



North East Lincolnshire Local Authority

SACRE

Annual Report

2015 – 2016

Foreword from the Chair of NEL SACRE

It has been a year of substantial review and change for the SACRE committee this year. Leo 'retired' as chair of the committee but thankfully agreed to stay and support the work as a committee member. He has been an amazing chairman and we thank him for the hours and years of dedicated service he has given to the work of SACRE. We also thank Kathryn Bruning for stepping into the position and maintaining the momentum of the challenges at a time of major change. We also had to say goodbye to Jill Hetherington, our LA representative and Mary Berry, the LA clerk to the meeting. The behind the scenes work that both of these lovely ladies did on behalf of SACRE was not truly recognised until they were no longer there!!!! Mary retired and we hope she is enjoying precious family time whilst Jill has now moved to work in Vietnam and is living one of her dreams. Again huge thanks to them for their efforts and we are truly grateful for their positive impact on the work of SACRE in North East Lincs. They are very much missed by all with whom they worked.

2016 also saw the completion and launch of the new revised RE syllabus. We are indebted to Julie Childs for not only playing a major role in the revision of the material but also in ensuring that there is 'back up' support in place to assist our staff who are embedding this new curriculum. This will be an on-going piece of work that SACRE will need to give its full support.

We welcome Roz Danks who has found herself in the position of 'filling' Jill's shoes but also having many other responsibilities within her ever expanding role! She has been very pro-active in her support of the SACRE and of me, at a personal level, on taking up the chairs role. I know she values our work and will do whatever she can to ensure we have LA support. We are more than aware that there will be changes to come but at present things do seem to be fairly settled which should enable us to move forward as we tackle our development and action plans. We have a lot of work ahead in order to ensure that SACRE is meeting its statutory duties. However with a dedicated committee that has a wonderful mix of experiences, cultures, religions and who are united in ensuring that our schools are meeting the entitlement to high quality RE and Collective Worship across N E Lincs., I have no doubt that we can, together, fulfil our responsibilities.

Chair of SACRE: Ros Smith

1. Introduction

Function

Under the terms of the 1988 Education Reform Act, all local authorities are required to maintain a SACRE – a permanent body to provide advice on matters connected with religious education in its area. The SACRE convenes an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) in a 5 year cycle to review and revise the local agreed syllabus for religious education. The local agreed syllabus was revised during 2015-2016 academic year.

Governance and structure

The structure of the SACRE is determined by legislation and comprises of four groups, or committees. The local authority, in consultation with local organisations and faith groups, shapes the membership of the SACRE to ensure it appropriately reflects faith communities in the local authority area. Additional non-voting members can be co-opted by the SACRE to provide specific expertise when required, so the membership can change over time. The governance of the SACRE is determined by a constitution and a code of conduct. Each meeting of the SACRE is led by the Chair or Vice-chair. For a SACRE meeting to be quorate one person from each group must be present. The current membership of the groups is shown at Appendix 1.

2. Activities

Meetings

The SACRE held four formal meetings during the 2015 - 2016 academic year, in September and November 2015 and January and May 2016.

Agreed syllabus

Throughout the year, the SACRE reported regularly to the local authority on progress of the local syllabus review. The principal advice given to the authority was to continue to work in partnership with the three other Humber authorities – North Lincolnshire, Hull and East Riding – to complete the review and revision of the syllabus, working towards a publication date of March 2016. On the SACRE's advice, the local authority continued to agree to contribute to the funding of representatives to work on both the Agreed Syllabus Consultation Management Group and a Regional Working Group leading on the re-write of the syllabus content. It was also agreed that all four authorities would continue funding the establishment of a joint website, accessible to all authority schools, where the agreed syllabus and supporting documents would be hosted. This work was completed and a website hosting the Agreed Syllabus was formally launched at the start of September 2016.

Development plan

The committee continued to advise the local authority on a local development plan. NASACRE recommends the use of the RE evaluation tool to determine the current effectiveness of the SACRE. A number of areas for development were identified:

- Training and support for SACRE members
- Ensure SACRE's work is closely linked to wider local authority plans
- Improve local authority representation on the SACRE
- Increase information to the SACRE on the quality and provision of RE and collective worship in local schools
- Strengthen links with local faith groups
- Increase opportunities for SACRE to hear views and experience of pupils and parents about RE

3. Governance and structure

In November 2015, elections were held for the position of Chair and Vice Chair. Katherine Bruning and Rosalind Smith were nominated and subsequently elected to the respective positions.

SACRE advised the local authority on revising the SACRE constitution and the code of conduct. The revised constitution and code and conduct were submitted to the local authority and approved in January 2016.

The local authority continued to support the SACRE with a link advisory officer from the School Improvement Service and a clerk to carry out administrative functions, including the recording of meetings both of which were provided by the local authority's strategic partner for school improvement. In April 2016, responsibility for this advisory officer role passed from the School Improvement Service to the local authority's Head of Education Services on the termination of the former strategic partner contract. Responsibility for the clerk's role also changed to the local authority's Leadership Teams personal assistant's team.

All agendas and minutes of meetings as well as annual reports are published on the local authority's website.

The SACRE is a subscription member of NASACRE, with all advisory documents and newsletters shared with members.

Training for schools

As part of its work on the revision of the agreed syllabus, SACRE continued to include schools in consultation on content and assessment. A training event on using the new agreed syllabus was held in July 2016 and attended by approximately 20 RE coordinators from across the area.

Schools were advised of regional and national events.

Contribution of SACRE to the wider local authority agenda

SACRE ran RE Co-ordinator network meetings throughout the year, visiting local places of worship to strengthen links with faith groups and ensure co-ordinators and teachers are familiar with places of worship in their local community. Network meetings were hosted by both the Grimsby Minster and the local synagogue.

Standards and quality of provision of RE

All ten secondary schools, a high percentage of primary schools, both special schools and pupil referral units are academies, with an associated reduction in local authority responsibility. SACRE members expressed concern that some secondary academies are no longer offering RE as a discrete subject.

4. Public examinations

Students taking RE qualifications

Table 1: Number of students taking religious education qualifications, by gender
(Qualifications include ELQ, Full and Short Course from a range of examining boards)

2012			2013			2014			2015		
Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
876	989	1,865	947	857	1,804	402	433	835	435	443	878
% of total eligible students in LA		53.5%			53.6%			47.8%			51.9%

Students taking RE

Table 2: Results of students taking RE 2012 – 2015

	2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Full Course	Short Course	Full Course	Short Course	Full Course	Short Course	Full Course	Short Course
Number of entries	835	147	734	201	767	41	837	76
% achieving A*- C	69.7%	29.3%	72.3%	31.8%	72.2%	2.4%	63.8%	15.8%

5. Withdrawal from RE

Information provided by schools/academies on the number of pupils withdrawn from RE during the 2015-2016 academic year is provided at Appendix 2.

6. Complaints regarding RE and Collective Worship

From information provided by schools/academies there were understood have been 1 complaint about RE or Collective Worship during the 2015-2016 academic year.

7. Determinations

The SACRE received no requests for a determination from schools in the 2015–2016 academic year.

8. Next steps

During the 2016-2017 SACRE will hold elections of office-bearers and continue work on the development plan.

Appendix 1

North East Lincolnshire SACRE Membership 2015 – 2016

Name	Denomination	Group
Mr Leo Solomon	Jewish	A
Shereen Al Ankar	Muslim	A
Marcus Czarnecki	Buddhist	A
Mrs Margaret Solomon	Catholic	A
Simon Cross*	Christian; non-denominational	A

Reverend Andrew Dodd*	Church of England	B
Katherine Bruning	Church of England – Community Representative	B

Christina Hook Tollbar Academy	Secondary Phase Representative	C
Rebecca Deighton Ormiston South Parade	Primary Phase Representative	C
Rosalind Smith-Littlecoates Primary	Head Teacher Representative	C
Simon Cross*	School Chaplain – Oasis Academies	C

Councillor Tim Mickleburgh	Local Authority	D
Councillor Melanie Dickerson	Local Authority	D
Andrew Dodd*	Local Authority Governor Representative	D

Gillian Georgiou	Lincoln Diocese	Co-opted non-voting
Debbie Newton	Independent RE Professional	Co-opted non-voting
Julie Childs	Syllabus review working group	Co-opted non-voting

CHAIR	Katherine Bruning
Local Authority Advisory Support	Jill Hetherington/Roz Danks
Clerk to SACRE	Various

KEY:

A	The Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations, reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area
B	The Church of England
C	Teacher and Head Teacher associations
D	The Local Authority
*	Member of more than one group

Appendix 2

Schools/Academies in North East Lincolnshire which are known to have had pupils withdrawn from RE

School Academy	Number of pupils known to have been withdrawn from RE during 2015-2016	Reason if known / any comments
Healing School	4	3 children were withdrawn for medical reasons (reduced timetable); 1 child was withdrawn as parents did not want her covering some of the sensitive topics within the specification
Stanford Junior & Infant School	2	1 withdrawn because parent didn't want child learning about Islam; 1 child was withdrawn as the religious beliefs of the parents conflicted with RE learning in school.
Healing Primary	3	1 child withdrawn because Muslim; 2 because Plymouth Brethren
Ormiston South Parade	2	Jehovah's Witnesses
Laceby Primary	3	Plymouth Brethren
Signhills Infants	1	Jehovah's Witness
Havelock Academy	1	Parents refused to allow child to study Islam
Lisle Marsden Primary Academy	1	Plymouth Brethren
Old Clee Primary Academy	11	Jehovah's Witness
Great Coates Primary Academy	1	Jehovah's Witness
Signhills Academy	2	Jehovah's Witness
St Mary's Catholic Academy	1	Parent refused to allow child to study Islam
Wybers Wood Primary	2	Plymouth Brethren