, research shows provision is best in schools **with** a religious character and is least effective in academies. In many schools students are not receiving the education, in terms of RE, to which they are entitled. WH stated that in the past OFSTED reported on individual subjects, but as this was no longer the case it was difficult to be clear about provision. The point was made that some of the recommendations in the report were very generic and some were just impractical. There were no

¹ <https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/resources/documents/state-of-the-nation-report-on-re-provision/>

recommendations for local authorities. It remained to be seen how the findings of the report could be translated into action.

Commission on RE: Interim report²

WH outlined the four interim recommendations in the report: a national entitlement for RE; holding schools to account for the provision of RE; the preparation of a national plan to improve the teaching and learning of RE and a new and extended role for SACREs. She briefly outlined the implications of each recommendation, providing details about the proposed new role for SACREs. She also referred to the right of withdrawal. It was a complex issue as it involved Human Rights legislation and a national entitlement that was not unduly influenced by particular faith groups.

Comments by members and the responses by officers, where appropriate, included:

- The lack of reliable information about the withdrawal of pupils from RE in Lincolnshire. Officers were aware of cases where parents had withdrawn their children from certain parts of the RE curriculum.
- Members were encouraged to engage with the Commission and submit responses.

3.6: NASACRE Annual Conference 2018

SACRE received a report from Mark Plater on his attendance at the NASACRE Annual Conference. He responded to comments and questions as follows:

- It would be useful for whoever attended future AGMs to take examples of activities carried out by Lincolnshire SACRE.
- Responses from panel members to the idea of a national curriculum for RE had been mixed.

4: Diocese news/events

During the November meeting SACRE received a report from Gillian Georgiou in which she outlined the work being done to increase religious literacy in schools and academies in the Diocese through the nationally-accredited training for the Understanding Christianity resource. Since September 2016, a large number of church and community schools around the Diocese of Lincoln have engaged with this training, led by Gillian. This training provides teachers and subject leaders with subject confidence in teaching the core concepts at the heart of the Christian narrative, as well as practical tools for ensuring pupils develop their religious literacy in relation to Christian beliefs and practices.

During the July meeting members were informed that the new Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus had been uploaded onto the Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education website.

4.1: Religious Education Quality Mark

During 2017-18 the following schools achieved the REQM:

- The West Grantham Academy St Hugh's - Silver
- St Peter at Gowts Church of England Primary School: Silver
- Lisle Marsden Church of England Primary Academy, Grimsby: Gold

² <https://www.commissiononre.org.uk/religious-education-for-all-commission-interim-report/>

4.2: Good practice in church schools

Ellison Boulsters Church of England Primary Academy

Pupils were provided with the opportunity to explore different faiths as part of an inter-faith exhibition. They were very excited to get involved, commenting that, 'lots of religions have similar values' and 'I don't think the religions are the same because they all have something unique'.

Lisle Marsden Church of England Primary Academy,

Ann-Marie Wilson, RE subject leader at the school writes about a recent visit provided by the Muslim Learner Services:

'On 16th January Imran Kotwyal visited our school to help teach the year 3 and 4 children as part of their RE work on Islam. Imran's assembly was engaging and interactive and the children from years 3 and 4 left the hall feeling excited for their workshops. After the children left for the day it was the staff's turn, as Imran led staff training on Islam, the five pillars and six articles of faith as well as educating us on how to dispel many of the myths we may read about Islam in the press. Imran was an asset to our school for the day, he was able to engage the pupils in understanding his faith and left staff wishing that meetings after school went on for longer! We look forward to welcoming to our school again in the future.'

Bourne Elsea Park and Bourne Abbey Church of England Academies

Both have been recognised as Rights Respecting Schools by UNICEF, with Bourne Elsea Park being awarded a Level 2 UNICEF UK Rights Respecting School award. The glowing report highlights the fact that 'it was particularly impressive to discover the extent to which the school's senior leaders and Governors have integrated the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) with the school's Christian ethos and vision and are able to confidently articulate this.'

Bishop King Day 2018

On the 8th March 2018, pupils and staff at Bishop King Church of England Primary School celebrated their namesake, Bishop Edward King (1829-1910). The current Bishop of Grimsby, Bishop David, visited the school to meet with pupils and share his experiences of serving as a Bishop in the Church of England. Nicki Knapp, the RE subject leader, writes that pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and their meeting with Bishop David: 'I enjoyed meeting Bishop David because he is very special and he wore one of our mitres.' (Monika, Year 3) and, 'We celebrated Bishop King day because we want to remember how important he is to our school and that he was known as the most loved in Lincoln.' (Scarlet, Year 4)

Coningsby St Michael's Church of England Primary School

On Friday 18th May, pupils spent the day exploring Pentecost. The day started with a fire in the school mystical garden. Every class visited the fire pit which was the perfect setting for them to hear the story of Pentecost. The afternoon was then spent exploring the concepts of the Holy Spirit, the Trinity and Pentecost in a wide variety of ways. The Reception children made fiery headbands and used these to role play the story in their outdoor learning area. Year 1 created some symbols of the Holy Spirit and Years 2 and 5 spent time exploring the idea of the Holy Spirit as a guiding voice by playing trust games as a class. Year 6 produced some artwork to represent what they had understood from the day and were able to talk about their images displaying the "power, peace and excitement" that the Holy Spirit brought to the early

church. In Year 4, the children explored the fruits of the Holy Spirit, thinking about the changes that the Holy Spirit is said to bring to those who receive it and in Year 3 the children made twirlers that moved in the wind reminding them that Christians believe the Holy Spirit can be felt but not seen.

5. 2018 Examination results

5.1: National overview from the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE)³

The number of pupils in England and Wales taking GCSE Religious Studies full course has fallen for the second year in a row, down 10.4% against 2017 to 241,749. In addition, the number of pupils in England and Wales taking the short course GCSE in Religious Studies has fallen even more sharply, down 35.8% from last year to 34,087. The decline is greater in England than in Wales. In England the number of entries for GCSE Religious Studies full course has fallen by 10.7% to 229,189. In Wales the equivalent figures are down by 4.2% to 12,560, although these come after last year's record high.

All schools, including academies, have a legal requirement to offer RE at all key stages, but figures suggest that this is not sufficient to ensure that all pupils in England get to study the subject at Key Stage 4. In too many cases, there are no consequences for those schools that decide to flout their legal obligation, with RE not featuring in measures such as the EBacc that are used to hold them to account.

The fall in entries comes despite pupils emphasising how much they value and enjoy studying RE (underlined by the overall rise in entries at A-Level and GCSE over the past decade) and despite the fact that the government is rightly emphasising the importance for young people to have knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs.

It has been encouraging to hear that Ofsted intend to pay closer attention to whether schools are meeting their requirements to teach Religious Education. Today's figures show how important it will be for Ofsted to do this.

The key outcomes for Religious Education in England and Wales at KS4 in 2018 are as follows:

- There were 241,749 entries for the full course in GCSE RS, **a fall of 10.4%** from 2017 (269,839)
- There were 34,087 entries for the short course in GCSE RS, **a decline of 35.8%** from 2017 (53,071)
- There were 275,836 entries for GCSE RS (combined short and full courses), **a decline of 14.6%** from 2017 (322,910). Entries for GCSE RS (combined short and full courses) peaked in 2011 at 461,795. Today's figures show a decline in entries of 40.3% in seven years with 186,000 fewer pupils achieving a qualification in RS at the end of KS4.

³ <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/religious-studies-a-level-entries-decline-by-22-8-as-the-subject-is-squeezed-out-of-the-curriculum/>

5.2: The new grading system

This new scale is aligned to key grades on the current A* to G scale. Grades 9, 8 and 7 are broadly equivalent to an A* and A. Grades 6, 5 and 4 are in line with B and C grades. A grade 4 is broadly equivalent to a C grade. A grade 3 would be broadly similar to a D grade, with 2 and 1 taking in grades E, F and G. There is still a U - ungraded - mark.

Grade 4 will be known as a 'standard pass'. Grade 5 will be known as a 'strong pass' and will be equivalent to a high C and low B on the old grading system.

5.3: Examination results for Lincolnshire 2018

GCSE Full Course

Number of entries: 2245 (1319 girls, 926 boys) compared to 3020 in 2017

Some data is presented as 'reformed', some (most) as 'unreformed'. To avoid confusion, just the reformed data is presented here.

	National 2018 %	Lincolnshire 2018 %		
9-5				
All	60.4	65.0		
Girls	68.6	75.0		
Boys	50.8	50.0		
9-4				
All	71.9	77.0		
Girls	79.0	86.0		
Boys	63.5	65.0		

This shows that overall, schools are performing above the national average but girls are significantly out-performing boys. Remember, far more girls are entered for the examination.

Schools achieving above national average at 9-5

1. Bourne Academy: 75%
2. Bourne Grammar: 77.5%
3. Branston Community Academy: 62.5%
4. Caistor Grammar School: 89.5%
5. Gainsborough The Queen Elizabeth's High School: 98.5%
6. Grantham and Kesteven & Grantham Girls' School: 97%
7. Horncastle Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School: 80%
8. Kesteven & Sleaford High School Selective Academy: 93%
9. Lincoln Christ's Hospital: 79%

10. Lincoln The Priory Academy LSST: 100% (9 entries)
11. Lincoln The Priory City of Lincoln Academy: 75%
12. North Hykeham Sir Robert Pattinson Academy: 79%
13. Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School Alford: 76.5%
14. Skegness Academy: 65% (Girls: 86%, Boys: 44%)
15. Skegness Grammar School: 90%
16. Sleaford Carre's Grammar: 89%
17. Spalding High School: 99%
18. St George's Academy: 68.5%
19. St Peter & St Paul, Catholic Voluntary Academy: 31% (Girls: 45%, Boys: 17%)
20. The Deepings School: 65.5%
21. Thomas Cowley High School: 40% (7 entries, Girls: 40%, Boys 0%)
22. Thomas Middlecott Academy: 61.5% (Girls: 78%, Boys: 45%)
23. Walton Girls' High & 6th Form: 93%
24. William Farr CE Comprehensive School: 75.5%
25. William Lovell CE Academy: 71% (Girls: 71%, Boys: 0% - 1 entry)

Short course

Due to the potential for confusion, data is omitted in this report but it will be included in the 2018-19 report.

A and AS Level

From NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education)

It is concerning to see a significant drop in the number of young people taking Religious Studies at A level in England and Wales. The drop in RS entries by 22.8% is disappointing given that the subject's popularity has grown in recent years. Despite this reduction in entries for RS, there are still 65% more entries than in 2003 (11,132 entries were recorded in 2003).

The key outcomes of the 2018 A level results in England and Wales for Religious Education are as follows:

- 18,422 RS **A level** entries were recorded, a decrease of 22.8% on 2017.
- There were 6,024 entries for RS at **AS level**, a decrease of 63% on 2017 – may be partly because AS level grades no longer count towards A levels under the linear scheme.
- 22.4% of entries for RS A level were awarded an A or an A* with 4.6% of RS entries awarded the top A* grade.

	Lincolnshire 2018 %	Lincolnshire 2017 %		
A level	A*-C	A*-C		
All	80%	82%		
AS level				
All	74%	69%		

Appendix

Membership of SACRE 2016-17

Committee A: Christian and Other Religious Denominations

Neville McFarlane BEM, Chairman, Salvation Army
Chris Burke, Roman Catholic Church
Christina Dring, Baptist Church
Lynette Gaylard, Ground Level Network of Churches in Lincolnshire
Andrew Hornsby, Methodist Church
Swathi Sreenivasan, Hindu Community
Dr Tanweer Ahmed MBA, Islamic Association of Lincoln
Chris Rose, Society of Friends

Committee B: Church of England

David Clements
Cherry Edwards OBE
David Scoffield

Committee C: Associations Representing Teachers

Catherine Williamson, NAS/UWT
Elizabeth Moore, NAS/UWT
Kay Sutherland, NAHT
Sarah Thornton, NUT

Committee D: The LA

Cllr Mrs J Brockway
Cllr Mrs E J Sneath
Cllr C L Strange

Officers/Advisers in attendance

Steve Blagg, Clerk to SACRE
Jill Chandar-Nair (Inclusion and Attendance Manager, Lincolnshire County Council)
Gillian Georgiou (Diocesan RE Adviser and Lincoln Cathedral Schools Officer)
Wendy Harrison (RE Adviser, LA)
Mark Plater (Bishop Grosseteste University)