

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
6 JULY 2021**

PRESENT:

Christian Denominations and Other Religious Denominations (Committee A)

Chris Burke (Chairman) (Roman Catholic Church), Peter Crosby (Baptist Church), Andrew Hornsby (Methodist Church), Swathi Sreenivasan (Hindu Community), Dr Tanweer Ahmed MBA (Islamic Association of Lincoln), Dr Amanda Grant (Jewish Community), Claire Simons (Salvation Army) and Sian Wade (Assemblies of God Pentecostal)

The Church of England (Committee B)

Lynsey Norris

Associations Representing Teachers (Committee C)

Jennifer King (NAS/UWT), Chris Thompson (NEU) and Jayne Watson (NAHT)

The Local Authority (Committee D)

Councillor Bob Adams, Councillor Mrs Jacqueline Brockway and Councillor Mark Anthony Whittington

Co-opted Member

Officer/Advisers

Observer

1 OPENING REFLECTIONS

Reflections were given by Lynsey Norris.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/MEMBER CHANGES

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Apologies for absence were received from Elizabeth Moore (NAHT).

3 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF SACRE HELD ON 23 MARCH 2021

Dr Tanweer Ahmed MBA took the opportunity to advise the Committee that this would be his last attendance at SACRE due to his occupational commitments. He nominated his colleague as a replacement. The Chairman thanked Dr Ahmed for his service to the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd March 2021 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE CHAIRMAN (IF ANY)

The Chairman advised that he had not received any correspondence since the previous meeting.

6 OFSTED RESEARCH REVIEW OF RE

The Chairman invited Gill Georgiou, Diocesan RE Advisor, to present the findings of the research review undertaken by Ofsted to the committee.

Ms Georgiou explained that a research review was undertaken by Ofsted which sought to establish a view as to what a good quality education may look like across different curriculum subjects. The review into RE was led by Dr Richard Quay, Ofsted lead for RE, and was published in May 2021. Following this review, Ofsted inspectors intended to visit schools to assess the teaching practices across all subjects, including RE. Ofsted were later expected to publish their findings from this review. While not being a categorical checklist, the review would offer schools an overview of what could typically be expected of them. The delivery of RE should focus on academic knowledge in the form of substantive, disciplinary and personal knowledge.

Ms Harrison noted that RE advisors should be credited that, for the past 18 months, the training and documentation schools received by schools from RE advisors that had included substantive and disciplinary knowledge as detailed within the findings.

Appreciating the expanse and depth of religions and faiths, the Committee registered their concern that some beliefs couldn't be given the time necessary to properly grasp the matters. In addition, they felt it was important that RE teachers had contextual knowledge of the lifestyles that accompany faiths and beliefs. Ms Georgiou explained that resources were shared with RE teachers that offered contextual lived in knowledge of the experiences of faiths and religious. This was of particular benefit to those who wouldn't be able to access those experiences personally.

The Committee asked what enforcement measures were in place to ensure adherence to the allocated RE teaching time. Ms Georgiou explained that approximately one hour a week was allocated from key stage one onward. Local authority maintained schools' RE education was held

accountable by Ofsted. If the provision of RE was significantly below one hour a week, Ofsted would enquire how students could build appropriate knowledge which such an inadequate offering. Accountability for academies' RE provision fell within the schools' funding agreement, responsibility for ensuring this fell to the ESFA.

RESOLVED

That the Ofsted review of be received and the comments made noted.

7 DIOCESAN UPDATE

The Chairman invited Gill Georgiou, Diocesan RE Advisor, to update the Committee on the delivery of Diocesan education.

Ms Georgiou explained that training and support continued to be delivered virtually; she felt that virtual delivery allowed for a greater volume of training. Church of England and Methodist were also now supported by Ms Georgiou to help prepare for their Church School inspection.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

8 NASACRE REPORT INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY FUNDING FOR SACRES

The Chairman invited Wendy Harrison, RE Advisor, to present the report to the Committee.

Ms Harrison explained that in recent months NASACRE put out a FOI (freedom of Information) request to all local authorities to confirm how their SACREs were funded. She advised that funding to local authorities had been reduced for a period of time, resulting in funding to SACREs also decreasing. A survey carried out in 2017 revealed that a reduction in funding then resulted in many SACREs being unable to carry out their statutory duties. The NASACRE report found that, despite widespread funding, many SACREs continued to meet regularly. While Lincolnshire County Council weren't the lowest funded SACRE, funding hadn't increased in a number of years.

The Committee appreciated that local authority education funding was restricted anyway, so pressure for additional support wouldn't necessarily be appropriate, particularly when other subjects didn't have an advisory body to support them. Ms Harrison understood budgetary reductions were common place at the moment but stated that SACRE was a statutory body responsible for a locally agreed syllabus. Its support differed to subjects which sat within the national curriculum.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

9 HINDUISM IN SCHOOLS

The Chairman invited Wendy Harrison, RE Advisor, to advise the Committee on a recent report into Hinduism in Schools.

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Ms Harrison explained that a report was published by 'InsightUK' which detailed disquiet with how Hinduism was taught within schools in the UK. The evidence to support this wasn't necessarily conclusive; however, it was considered that the Committee's attention should be drawn to it for reference.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

10 UPDATE ON WORK IN SCHOOLS

The Chairman invited Wendy Harrison, RE Advisor, to update the Committee on her recent work within schools.

Ms Harrison advised that that training and support continued to be delivered virtually but she had been requested recently to visit a school in person. She felt that support for this would increase later on in the year.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

11 NASACRE CONFERENCE

The Chairman invited Wendy Harrison, RE Advisor, on this year's NASACRE conference.

Ms Harrison advised that nobody was available to attend this year's NASACRE Conference, however the summary of the conference could be found on the NASACRE website.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

12 REFLECTIONS AT THE NEXT MEETING

Jennifer King volunteered to do the reflections at the next meeting.

13 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 23 November 2021 at 2.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at Time Not Specified