

**LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Lincolnshire's**

**Standing Advisory Council**

**for**

**Religious Education**

**(SACRE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2011 – 2012**

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Introduction from Chairman</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Background</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Meetings of SACRE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. Religious Education</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. Support for schools</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5. Acts of Collective Worship</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6. Section 48 inspections</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7. Training and other events</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8. Review of year</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Appendix 1: Lincolnshire's GCSE/GCE Entries and Results 2012</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Appendix 2: Membership of Lincolnshire's SACRE</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Appendix 3: Links with other Bodies and Agencies</b>	<b>14</b>

## **Introduction from the Chairman**

The year 2011-12 continued to witness Lincolnshire SACRE's monitoring function within schools under the energetic leadership of Councillor Mrs Christine Talbot in her final year as Chairman. The regular update reports on the quality of RE and acts of collective worship in Lincolnshire schools ensured that members were kept well informed. Despite reductions to funding and in the hours of the RE Adviser, it was still possible to provide support and training tailored to individual schools' needs and based upon areas identified as requiring development. The continued retention of the services of the Adviser has been key to SACRE's ability to fulfil these monitoring and support functions.

SACRE continues to receive information about Ofsted's evaluation of pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development, although concerns remain about the lack of rigour and consistency in some of the reports, and the additional information from the Diocese about Section 48 inspections has been invaluable.

In the course of the year the thorough review of the Agreed Syllabus was completed and the revised documentation made available to schools. It is SACRE's hope that the increasing number of Lincolnshire schools seeking Academy status will still choose to use this resource to enable them to carry out their statutory duty to teach RE at all levels.

Members have supported all these initiatives with enthusiasm and in a professional manner. They are aware of the difficulty, particularly in a rural area, of providing pupils with first-hand experience of different faiths, and have sought ways of supporting schools in this matter. I am convinced that, despite the many quite fundamental changes in educational provision and governance, SACRE will still have a role in ensuring that Lincolnshire children and young people are as well prepared as any for life in our multicultural society.

Neville W McFarlane  
Chairman of Lincolnshire SACRE

## **Background**

The Education Reform Act (1988) established standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (SACRE). The main function of a SACRE is to advise the Local Authority (LA) on matters connected with RE and collective worship. SACREs also oversee the five yearly revision of the Religious Education (RE) Agreed Syllabus and consider any complaints about the provision and delivery of RE referred to it by the LA.

The membership of SACRE comprises four groups together with nominated Advisers. The groups are:

1. Christian denominations and other religions and religious denominations;
2. The Church of England;
3. Teachers' associations;
4. The Local Authority.

## **1. Meetings of SACRE**

There were three meetings of Lincolnshire's SACRE during the academic year 2011/2012, in November 2011, March 2012 and June 2012. Fixed items on the agenda included the monitoring of inspection reports in relation to SMSC development; analysis of Section 48 inspection reports, reports on the Adviser's monitoring visits to schools and an ongoing review of SACRE's Action Plan. The composition and management of SACRE has remained unchanged, with the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Christine Talbot and the Vice Chairman, Mr Neville McFarlane being unanimously elected for another year. Attendance generally remains good. The strength of debate has ensured that issues have been dealt with efficiently and that the priority areas of the Action Plan have been addressed.

## **2. Religious education**

### **Standards in RE**

#### **Key stages 1-3**

The number of monitoring visits to schools was reduced during 2011-12 due to the fact that funding for the RE Adviser's time was reduced and she had to spend time on the review of the agreed syllabus. The lack of evidence means it is not possible to report on standards at key stage 1-3 in this report.

**Key stages 4-5: Examination results** - see Appendix 1

#### **School reviews: report from RE Adviser**

The work of the RE Adviser is now well established. The main focus remains that of monitoring provision for RE and collective worship but is also supportive. Systems for monitoring remain unchanged since the last Annual Report but as outlined above it has not been possible to carry out as many visits as usual during 2011/12. Based on the small sample seen the following strengths and areas for development can be identified:

#### **Areas of Strength:**

- Strong subject leadership, backed up by effective support from the headteacher.
- Planning based on the agreed syllabus.
- Positive attitudes towards learning.
- Good balance between 'learning about and learning from' religion.

#### **Areas for improvement:**

- Assessment – the 8 level scale could be used much more effectively to provide a clear picture of achievement of groups and individuals and target areas for improvement.
- Schools need to continue to provide pupils with first hand experiences of religions other than Christianity (links with churches are generally good) through more visits out and visitors in.
- Insufficient monitoring of standards, e.g. of pupils' work, pupil interviews.

Schools where there are significant areas for development are re-visited to monitor progress made.

Multi-cultural development remains high on the agenda of many Lincolnshire schools, but because of their location (many schools are very isolated) and the fact that many of them are predominantly mono-cultural, there are difficulties with this. Websites continue to be used for 'virtual' visits to places of worship, and some schools have developed links with inner city, multi-racial schools. Increasingly individuals from a range of faith communities (and SACRE members) are offering their services to schools and providing presentations about their beliefs. Ofsted grades/comments for community cohesion sometimes appear to contradict those given for cultural development and SACRE is monitoring this closely.

### **3. Support for schools**

#### **Local Authority**

During 2011/12 there has been no centralised training but support has been offered in house to individual schools.

#### **Diocese**

Paul Thompson, Deputy Director of Education for the Diocese provides SACRE with regular, detailed reports. These have included information about the following:

- RE Cluster meetings
- RE and Olympic values
- Forthcoming RE training
- Leading RE teachers
- Celebrating RE
- Lincolnshire's agreed syllabus
- Statement of Entitlement
- RE News
- Infant Church Schools Festival 2011
- Special Schools Festival 2011
- Godly Play

#### **Detail about specific initiatives**

##### **i. RE Cluster Meetings**

These meetings are well attended with a good mix of new and experienced teachers coming together to discuss a variety of issues pertinent to RE. There has been a real focus on the positive impact of RE within schools and the sharing of resources and ideas.

##### **ii. RE Course**

In January 2012 Martyn Payne from Barnabas in schools led a course on RE and Olympic values entitled, 'Who comes first?' Techniques used included reflective story telling, drama and discussion. In addition to this course, schools have been signposted to the Barnabas in Schools website.

##### **iii. Statement of Entitlement**

This document, produced by the National Society, is intended to help schools and academies ensure that teaching and learning in RE is treated with importance and delivered with the excellence it deserves. It includes aims, outcomes, teaching and learning about Christianity and other faiths and world

views, curriculum balance, curriculum time, staffing and outcomes for pupils. These issues raise important issues for policy making in schools. They can be used with parents and staff to promote understanding of the value of RE as well as to support curriculum development and syllabus writing where appropriate.

#### **iv. Leading teachers**

This service appears to be valued with leading teachers supporting their colleagues in a range of settings.

#### **4. Acts of Collective Worship**

The majority of primary schools have assemblies but not all have daily acts of collective worship (ACWs). There are examples of outstanding practice identified by Ofsted but judgements are not made about compliance. In most primary schools there is a different type of assembly/ACW each day, with many having a 'celebration assembly' on Fridays. Representatives from local churches make positive contributions and churches are used well to celebrate key festivals.

It is more difficult to obtain information about the situation in secondary schools, as it is rare to meet with headteachers during visits.

#### **5. Section 48 inspections**

Members considered reports by the Diocese of Lincoln which set out summaries of church schools' inspections. These show examples of the good and positive practice that exists and also highlight areas for development which help schools become more effective as church schools with a distinctive Christian ethos. A number of schools achieved 'outstanding' grades and it was agreed that these should be sent congratulatory letters from SACRE. During the year it was reported that the National Society for the conduct of Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools, under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005, had incorporated changes in structure and emphasis that reflected current educational practice in schools and broader developments in school inspections. The framework for Section 48 inspections would continue to provide a process for evaluating the extent to which church schools are distinctively and recognisably Christian institutions.

#### **6. Training and other events**

##### **Diocese**

**March and May 2012:** Regional governor training (RE and collective worship) in Boston and Lincoln.

**March 2012:** Epworth Old Rectory – a visit for teachers

**April and June:** Godly Play - 3 day accreditation course led by Dr Rebecca Nye.

**May 2012:** 'Body and Soul' – active learning for relationship education with 9-11s led by Lat Blaylock.

**July 2012:** 'Help! I'm a RE co-ordinator' led by Lat Blaylock.

##### **Special Schools' RE day**

This now well-established event took place on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010 with nine special schools from across the Diocese participating in a very positive experience at Lincoln Cathedral. A variety of activities took place including signing, craftwork, singing and an animal safari.

##### **Diocese and LA: SACRE Conference – March 2012**

This was held at the Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa and arranged jointly by the Diocese of Lincoln and Lincolnshire School Improvement Service. The title for the day was 'Opening the Door – raising awareness of faiths and cultures.' Over 70 RE teachers from around the county attended the day which began with a thought provoking keynote address by Professor Denise Cush from Bath Spa University. She provided valuable insights into the development of RE over the past few decades and considered the challenges to RE from education and society as a whole. A range of workshops helped teachers to explore the issues still further. The conference closed with an 'expert panel' of advisers and faith representatives who took part in a question and answer session. Evaluations of the day were overwhelmingly positive.

## **7. Review of the year**

SACRE's work has been guided by its Action Plan, which is reviewed during every meeting. The Chairman, Cllr Mrs Christine Talbot has continued to work tirelessly to ensure that RE maintains a high profile within Lincolnshire. This is becoming increasingly challenging as more schools opt out of local authority control and monitoring of RE and collective worship becomes more problematic.

### **Changes to membership**

In March 2012 SACRE welcomed David Scoffield as a new member of Group B and Cllr C L Strange as a new member to Group D. During the year Cathy Turner (Group C) Chris Wright (Group B) and June Austin (Group C) had retired from teaching and also from SACRE.

**In addition to set agenda items (analyses of inspection reports, Action Plan update), SACRE also considered the following:**

#### **a) Ofsted**

The RE Adviser (who also carries out inspections for Ofsted) ensures that members are kept updated in relation to any changes to the inspection process. Concern was expressed during meetings about the lack of reference to RE in inspection reports and the way SMSC appears to be diminishing in importance. In January 2012 Ofsted introduced a new, slimmed down framework for inspection. This includes only four key judgements:

- The achievement of pupils at the school.
- The quality of teaching at the school.
- The behaviour and safety of pupils at the school.
- The quality of the leadership and management of the school.

In relation to SMSC, judgements are made about the provision the school makes for pupils' development in all four areas. Reference should be made to SMSC throughout reports but no grades are allocated. There is no longer any specific reference to community cohesion or Every Child Matters.

During meetings members expressed their concerns about the Ofsted framework, e.g. that the reporting on SMSC was inconsistent and that inspectors did not appear to be concerned whether or not schools were meeting statutory requirements for RE and/or acts of collective worship.

### **Ofsted Subject reports**

Occasionally subject inspections of RE are carried out. During the meeting in March 2012 the Chair reported on such an inspection at Boston Haven High Technology College. Overall, RE was judged to be good.

### **b)The English Baccalaureate (EB)**

Lincolnshire SACRE played an active role in campaigning for Religious Studies to be included in the EB. Unfortunately the collective efforts of bodies such as AREIAC (the Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants) and the REC (Religious Education Council) were not successful. The possible impact of this decision is a matter of concern for SACRE and will be carefully monitored.

### **c)Academies**

As academies are autonomous institutions it is not possible for the RE Adviser to gain access to monitor the quality of RE, unless asked to do so by the headteacher. As the number of academies increases this is a growing cause for concern.

### **d)Review of the Agreed Syllabus**

During 2011-12 work continued on the syllabus and the new document was completed ready for distribution to schools in autumn 2012.

### **e)New Diocesan Director of Education**

Jackie Waters-Dewhurst, from the Diocese of Bristol, was appointed to this post in June 2012.

### **f) RE Quality Mark (REQM)**

This is an accreditation system for recognising good practice in RE. The main focus is on the enhancement of pedagogy within a context of whole school improvement. It is available to all community schools. There will be additional requirements for church schools to achieve it, following consultation with the National Society. Schools apply through the designated website and are then visited by trained assessors. The REQM is awarded at 3 levels: gold, silver and bronze. SACRE will monitor the number of Lincolnshire schools involved in this initiative.

### **g) All Party Parliamentary Group and RE subject review**

Members were kept up to date with the progress of both initiatives.

### **Determinations and Complaints**

No requests have been received from schools for determinations that collective worship should not be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. No complaints have been received by SACRE about collective worship.



## Appendix 1: Lincolnshire's GCSE/A/AS Entries and Results 2012

### GCSE National Overview

As a subject, RS continues to grow in popularity. The number of entries for GCSE RE has risen for the twelfth year running. The subject is now in the top ten most popular subjects, with a 60% increase in entries since 1999. The Church of England believes that 'young people are clamouring for a deeper understanding of religious perspectives on issues of the day and how moral and ethical questions are considered by the major faiths.' Grades in RS are similar to those in history, ICT and geography.

### GCSE FULL COURSE

#### Entries by gender

GCSE Full Course					
LA Comparator		2009	2010	2011	2012
Girls	Lincolnshire	871	966	990	1158
Boys	Lincolnshire	800	808	988	1235
All	Lincolnshire	1671	1774	1978	2393

In line with national trends entries in Lincolnshire schools show a steady increase since 2009, especially for boys.

#### % A\* - C

GCSE Full Course					
LA Comparator		2009	2010	2011	2012
Girls	National	77.3	77.4	77.5	79.4
Girls	Lincolnshire	83.6	77.8	80.6	83.7
Boys	National	64.8	65.6	65.6	67.1
Boys	Lincolnshire	72.6	68.7	71.2	71.9
All	National	71.7	72.1	72.1	73.7
All	Lincolnshire	78.3	73.7	75.9	77.8

For the past 4 years Lincolnshire results at A\* - C have been above the national average. This is true for boys and girls. Girls out-perform boys nationally and in Lincolnshire both achieved higher than nationally. This is a very encouraging picture.

#### % A\* - G

LA Comparator		2009	2010	2011	2012
Girls	National	99.2	99.1	99.0	99.0
Girls	Lincolnshire	99.9	99.1	99.2	99.6
Boys	National	98.0	98.1	97.6	97.8

Boys	Lincolnshire	99.9	98.9	98.2	98.8
All	National	98.7	98.7	98.4	98.4
All	Lincolnshire	99.9	99.0	98.7	99.2

There are no significant differences between national and local results.

## GCSE SHORT COURSE

### Entries

GCSE Short Course					
LA Comparator		2009	2010	2011	2012
Girls	National	108337	101022	120614	129681
Girls	Lincolnshire	2125	2327	2103	1915
Boys	National	109822	104020	101360	109442
Boys	Lincolnshire	1938	2075	1916	1639
All	National	218159	205040	221974	239123
All	Lincolnshire	4063	4402	4019	3554

Entries in Lincs are down in 2012 for the short course but slightly up nationally.

### % A\*-C

GCSE Short Course					
LA Comparator		2009	2010	2011	2012
Girls	National	58.8	59.8	58.4	60.8
Girls	Lincolnshire	67.1	64.9	68.3	63.9
Boys	National	44.5	45.1	43.0	45.4
Boys	Lincolnshire	50.3	49.9	50.5	45.3
All	National	51.6	52.3	50.7	53.1
All	Lincolnshire	59.1	57.9	59.8	54.6

Overall, Lincolnshire results are slightly higher than the national average. Girls achieved higher than girls nationally whereas boys were in line.

### % A\* - G

LA Comparator		2009	2010	2011	2012
Girls	National	97.7	97.6	96.7	97.0
Girls	Lincolnshire	98.8	98.5	98.4	97.9
Boys	National	94.9	94.7	93.2	93.7
Boys	Lincolnshire	97.0	95.9	96.1	95.3
All	National	96.3	96.1	94.9	95.3
All	Lincolnshire	97.9	97.3	97.3	96.6

No significant differences.

## A and AS LEVEL

A level results for 2012 nationally are impressive. 81.2% achieved A\*-C grades, up 1.9% from 2010. The number of students taking the examination has also increased. At AS level there has been a similar increase.

### A Level

		Entries	
A level 2009-2011		2011	2012
National	Boys	3964	N/A
Lincolnshire	Boys	77	50
National	Girls	8537	N/A
Lincolnshire	Girls	206	191
National	All	22304	23042
Lincolnshire	All	283	241

Entries for RS rose nationally in 2012 (by 3.2%) but fell in Lincolnshire.

### A\*-B

	2010	2011	2012
National: boys	45.1	49.0	52.9
Lincolnshire: boys	40.9	43.9	42.0
National: girls	52.6	54.1	57.2
Lincolnshire: girls	57.4	49.5	53.9
National: All	50.2	52.5	55.9
Lincolnshire: All	52.6	47.9	47.9

Results for boys nationally show an upward trend but in Lincolnshire it is inconsistent. For girls there was a dip in 2011 (as with boys) but an improvement in 2012. In 2012 boys and girls were below the national average – this has been the case since 2010 when they were slightly above.

### A\* - E

	2011	2012
National: boys	98.2	98.4
Lincolnshire: boys	100.0	100.0
National: girls	98.7	98.7
Lincolnshire: girls	100.0	98.9
National: all	98.4	98.5
Lincolnshire: all	100.0	99.4

Both girls and boys achieved slightly higher than the national average.

**AS Level**

A\* - B

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
National: boys		40.1
Lincolnshire: boys	39.7	33.9
National: girls		
Lincolnshire: girls	46.2	45.0
National: all		
Lincolnshire: all	42.9	39.4

**AS Level**

A\* - E

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
National: boys	90.1	90.6
Lincolnshire: boys	92.3	93.3
National: girls	92.9	93.5
Lincolnshire: girls	90.5	97.4
National: all	91.5	92.0
Lincolnshire: all	91.4	95.3

Results in 2011 were close to the national average whereas in 2012 they were above.

**General comment**

Overall the picture is very positive in Lincolnshire, especially at GCSE level. Post 16 provision and outcomes need to be monitored carefully.

## **Appendix 2: Membership of Lincolnshire's SACRE**

### **GROUP A**

#### **Christian and other religious denominations**

Mr B Ahmed	Muslim Community
Mr F Sperring	Religious Society of Friends
Mrs C Dring	Baptist Church
Mrs L Gaylard	Ground Level Network
Professor B Winston	Jewish Community
Mrs S Sreenivasan	Hindu community
Mr A Hornsby	Methodist Church
Rev E McDonald	United Reformed Church
Mr N McFarlane	Salvation Army

### **GROUP B**

#### **The Church of England**

Mr D Clements  
Mr D Scoffield  
Ms C Wright

### **GROUP C**

#### **Teacher Associations**

Mrs J Austin	National Association of Headteachers
Miss C Turner	Primary Schools
Mrs C Williamson	Secondary Schools

### **GROUP D**

#### **The Local Authority**

Councillor Mrs C M  
Farquharson  
Councillor Mr P A  
Robinson  
Councillor Mrs C A Talbot

### **Advisers/Officers**

Paul Thompson	Diocese Assistant Director of Education
Wendy Harrison	Religious Education Adviser
Mark Plater	Bishop Grosseteste University College

Graham Watts

Clerk to SACRE, Democratic  
Services

**Appendix 3: Links with other Bodies and Agencies**

Links have been maintained with the following bodies and agencies:

- The National Association of SACRE
- Diocese of Lincoln Board of Education
- Religious Education Today/NATRE
- All Christian denominations
- All main stream faith organisations
- Lincoln Inter-Faith Forum