

County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

30 November 2021

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

A meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education will be held on **Wednesday, 8 December 2021** in the **Council Chamber, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL** at **2.00 pm** for the transaction of business set out on the attached Agenda.

Yours sincerely



Debbie Barnes OBE
Chief Executive

Membership of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Christian and Other Religious Denominations (Committee "A" up to 10 members)

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

Church of England (Committee "B" up to 4 members)

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

Associations Representing Teachers (Committee "C" up to 4 members)

Jennifer King, NAS/UWT
Elizabeth Moore, NAHT
Chris Thompson, NEU
Jayne Watson, NAHT

Lincolnshire County Council (Committee "D" up to 4 members)

Councillors A J Baxter, Mrs J Brockway and M A Whittington

Co-opted Member

Jack Dryden, Humanist

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2021**

| Item | Title | Report Reference |
|-------------|--|-------------------------|
| 1 | Opening Reflections <i>(Opening reflections by Jennifer King, NASUWT)</i> | |
| 2 | Election of Chairman | |
| 3 | Election of Vice-Chairman | |
| 4 | Apologies for Absence/Member Changes | |
| 5 | Declarations of Members' Interests | |
| 6 | Minutes of the Previous Meeting of SACRE held on 6 July 2021 | (Pages 5 - 8) |
| 7 | Correspondence received by the Chairman (if any) | |
| 8 | Feedback from RE Survey and Examination Time Allocation <i>(To receive a presentation by Wendy Harrison, RE Adviser, which outlines feedback from the RE Survey and the examination time allocation as part of the analysis of information from NATRE)</i> | |
| 9 | Ofsted Update <i>(To receive a presentation by Wendy Harrison, RE Adviser, which provides an update on Ofsted)</i> | |
| 10 | Update on the work with schools and CPD <i>(To receive a presentation from Wendy Harrison, RE Adviser, which provides an update on work with schools and continuing professional development)</i> | |
| 11 | Diocesan Update <i>(To receive a report by Gillian Georgiou, Diocesan RE Adviser, which provides an update on her work with schools)</i> | (Pages 9- 10) |
| 12 | Reflections at the next meeting <i>(A volunteer is sought to undertake reflections at the next meeting)</i> | |
| 13 | Date and time of the next meeting <i>(The next meeting is scheduled to take place at 2pm on 22nd March 2022 at William Farr School, Lincoln Road, Welton, LN2 3JB)</i> | |

Democratic Services Officer Contact Details

Name: **Emily Wilcox**
Direct Dial **07557 486687**
E Mail Address emily.wilcox@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Please Note: for more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details set out above.

Please note: This meeting will be broadcast live on the internet and access can be sought by accessing [Agenda for Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education on Wednesday, 8th December, 2021, 2.00 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

All papers for council meetings are available on:
<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business/search-committee-records>



**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

Officer/Advisers

Robert Close (Democratic Services Officer), Gill Georgiou (Diocesan RE Adviser) and Wendy Harrison (RE Adviser)

1 OPENING REFLECTIONS

Reflections were given by Lynsey Norris.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/MEMBER CHANGES

Apologies for absence were received from Elizabeth Moore (NAHT). Jill Chandar Nair, Cherry Edwards

3 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

6 JULY 2021

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 Adviser, to present the findings of the research review undertaken by Ofsted to the committee.

Ms Georgiou explained that research reviews had been undertaken by Ofsted which have 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 Kueh, Ofsted lead for RE, and was published in May 2021. Following these reviews, Ofsted inspectors intends to visit schools to assess teaching and learning across all subjects, including RE. While not being a categorical checklist, the review offers schools an overview of what could typically be expected of them in terms of high quality religious education. For example, the delivery of RE should focus on substantive, disciplinary and personal knowledge.

Ms Harrison noted that in Lincolnshire, for the past 18 months, the training and documentation schools received by schools from her and GG 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 learn in depth. 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' experiences of faiths and religions. 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 the recommended time was approximately one hour a week from key stage one onwards. In Local Authority maintained schools RE 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 within the time allocated. Accountability for provision within academies RE falls within the schools' funding agreement and responsibility for ensuring this falls to the ESFA. However, compliance would still be inspected by Ofsted.

RESOLVED

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

7 DIOCESAN UPDATE

The Chairman invited Gill Georgiou, Diocesan RE Adviser, 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 schools continued to be supported by Ms Georgiou to help prepare for their Church School inspection (SIAMS).

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 NASACRE recently put out a FOI (freedom of Information) request to all Local Authorities to explain how their SACREs were funded. She advised that funding to Local Authorities had been reduced for some time and this had resulted in some SACREs being under-funded. A survey carried out in 2017 revealed that a reduction in funding had then resulted in many SACREs being unable to carry out their statutory duties. The 2021 NASACRE report found that, despite widespread under funding plus having to deal with Covid, many SACREs had continued to meet regularly. While Lincolnshire County Council has maintained the same level of funding for some years, the amount has not increased to meet needs. The NASACRE report quotes government guidance which says that SACRE funding should come from the CSSB (Central Schools Services Block). Funding for Lincolnshire SACRE does not come from this source. The Chairman will seek further information on this matter. It was noted that the 5 year review of the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus would have to begin in summer 2022. It was not anticipated that any major changes would be necessary but some amendments and additions would need to be made in order to bring the document up to date and to respond to teachers' needs. The 2022-23 budget would have to take this into account.

The Committee appreciated that Local Authority funding for education was restricted overall, , so pressure for additional support would not necessarily be appropriate, particularly when other curriculum subjects did not have an advisory body to support them. Ms Harrison understood budgetary reductions were commonplace but stated that SACRE was a statutory body with specific responsibilities, including the locally agreed syllabus. Religious education differs from other subjects which sit within the national curriculum and receive support in different ways.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

9 HINDUISM IN SCHOOLS

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6 JULY 2021

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

Ms Harrison explained that a report was published by 'InsightUK' which detailed disquiet with how Hinduism was taught within some schools in the UK. While the report raises some important points, the evidence base sometimes lacks rigor. However, it was considered that the Committee's attention should be drawn to it for reference, especially as Hinduism is a compulsory part of the agreed syllabus..

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

10 UPDATE ON WORK IN SCHOOLS

The Chairman invited Wendy Harrison, RE Adviser, 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 schools in person. She felt that this would increase later on in the year as restrictions regarding COVID were eased.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

11 NASACRE CONFERENCE

The Chairman invited Wendy Harrison, RE Adviser, to update members about ~~on~~ this year's NASACRE conference.

Ms Harrison advised that nobody from Lincolnshire SACRE had been able to attend this year's NASACRE Conference. However, a summary of the conference could be found on the NASACRE website.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

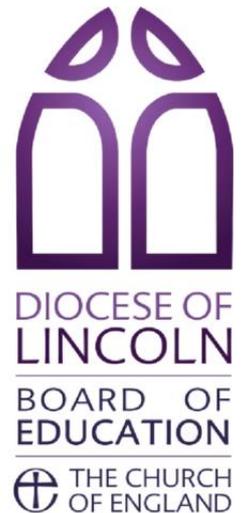
12 REFLECTIONS AT THE NEXT MEETING

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 3:05 p.m.



Autumn Term 2021

Diocesan RE Adviser Report

This term has been characterised by a return to inspections, both Ofsted and SIAMS. A large proportion of the support offered has been focused on helping RE subject leaders prepare for inspection. A variety of different training sessions have been provided to schools and academies across the region, including sessions on subject knowledge, curriculum design, subject leadership and assessing pupil progress in RE. This term has also focused on communicating the information contained in the Ofsted RE Research Review, published in May 2021, with a key focus on the different types of knowledge that might reasonably be expected to be developed in an effective RE curriculum.

Over the summer period, I updated the [assessment guidance](#) on our website, as well as updating the teaching and learning suggestions used by some schools to help them deliver a curriculum based on the Lincolnshire agreed syllabus. I will be implementing an action research project from spring term to try out a range of different approaches to assessing progress in relation to disciplinary knowledge in RE.

As a SIAMS adviser, a key part of my role is also to support church schools to prepare for SIAMS inspections (under Section 48). I am also coming to the end of my own training as a SIAMS inspector and will begin inspections in spring or summer term (assuming I complete the programme successfully!).

Gillian Georgiou

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