



**North East Lincolnshire Local Authority's
SACRE Annual Report for 2014 – 2015**

1. Chair's introduction and context

The SACRE held three formal meetings during the 2014 - 15 academic year, in November 2014, February and June 2015. In addition, several SACRE members attended the annual GREAT RE conference on 19th June 2015. We were delighted to welcome Lat Blaylock back to N E Lincolnshire to lead the conference, which was well-attended by over forty colleagues from local primary and secondary schools, as well as a number of teachers from a neighbouring authority. Feedback from participants was extremely positive, with particular appreciation for Lat's inspirational delivery and insight into strategies to engage young people in the RE classroom.

Much of the time in meetings this year was dedicated to the essential work of reviewing the local agreed syllabus so it will be ready for publication in March 2016. We gratefully acknowledge the support received from the local authority in funding our representative to work with the Regional Working Party established by the ASC, ensuring that our voice was heard throughout the revisions and rewriting. Sacre members are confident the new syllabus will be accessible to and supportive of our teachers, especially those non-specialists who too often have the responsibility of leading on and delivering quality RE to our children.

All members of the SACRE join me in thanking Rosalind Smith and Julie Childs for their tireless work as representatives on the ASC Management Group and the Working Party respectively, as well as our colleagues in the partner authorities, in leading on the syllabus revision. We look forward to joining our regional partners for a celebratory launch event in the spring term.

Chair of SACRE: Leo Solomon

2. Advice to the Local Authority and Schools

2.1 Local Authority

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 agreed to contribute to the funding of representatives to work on both the ASC 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 fund the establishment of a joint website, accessible to all authority schools, where the agreed syllabus and supporting documents would be hosted.

In response to the publication by NASACRE of a suite of guidance documents on the governance and effectiveness of Sacres, the SACRE advised the local authority that a review of local arrangements was required. In June, members carried out a review of the constitution, code of conduct and approach to self-evaluation and development planning. In the autumn term 2015, the Sacre will present revised documents to the local authority with the recommendation that they be adopted to ensure the Sacre is fit for purpose and appropriately constituted as it moves forward with the new syllabus.

2.2 Schools

As part of its work on the revision of the agreed syllabus, the SACRE included schools in consultation on content and assessment. Guidance documents on Withdrawal from RE and the Role of School Governors were shared with schools in response to requests for advice and support.

Schools were advised of regional and national events, such as the NATRE RE Conference in May 2015, offering opportunities for RE teachers to update their skills and remain abreast of emerging policy and good practice.

In February 2015, the local authority ran a CPD session for head teachers looking at schools' duty in promoting social, moral, spiritual and cultural development for all pupils, with particular reference to the value of RE in addressing this complex agenda.

3. **Standards and quality of provision of RE**

The ten secondary schools and two special schools in N E Lincolnshire have converted to academy status, with a resulting reduction in communication with the local authority.

3.1 Public examinations

The SACRE reviewed the results of GCSE RE exams taken in summer 2014.

Table 3.1.a: 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		
Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
876	989	1,865	947	857	1,804	402	433	835
% of total eligible students in LA		53.5%			53.6%			47.8%

SACRE members were concerned at the dramatic fall in numbers of entries, understood to be due mainly to changes in national policy on assessment and standards, meaning that RE cannot be counted towards achievement of the EBac. The most significant reduction in entries resulted from the removal of the Short Course from the qualification framework.

Of the ten secondary and two special schools in the authority, eight entered students for a Full Course GCSE.

Table 3.1.b: Results of students taking RE 2012 – 2014

	2012		2013		2014	
	Full Course	Short Course	Full Course	Short Course	Full Course	Short Course
Number of entries	835	147	734	201	734	42
% achieving A*- C	69.7%	29.3%	72.3%	31.8%	72.2%	2.4%

3.2 Withdrawal from RE

The 2014-2015 table of schools/academies in North East Lincolnshire that had children withdrawn from RE is provided at Appendix 1.

3.3 Complaints

There were no complaints about RE or Collective Worship during the 2014-2015 academic year.

4. **Agreed Syllabus**

As reported in the Annual Report for 2013 – 2014, having advised the Local Authority of the requirement to review the Local Agreed Syllabus for religious education, the SACRE nominated a representative to join the regional ASC. This statutory body was established with members from the four SACRE / local authority areas in the Humber region: North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire. The ASC Management Group commissioned a Working Party of RE experts and practitioners to carry out the revision and rewriting of the content of the syllabus, with a publication deadline of March 2016.

The structure of the syllabus is based around six fields of enquiry to be covered at each key stage. Guidance documents on the core knowledge of six key faiths to be covered at each key stage have been particularly well-received through consultation sessions with teachers. To further streamline the syllabus, the ASC approved the use of Alan Brine's three Areas of Understanding as a starting point, clarifying what needs to be taught and incorporating issues of human and British values.

In the remaining months prior to publication, further work will be done on guidance for schools, assessment and progression and exemplar teaching units with supporting materials. When approved by all four Sacres and local authorities, the Agreed Syllabus will be hosted on a joint website accessible to all schools in the Sacre authorities.

It has been agreed that a joint, celebratory launch event will be held in March 2016 to raise awareness of the new syllabus and celebrate RE teaching and learning in the area.

5. Determinations

The SACRE did not receive any requests for a determination from schools in the 2014 – 2015 academic year.

6. Management of SACRE

6.1 Membership and training

The SACRE has 10 voting members divided among four committees, with two additional members co-opted to provide specialist skills, experience and expertise: one who marks exams for a GCSE examination board and the other a primary school RE Co-ordinator. For SACRE meetings to be quorate, at least one member of each committee had to be present. In 2014 – 2015, all meetings were quorate.

The local authority supports the SACRE with a link advisory officer from the School Improvement Service and a Clerk to carry out administrative functions, including the minuting of meetings. Key Sacre documents, including all agendas and minutes of meetings, are published on the local authority's website. In May, following the local authority AGM, Sacre was informed in June 2015 of the 2 elected members nominated as representative members of the Sacre for the coming year.

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

6.2 Complaints about RE and Collective Worship

The SACRE did not receive any complaints about RE or Collective Worship during the year.

7. Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority agenda

7.1 Training for schools

In June 2015, the SACRE organised its third annual GREAT RE Conference for teachers and co-ordinators of RE in schools and SACRE members. Lat Blaylock was again the keynote speaker for the event, which focused on areas identified as priorities through consultation with schools. Over 40 participants from 25 local schools, primary and secondary, as well as from the neighbouring authority and SACRE members explored:

- Creativity in the RE classroom: to promote outstanding RE teaching and support non-specialists in delivering high-quality RE lessons;
- Fostering thoughtfulness, enquiry and independence: to emphasise the importance of children learning both about RE and through RE;

- Promoting spiritual and moral development: to highlight links between the content of RE and its role in supporting the school's delivery of promoting human and British values across the curriculum for all children;
- Achievement and progression: to investigate and develop effective methods of assessment in RE and to ensure progression through the key stages, using a common assessment framework linked to the emerging new local syllabus to be published in March 2016.

In addition to the conference, 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. Consultation on the syllabus's emerging was also carried out through the network meetings.

8. Membership of SACRE

The 2014-2015 SACRE membership list is attached at Appendix 2.

9. Next steps

During the coming academic year of 2015 – 2016, as well as looking forward to the publication and dissemination of the new Local Agreed Syllabus, the SACRE will hold elections of office-bearers, complete work on its governance structures and documents, with particular emphasis on a revised constitution and code of conduct and will revisit development planning informed by the RE Evaluation Tool.

Appendix 1

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

School Academy	Number of children known to have been withdrawn from RE during 2014-2015	Reason if known / any comments
Cambridge Park Academy	1	Collective worship withdrawal only, attending RE as part of Humanities course
Coomb Briggs Primary School	1	Jehovah's Witness
Fairfield Primary School	2	Plymouth Brethren
Healing Primary	2	Plymouth Brethren Collective worship withdrawal only
Macaulay Primary Academy	2 withdrawn from RE – 5 withdrawn from collective worship	
Old Clee Primary Academy	10 pupils who do not come in to religious assemblies, of those pupils, 4 are withdrawn from RE	
Signhills Academy	2	Jehovah's Witness
Stallingborough CofE Primary School	1	Jehovah's Witness
Stanford Junior & Infants' School	6 miss some assemblies	
Weelsby Academy	2	
William Barcroft Junior School	0	However, 2 were withdrawn by parents for an Eid learning day held in school
Willows Primary Academy	1	Jehovah's Witness

Appendix 2

North East Lincolnshire SACRE Membership 2014 - 2015

Name	Denomination	Group
Mr Leo Solomon (Chair)	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	Mr Leo Solomon
Local Authority Advisory Support	Jill Hetherington, Serco Education, The Knoll, Knoll St, Cleethorpes DN35 8LL Tel: 01472 323497 email: jill.hetherington@serco.com
Clerk	Mary Berry, Serco Education, The Knoll, Knoll St, Cleethorpes DN35 8LL 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
*	Member of more than one group

