

# Lincolnshire Annual Report 2019-20



Visit to Lincoln Mosque by SACRE Members

## From the Chair

### Introduction from the Chairman Cllr Chris Burke MBA.



To begin with I would like to put on record my deep appreciation for all of those who have kept our education system in Lincolnshire running as 2019 became 2020.

I was honoured to be elected Chair of SACRE in 2018 during my last month in office as Mayor of Lincoln in my second period serving on the

SACRE Board. We are an active SACRE. We are making a significant contribution to RE thinking in Lincolnshire and at a national level through NASACRE and our regional relationships facilitated so effectively by Wendy Harrison, the LA Religious Education Adviser. Wendy has also provided that vital level of professional knowledge and action central to our operation. Our Diocesan relationship with the Church of England has also been crucial and the excellent support and advice and guidance from the Diocesan RE Adviser, Gillian Georgiou, has been invaluable. Jill Chandar-Nair has provided the very important links with the LA and County Council structure and line management so important to our medium term and strategic activities. Steve Blagg has provided brilliant officer support and advice. Our SACRE members are active and engaged and largely represent the communities of schools and faiths we are there to serve.

It has been a challenging second term for me given it included the now notorious year 2020 but I have felt very supported by our officers, Vice Chair Cherry Edwards OBE and our members. I am pleased that we adapted quickly to the pandemic moving to virtual meetings which, as Wendy has remarked elsewhere, actually witnessed an increase in attendance. I was keen to increase our membership and involvement in faith groups so was pleased to welcome new representatives from, among others, the Pentecostal Community. I was also able to talk to St Thérèse of Lisieux Catholic Multi Academy Trust via a civic visit. Part of the Diocese of Nottingham, they are a communion of 16 Catholic academies, across Lincolnshire and Rutland, comprising 14 primary and 2 secondary schools. I plan to deepen our relationships with all of our partners during 2021.

Mark Plater and I had attended the NASACRE Annual Conference in 2019 which was my first. It was a real pleasure to share this experience with Mark and I was delighted that we were able to contribute. Sadly, there was no Conference in 2020 although an online Executive took place. Clearly though the work of other SACRE's and NASACRE continues and I hope to build our presence there too as we emerge from the pandemic.

In the 2019/20 period our SACRE meetings took place at the recently opened mosque in Lincoln and then in Bardney Primary School. I was pleased that we began meeting away from the County Offices and we were all made to feel very welcome

by those involved in inviting us. I also feel that building our Facebook page has started us along the road to a better social media presence.

I look forward to a very different climate for RE and SACREs as the need for a growing understanding of faith and diversity is better appreciated in the light of the crisis we have passed through. Many commentators have remarked on a growth in faith and attendance at places of worship. Similarly the challenge of making up for a year of lost direct schooling and RE Education will be great. I believe that in these times SACREs will become more influential in their role and this will be reflected in our widening membership and increasing engagement at all levels.

DRAFT

## 1. Background Information

The Education Reform Act (1988) established compulsory Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACRE) in all Local Authorities (LAs). The main function of a SACRE is to advise the 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.

[Please see Appendix, p.10 for membership of Lincolnshire SACRE 2019-20]

### Also in attendance at Lincolnshire SACRE meetings

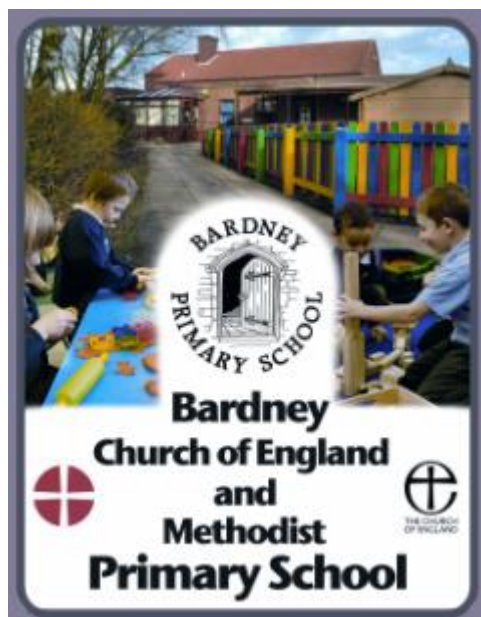
Steve Blagg: Clerk

Jill Chandar-Nair: LA

Jack Dryden: Co-opted Humanist member

Gillian Georgiou: Diocesan RE Adviser

Wendy Harrison: LA RE Adviser



## 2: Meetings and Membership

Lincolnshire SACRE met three times during 2019/20 – in November 2019 and June 2020. Due to the Covid situation there was no meeting in the spring term and the June meeting took place via Microsoft Teams. Meetings were very well attended.

### 3: Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019

This meeting was held at Bardney CE & Methodist Primary school where one of the teachers, Liz Moore, is a SACRE member. She and Garth Hicks, Executive Head Teacher, outlined the history of the school. They explained that the school had at one time been placed in special measures by Ofsted but was now judged to be a 'Good School'. The school was

outstanding as a Church school and received support from the Diocese and church. Officers explained the purpose of Ofsted's 'deep dive' methodology which involved a close examination of a small number of curriculum subjects during inspection. The most recent Ofsted Framework (2019) has the whole curriculum at

*From Bardney School Website*

and received Methodist

<sup>1</sup>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/281929/Collective\\_worship\\_in\\_schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/281929/Collective_worship_in_schools.pdf)

the heart of inspection whereas previously there has been an emphasis upon English and maths. It was pointed out that a Voluntary Controlled church school could have a deep dive but a Voluntary Aided school could not because standards in RE were inspected by the denominational authority as part of SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools).

### **Election of chairman**

During this meeting Chris Burke was elected Chairman of SACRE for the year 2019/20 and Cherry Edwards OBE was elected as Vice Chairman.

### **New Members**

The chairman welcomed Sian Wade (Pentecostal church) and Lynsey Norris (Church of England) to their first meeting.

### **Visiting speaker: Roxanne Fearn Davies**

The Chairman welcomed Roxanne Fearn-Davies (RFD) from Lincoln Christ's Hospital School to the meeting. She holds the posts of head of Religious Studies and Philosophy; head of transition/ITT (Initial Teacher Training); NQT co-ordinator and is also an RE Quality Mark assessor.

RFD gave a brief outline of her responsibilities at the school adding that many pupils in her school took RS at GCSE and A-level and the results were above average. In her role she was responsible for sharing good practice in schools and supporting departments where there were non-specialists. She also assists schools in applying for the RE Quality Mark. She asked SACRE to investigate how much time had been allocated for RE in schools and what the effect of gaps in RE teaching might be. Also, were all academies aware of their responsibilities regarding RE and did they know about Lincolnshire SACRE and the support it could offer to schools?

Gillian Georgiou outlined some of the things SACRE was able to do in terms of support for primary and secondary schools, especially those not complying with the requirements for RE in Lincolnshire. RFD felt that the teaching of RE in primary schools was satisfactory and explained that year 7 pupils now appeared to have improved knowledge of Christianity, but not so much of the other religions. Members discussed how teachers' knowledge of other religions as well as Christianity could be improved; the need to assess the impact of RE on the beliefs and lives of children; the need to examine why some children were resistant to being taught RE (which might come from parental ignorance) and the shortage of RE subject specialists.

Members agreed that SACRE had a role in ensuring that the teaching of RE was taking place in academies and that all schools were aware of the changes to OFSTED inspections particularly the "deep dive" approach.

It was agreed that the Chairman, in consultation with officers, should examine the creation of a website for SACRE so that schools could be made aware of its role and how it could support RE.



*St Hughes Primary School, Lincoln from school website.*

DRAFT



Lincoln Cathedral by Chris Burke

### **Annual review of membership of SACRE**

In accordance with the requirements of its constitution, SACRE is required to review its membership annually. It was agreed that the Quakers should be approached to see if they were interested in representation on SACRE. It was thought that a group representing this community existed at the University of Lincoln. The Clerk stated that

he had approached the secretary of the Lincolnshire branch of the Quakers to seek a replacement following the resignation of Chris Rose but so far this had not been possible.

The non-attendance of some members at meetings was raised and it was agreed that the Clerk should examine this in more detail.

A member from the teachers' group made the point that teacher representation on SACRE should be based on an interest in RE/SACRE rather than representing different professional associations. The guidance provided by Circular 1/94<sup>2</sup> regarding this committee is as follows: '..such associations representing teachers, as, in the opinion of the authority, ought to be represented, having regards to the circumstances of the area.' (para 103).

**Summary of OFSTED inspections of Lincolnshire schools with reference to provision for pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC)**

SACRE considered the report from Wendy Harrison which summarised inspectors' judgements on SMSC, including British values, in those schools inspected by OFSTED since the last report prepared for SACRE. It was agreed that the following schools should receive a letter from the Chairman congratulating them on the positive remarks made by the inspectors:

- Manor farm Academy, North Hykeham - in addition, Wendy Harrison was asked to write to the school to seek more information about the "tolerance programme.
- The Pinchbeck East CE primary, Spalding
- Francis Olive Anderson primary, Gainsborough
- Western Saint Mary CE primary, Spalding

Also, that the following schools should receive a letter from the Chairman offering support:

- Theddlethorpe Primary, Mablethorpe
- Osgoodby Primary, Market Rasen
- St.Paul's Community Primary, Spalding

---

2

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/281929/Collective\\_worship\\_in\\_schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/281929/Collective_worship_in_schools.pdf)





*Aswarby Lincolnshire by Chris Burke.*

Wendy Harrison to seek further details from the Woodlands Infant school, Lincoln, on what is meant by the phrase “growing awareness’ in the inspector’s report. In respect of the St John’s West Grantham Academy, Wendy Harrison and Gillian Georgiou to consider the appropriate course of action to take in connection with the school.

#### **Diocesan RE Adviser’s report**

SACRE considered Gillian Georgiou’s (GG) report. GG talked about the new Ofsted Education Inspection Framework and the new statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist schools. She stated that many schools had requested support about how to incorporate RE as a part of the broad and balanced curriculum in a way that reflects the school’s individual curriculum intent. To support this GG has collaboratively produced some guidance on thinking about RE curriculum, which is being hosted on RE: online:

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/leading-re/re-in-a-broad-and-balanced-curriculum-a-practical-tool/>

She further explained that she had also reworked the suggested teaching and learning materials available on the members’ area of the Diocese’s website to reflect the fact that the Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus had been in place for one academic year. In addition to this, GG has produced guidance on producing and using knowledge organisers in RE which is currently being promoted nationally by Fiona Moss of RE Today. This guidance can also be found on the Diocesan website.

<https://lincolndiocesaneducation.com/we-content/uploads-Using-Knowledge-Organisers-in-RE-Guidance-and-Exemplars-2019.pdf>

Members noted that GG continued to work with Wendy Harrison to ensure that the RE curriculum was being properly implemented.

### Meeting held on 23rd June 2020

#### **Training session for SACRE-presentation**

SACRE received a presentation from Wendy Harrison (WH) and Gillian Georgiou (GG) in connection with SACRE's responsibilities, its role and membership.

WH outlined the make-up and responsibilities of all SACREs. This included the legal requirements regarding RE and collective worship. The point was made that in some schools the law was not properly followed in relation to collective worship and there seemed to be inconsistencies in the way it was inspected by OFSTED, especially in secondary schools. GG made the point that overall, collective worship was still valued in Church of England schools.

WH talked about the role of SACREs in relation to academies and it was agreed that more effort is needed to ensure that Lincolnshire academies were represented on SACRE.

GG provided an explanation about different types of church schools. These included Voluntary Controlled schools, Voluntary Controlled schools with a religious character (Church of England/ Methodist schools) and Voluntary Aided schools, including some Church of England schools as well as Roman Catholic schools. In addition, there were those representing other faiths such as Muslim and Jewish schools. Voluntary Controlled schools were required to follow the locally agreed syllabus and were subject to inspection by Ofsted. Voluntary Aided schools had their own governing bodies, (board of trustees in the case of academies) and were able to set their own guidelines on how RE was delivered and were subject to inspection by denominational or faith-based inspectors in addition to Section 5 Ofsted inspections.

Academies are required to teach RE but do not have to follow the locally agreed syllabus. Academies that were originally Voluntary Controlled schools could have their RE inspected as part of an Ofsted 'deep dive'. Academies that were originally Voluntary Aided schools or had been set up with voluntary aided governance had their RE inspected by a denomination/faith-based inspection.

Comments by Members and the responses of officers included:

- Could the Diocesan Board of Education receive the presentation as there were some new members? Gillian Georgiou agreed to raise this request with the Diocesan Director of Education.
- New governors to church schools were informed about the different types of church schools when they were appointed.
- The teaching of RE as an academic subject was updated by the Government in 2010 but this did not affect the statutory requirements. The guidance relating to RE and collective worship in Circular 1/94 had not been updated. This had led to many schools, particularly secondary schools, not meeting the statutory requirements in relation to collective worship because some considered them to

be outdated and generally anachronistic. The changes to Ofsted inspections over the years had also exacerbated the problem with collective worship increasingly being side-lined. It was noted that RE and collective worship were not the same thing, but schools needed support in the way they made provision for both.

- The point was made by the Chair (the RC Representative) that a number of Roman Catholic schools were not aware of SACRE and its purpose and he would look at ways to address this.
- Did the Minster School, Lincoln, receive any advice about the teaching of RE and the Agreed Syllabus by the Council and the Diocese? Officers stated that they were not aware of any advice being given to the Minster School and it was agreed that there was no reason why advice could not be given similar to that provided to academies.

### **Summary of Ofsted inspections of Lincolnshire schools with reference to provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC)**

SACRE considered a report from Wendy Harrison which summarised inspectors' judgements on SMSC, including British Values, in those schools inspected by Ofsted since the last report prepared for SACRE. Officers explained the 'deep dive' aspect of inspections, i.e. the in depth inspection of particular subjects. In the most recent SMSC analysis (carried out since the last SACRE meeting), only one school had a deep dive in RE.

It was agreed that the following schools should receive a letter from the Chairman congratulating them on the positive remarks made by the inspectors:

- Alford Primary School
- North Thoresby Primary Academy Grimsby
- The St Faith and St Martin CE Junior School, Lincoln
- Leslie Manser Primary School, Lincoln
- The Uffingham CoE Primary School
- Spalding High School

### **SACRE Annual Report 2018/19**



School Web Site

Pilgrim School, Boston:

Wendy Harrison presented Lincolnshire SACRE's Annual Report for 2018/19. She stated that the report had been circulated to members for their comments prior to the meeting and that everyone had indicated their support.

Officers drew attention to local and national examination results and the point was made that since the introduction of a new grading system by the government it was still difficult to make year by year comparisons as it was not a 'like for like' comparison. It was clear that girls were out-performing boys and that there was a need for the results of some secondary schools to be examined in more detail. It was agreed to seek the views of secondary school pupils about the teaching of our RE in any future examination of secondary schools. It was resolved that the Annual Report 2018/19 be approved.

### **RE Agreed Syllabus: North/North East Lincolnshire**

Jill Chandar-Nair presented a report regarding the sharing of the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus with other local authorities. She stated that the Lincolnshire RE Syllabus was reviewed and significantly updated in 2018 and training had been provided to schools by Wendy Harrison and Gillian Georgiou. She explained that North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire and the East riding of Yorkshire had approached the council to see if the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus could be shared with them. Following an examination of the cost of training and the Agreed Syllabus with the local authorities concerned, North Lincolnshire Council had agreed to purchase the syllabus and training. North East Lincolnshire Council was expected to purchase the syllabus and confirmation was expected next week and no reply had been received from East Riding of Yorkshire to date.

### **Examination data**

Due to Covid there is no data for 2020.

### **Diocesan news**



*Stamford by Chris Burke*

### **News from schools**

#### **Exploring sacred spaces**

Pupils at Bishop King Church of England Primary School took part in an exploration of sacred spaces on the theme of 'peace'. The RE subject leader, Nicki Knapp,

worked with colleagues to set up a series of interactive spaces that helped pupils deepen their understanding of Christian beliefs about peace and peaceful action. One Year 3 pupil commented that they had learned that, "When the disciples were scared, Jesus helped them to find peace". Another pupil in Year 3 stated that, "I felt peaceful when I was colouring. I was thinking about my day and felt calm. I didn't need to worry about anything."

### **Exploring how people express beliefs through creative RE**

Pupils from schools in North East Lincolnshire were invited to explore Christian beliefs about the natural world and to find out more about the different ways in which Christians express their beliefs. During July, Barton Trinity Methodist Church celebrated its annual Flower Festival along the theme of 'All Things Bright and Musical.' Year 5 and 6 pupils from local schools came for a two-hour activity session focused on the Flower Festival theme. Prior to coming, each school had chosen a song on which to base their individual activities, devised by the festival helpers. They also worked on activities collectively which were displayed throughout the church building including the Sanctuary. Before beginning work the children were given time to look at all the other displays, hopefully developing an appreciation of the variety and beauty not only of the flowers, but also of the interpretations of other people. Before leaving, each school's individual work was carefully placed, so they could see it within the whole array of arrangements and reflect. Over the weekend, many children brought their families to view the festival and they were all very proud of their achievements.

### **Church Schools' Festival: North East Lincolnshire**

Church schools from across North East Lincolnshire came together to share their learning at Grimsby Minster. The theme for the day was 'teamwork.' Activities helped pupils explore stories from the gospels to learn more about Christian beliefs about teamwork and community.



*Normanby Le Wold, Lincolnshire by Chris Burke*

**Appendix  
Membership of SACRE**

DRAFT