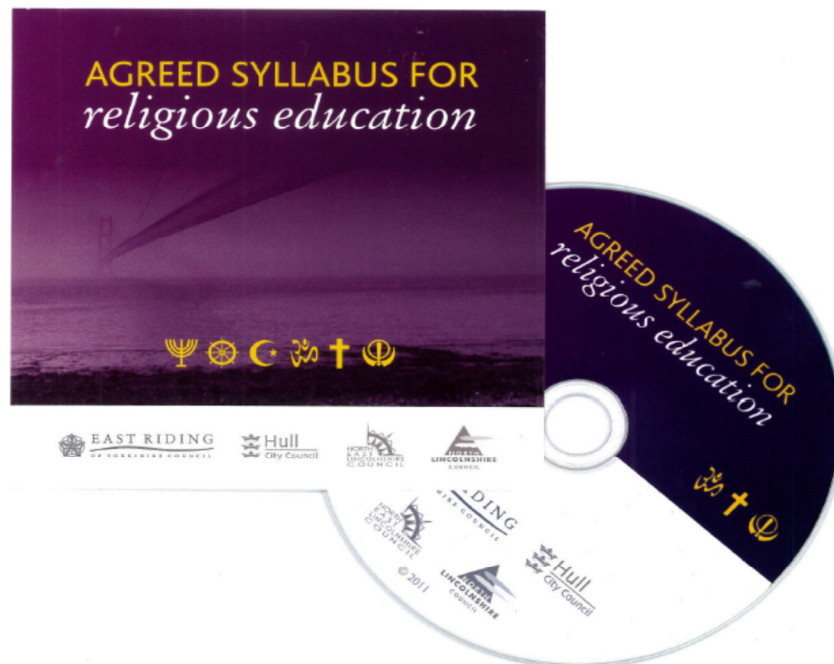


SACRE North East Lincolnshire

(Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)



Annual Report 2013 - 2014

Foreword from the Chair of NEL SACRE

Welcome to the SACRE Annual Report for the academic year 2013- 2014.

This has been another busy year for the SACRE in North East Lincolnshire, starting with the publication of two important reports in October 2013 – the REC’s *Review of Religious Education in England* and Ofsted’s *Religious education: realising the potential*. We used these documents to shape a survey of the teaching of religious education in all our schools in the spring term and were very pleased to achieve a 50% response rate, with some valuable feedback on how the subject is taught and managed and what training and support teachers of the subject wanted the SACRE to prioritise. We responded to some of these priorities with a conference in the summer term, led by Lat Blaylock with his usual passion and enthusiasm for making the RE classroom an exciting, engaging and creative place to learn.

Our review of the GCSE results for the summer 2013 gave us some reassurance as we had concerns that changes to the secondary curriculum and the measures used by Ofsted and the DfE to judge performance might lead to a reduction in the number of schools offering the subject and in the numbers of students taking religious education at GCSE. Although there was a slight reduction, it wasn’t of the scale anticipated and we encourage our secondary colleagues to promote and protect the subject as a valuable element of students’ learning and personal development.

We were pleased to provide continuing support to teachers of RE through the RE Co-ordinators’ Network. In addition to twilight meetings fostering the sharing of good practice, we were also able to offer a full day training course in the autumn term for non-specialist teachers, with members of the SACRE attending as “living resources” to illustrate and discuss the target faiths of Judaism and Islam. We were delighted that SACRE members and representatives of other local faith communities also attended the Better RE event in the spring term to foster links and professional relationships with schools.

I would like take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of Serco, as NELC’s strategic partner, in providing strategic support and clerking service to the SACRE throughout the year.

We look forward to an equally positive and constructive year in 2014 – 15, when we will be working with our neighbouring authorities in a joint Agreed Syllabus Conference to start the process of reviewing our Agreed Syllabus ready for publication the following year.



Leo Solomon M.B.E., B.Sc., A.R.C.M., P.G.D.E., P.G.C.E.
Chair – North East Lincolnshire SACRE

1. Background – the functions of the SACRE

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.

In March 2011, the SACRE and its ASC published an agreed syllabus, devised in collaboration with the three other SACRES in the Humber area: North Lincolnshire, East Riding and Hull. The next syllabus review will be undertaken by the ASC in 2015 – 16.



Schools wishing to be released from the national requirement to provide collective worship which is “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character” must apply to the local SACRE for a decision or “determination”.

2. Membership of the SACRE

The structure of the SACRE is determined by law and comprises 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 current membership is shown at Appendix 1.

Group	Membership
Group A	Christian denominations and other religions, reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area
Group B	Church of England
Group C	Teacher and Head Teacher associations / schools
Group D	Local Authority

In North East Lincolnshire, Group A has Sikh, Muslim, Buddhist and Jewish members, as well as representation from Christian denominations other than Church of England.

3. Activity of the SACRE

The SACRE met three times during the 2013 – 2014 academic year: in November 2013, February and July 2014. Meetings were hosted by the Synagogue and a secondary academy. SACRE members addressed a range of issues for discussion and action, including :

- Drafting and carrying out a survey of schools in the authority to monitor the provision of religious education across primary and secondary phases. The survey was disseminated electronically in April 2014, with a covering letter from the SACRE Chair, with the content and focus being informed by the findings and recommendations of the report *Religious Education: realising the potential*, published by Ofsted in October 2013 and the emerging national curriculum. Over 50% of schools and academies responded and results shaped the content of the CPD / training event in June. (Ref: **Section 4** of this report)
- Reviewing the results of GCSE exams in religious education taken in summer and analysing trends across authority schools. All secondary schools in this authority have converted to academy status. (Ref: **Section 5** of this report)
- Receiving an update on the work of the local Inter-faith Forum, which provides opportunities for adherents of all faiths and none to share dialogue on matters of local, national and international interest as well as fostering a deeper understanding of each other's beliefs, customs and practice. The leader of the Forum was invited to join the SACRE.
- Organising a religious education conference / CPD event – Better RE - in June 2014, to promote improvement in the quality of teaching in religious education. The conference was led by Lat Blaylock, a renowned national expert in the field of RE teaching and Editor of the publication *RE Today*. Feedback from the event was extremely positive with a high level of demand for a follow-up event in 2014 – 15. (Ref: **Section 6** of this report)
- Providing support for schools, including RE Co-ordinators' Network meetings and a full day training course, "RE for non-specialists".
- Reported on visits to schools to support the teaching of RE and collective worship and aspects of SMSC

Determinations: The SACRE did not receive any requests for a determination from schools in the 2013 - 2014 academic year.

4. Survey of religious education provision in schools

In November 2013, the SACRE agreed to carry out a survey on “Teaching religious education in North East Lincolnshire”, primarily in response to two reports published in October 2013: “*Religious Education: realising the potential*”, published by Ofsted and the Religious Education Council’s (REC) document “*A Review of Religious Education in England*”. The survey was delivered to all schools and academies in the authority in April – May 2014. Just over 50% of schools responded, providing the following headline findings:

- Q 1: 83% teach RE as a timetabled subject in all year groups
- Q 2: 10% responded that RE is taught by teachers with RE qualifications; 73% taught by teachers without RE qualifications; 17% taught by teaching assistants or support staff
- Q 3: 27% responded that RE is led or managed by RE Co-ordinators with RE qualifications; 54% by RE Co-ordinators without qualifications
- Q 4: 87% of respondents use the local Agreed Syllabus 2011; 13% use a school-devised syllabus or one sourced from another authority
- Q 5: 45% of respondents focus on 3 to 6 main faiths or world views; 21% on 1 or 2 main faiths or world views; 28% on a wide range of faiths or world views and 7% on social, moral, ethical or philosophical issues
- Q 6: A range of training and support needs were identified. (Ref: Table xxx below)
- Q 7: 57% do not formally measure progress and attainment in RE; 30% measure attainment and progress through levels aligned with other curriculum areas
- Q 8: 41% of respondents said that the quality of RE teaching is not monitored specifically; 30% that it is monitored by senior leaders or through a peer observation process
- Q 9: 40% judged the quality of RE teaching in their schools to be good or outstanding; 13% to require improvement and 47% that the quality is not monitored specifically
- Q 10: 54% sought the views of learners regarding their experience of RE.

Actions resulting from the survey:

- The focus of the “**Better RE**” event in June 2014 was informed by survey responses, addressing the need to improve subject knowledge, planning and subject leadership, effective assessment in RE and to strengthen local RE networks to provide professional support and capacity.
- Additional modules to supplement the Agreed Syllabus have been developed by the sub-regional working group focusing on Early Years and learners with SEND. These modules have been made available to schools and promoted by the SACRE through the RE Co-ordinators’ Network.
- Members agreed to explore the creation of a *Youth SACRE* to increase opportunities for young people to engage with religious education and to ensure that the voice of learners is included in the monitoring of the teaching across the subject area.

5. Monitoring achievement in religious education – GCSE summer 2013

Members reviewed the results of GCSE exams in RE taken in summer 2013 and considered the trends in results over a three year period. Whereas there had been concern that changes to the secondary curriculum and success measures may result in a significant drop in schools offering RE at GCSE or in student numbers taking the subject, data in 2013 indicated that, while there was a slight dip, the decrease was not as dramatic as expected.

For the full course, numbers taking the examination remained largely stable and there is a pleasing upward trend in the % of students attaining A* - C, with 72.3% being in line with the national average of 72.1%

Table 5.1: Number of pupils taking GCSE RE 2011 - 2013

2011			2012			2013		
Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
922	957	1879	876	989	1865	947	857	1804

Table 5.2: Results of pupils taking RE / RS 2011 – 13, short course, full course & entry level

2013 – Short 5/12 schools	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	X	Grand Total	% Pupils that achieved A* - C
Total	1	3	22	38	42	45	26	17	2	5	201	31.8%
2012 - Short	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	X	Grand Total	% Pupils that achieved A* - C
Total	2	4	12	25	26	30	20	14	10	4	147	29.3%
2011 - Short	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	X	Grand Total	% Pupils that achieved A* - C
Grand Total	4	24	27	53	44	29	29	9	6	4	229	47.2%

2013 – Full 5/12 schools	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	X	Grand Total	% Pupils that achieved A* - C
Grand Total	54	131	217	129	93	53	25	16	13	3	734	72.3%
National												72.1%
2012 - Full	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	X	Grand Total	% Pupils that achieved A* - C
Grand Total	49	124	209	200	104	57	38	24	26	4	835	69.7%
2011 - Full	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	X	Grand Total	% Pupils that achieved A* - C
Grand Total	55	131	145	115	74	64	62	46	56	11	759	58.8%

Entry level exams

2013 - ELQ B and C
Grand Total
2012 - ELQ B and C
Grand Total
2011 - EQL B and C
Grand Total

2	3	X	Grand Total	
	27	1	28	
	2	3	Grand Total	
	6	11	17	
1	2	3	X	Grand Total
1	8	10	1	20

6. Better RE” – professional development event for teachers of RE

This full day event, led by Lat Blaylock, took place on 9th June and was attended by over 50 delegates from 29 schools – 3 Secondary, 25 Primary and 1 Infant School. SACRE members also attended, along with representatives from Churches Together, the Inter-faith Forum and school Governors. Members of local faith communities were invited to form an “expert panel” during the afternoon to foster the creation and strengthening of professional links between these groups and schools.

All feedback from delegates was extremely positive, with a selection of the comments shown below.

“Useful information on assessing RE and making RE more reflective and responsive”

“After many courses during my teaching career, easily the best course I have ever attended”

“Lively, interesting and enthusiastic - can't wait to get back to schools to share ideas”

“It is great to meet so many people who are passionate about educating on RE”

“Lots of cross curricular ideas”

“Fabulous; Lat is inspirational. Really good to make contact with other staff in NE Lincs and members of faith groups”

“The panel of local faith representatives was especially useful as developing RE through visits is a target on our SPD”

Delegates identified additional training and support requirements, which the SACRE will consider in its planning for the next academic year. This included:

- More on assessment, in particular assessing RE without levels/adapting formal RE assessment
- How to monitor RE as a subject leader
- Improved subject knowledge
- Sessions on the different faiths
- Inspirational input on a regular basis to motivate us!

Lat Blaylock has accepted the SACRE's invitation to lead another Better RE event in June 2015.

Meeting dates for 2014 - 2015:

- 12th November 2014
- 5th February 2015
- 9th June 2015

Appendix 1 – membership

SACRE NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE

MEMBERSHIP 2013 – 14

Name	Denomination	Group
Mr Leo Solomon (Chair)	Jewish	A
Shereen Al Ankar	Muslim	A
Marcus Czarnecki	Buddhist	A
Surinder Khurana	Sikh	A
Mrs Margaret Solomon	Catholic	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 Sth Parade	Primary Phase Representative	C
Rosalind Smith	Littlecoates Primary	Head Teacher Representative	C

Councillor Steve Norton	LA	D
Councillor Alex Wallace	LA	D
** Andrew Dodd & Margaret Solomon	LA Governor Representatives	D

Neil Foss	Humanist	Co-opted non-voting
Paul Thompson	Lincoln Diocese	Co-opted non-voting
Debbie Newton	Independent	Co-opted non-voting

CHAIR	Mr Leo Solomon
LA Advisory Support	Jill Hetherington, Serco Education, Western Technology Site, Grimsby, DN34 5TD Tel: 01472 323497 email: jill.hetherington@serco.com
Clerk	Mary Berry, Serco Education, Western Technology Site, Grimsby, DN34 5TD Tel: 01472 323025 email: mary.berry@serco.com

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