



Lincolnshire SACRE
Annual Report
2024-25

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Introduction

Welcome to the Lincolnshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) annual report for the period September 2024 to August 2025.

During this period, schools and academies across the region have continued to use the 2018 Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus for Religious Education. In the same period, the SACRE formally established an Agreed Syllabus Council (ASC) to formally review this agreed syllabus. After a tendering process, Wendy Harrison was appointed by the local authority in her capacity as an independent RE consultant to carry out this revision. The 2025 Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus was launched to schools in July 2025 and schools across the region will develop their RE curriculum in line with it by September 2026.

Lincolnshire SACRE has worked hard to continue to support schools and academies in this region during this period by providing information, resources and support to ensure that RE continues to be a key part of the broad and balanced curriculum. SACRE and ASC meetings have been held in person throughout this period. After more than twelve years as the local authority RE Adviser, Wendy Harrison retired from the role in April 2025. We are hugely grateful for all her expertise, wisdom and hard work over the years and wish her the very best in her next steps. Gillian Georgiou, the Diocesan RE Adviser, was appointed as interim RE Adviser for the local authority in April 2025; there are plans to formally appoint a new RE Adviser for the academic year 2025-26.



Chris Burke, Chair of SACRE

Context

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

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

Committee A: Christian and other religious denominations and other non-religious world views

Committee B: The Church of England

Committee C: Teachers' Associations

Committee D: The LA

The Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) holds the legal responsibility for revising the agreed syllabus every five years. The ASC members are all members of SACRE.

Part of a SACRE's role is to support the effective provision of collective worship in community schools and to advise the local authority on issues related to provision and quality. It must also consider applications from head teachers in community schools that the requirement for collective worship to be wholly or mainly of broadly Christian character be disapplied for some or all of the pupils in that school. SACRE 'determines' the appropriateness of that application and grants a 'determination' to those schools where the application is judged to be in the best interest of the pupils. All pupils in schools with determination continue to have an entitlement to daily collective worship.

For a list of SACRE members during the reporting period, please see Appendix 1 below.

During the reporting period, SACRE met three times:

8th October 2024

12 November 2024

25th February 2025

15th July 2025

The ASC meetings were held at the end of each of these SACRE meetings. Further ASC meetings were also held on the following dates:

5th December 2024

29th April 2025

RE

Regional and National Updates

During this period, SACRE members met regularly to discuss the quality and impact of RE across Lincolnshire schools and academies. Reports were received from both the local authority RE Adviser and the Diocesan RE Adviser, including analysis of Ofsted and SIAMS reports, updates on national and regional developments and examples of good practice in Lincolnshire schools. SACRE members were provided with training on the [Ofsted RE subject report \(2024\)](#) and proposed changes to [the Ofsted school inspection framework \(2025\)](#); discussions were held about the implications of these documents for the revision of the Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus. They were also given information about the Religious Education Council of England and Wales' [Religion and Worldviews Project](#), the outcome of which was the handbook for syllabus and curriculum writers. The Diocesan RE Adviser was part of one of three groups nationwide that trialled this handbook and the ASC took on its recommendations as part of the revision of the Lincolnshire agreed syllabus. Central to this handbook is the National Statement of Entitlement, which was incorporated into the [National Content Standard \(2023\)](#). SACRE members discussed the significance of the National Content Standard for the future direction of RE in English schools, and members of the ASC ensured that the revised locally agreed syllabus met this standard.

Monitoring and Compliance

During this period, discussions during SACRE meetings focused on issues including compliance with statutory duties in secondary schools across the region, recruitment and retention of RE specialist teachers (including on initial teacher education programmes in the region), and patterns and trends around withdrawal from RE.

Examination Data

During the reporting period, **3435** students across Lincolnshire were entered for a full-course GCSE in Religious Studies. Of these entries, **56.6% gained a strong pass** (Grade 5 or above). This compared to 57.3% of students across the East Midlands and 62.3% of students nationally. SACRE members discussed the challenges in recruiting RE specialist teachers across the region and the impact this may have on student outcomes at GCSE. They considered examples of professional development programmes being trialled in the North East of England to upskill non-RE specialist teachers to teach RE in secondary schools.

During the reporting period, **22** students across Lincolnshire were entered for an AS Level in Religious Studies. Of these entries, **59% gained an A* to C grade**. This compared to **65%** of students across the East Midlands.

During the reporting period, **161** students across Lincolnshire were entered for an A Level in Religious Studies. Of these entries, **86% gained an A* - C grade**. This compared to 77.7% of students across the East Midlands.

For further details, see Appendix 2 below.

Agreed Syllabus

During the reporting period, the ASC monitored the progress of the revised locally agreed syllabus. This work was led by Wendy Harrison in her capacity as an independent RE consultant and carried out by a working party of local RE teachers and leaders. This included teachers from primary and secondary settings and from both single-form entry and mixed-age / mixed-phase settings. The ASC held regular meetings and heard reports from Wendy Harrison on the progress of the syllabus revision. They were reassured that the syllabus, which was based on an existing syllabus written for Leicester City Council, would be appropriately adapted to the context and needs of Lincolnshire schools. Wendy Harrison retired before the syllabus was formally launched in July 2025. This launch had to be delayed due to County Council elections in summer 2025. As a result, the local authority advised schools to take the academic year 2025-26 as a year of transition from the 2018 syllabus to the 2025 syllabus. The expectation is that all local authority maintained schools will be using the 2025 Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus as the basis of the RE curriculum by September 2026. Gillian Georgiou, the interim local authority RE Adviser, launched the syllabus to headteachers and RE leaders in early July 2025. She has developed a programme of training and support for Lincolnshire schools and academies adopting the syllabus in the academic year 2025-26.

Collective Worship

All state-funded schools in England have a statutory duty to provide a daily act of collective worship that is broadly Christian in nature ([Circular 1/94](#)). SACRE has a statutory duty to promote the effective provision of collective worship and, where appropriate, to provide determinations for schools where the majority of pupils represent a faith community other than Christianity. In the reporting period, there were no requests for determinations from schools in Lincolnshire. SACRE members were informed about the current provision for collective worship and considered comments relating to pupils' spiritual development from Ofsted and SIAMS reports. SACRE members identified that they would benefit from further training on collective worship in

schools and requested that this be included in the programme of work for the next academic year.

Links with other bodies

Throughout the reporting period, SACRE heard updates from the Diocesan RE Adviser. This included reviews of SIAMS inspection reports, with a focus on comments about RE and collective worship. The Diocesan RE Adviser also shared information about the Church of England Education Office's *Christianity as a Global World Faith* resource, which aims to support pupils to understand the complex and rich diversity of Christian worldviews across the globe. SACRE members heard the analysis of RE in church schools in England taken from the [SIAMS Annual Report](#). This report highlighted strengths in RE in church schools across the country but also raised concerns about professional development opportunities for teachers (especially those without an RE specialism) and compliance with statutory duties in secondary schools and academies.

SACRE members had access to NASACRE resources and support via the annual subscription. They heard reports from those who attended NASACRE webinars and the annual conference. This support is highly valued by SACRE members.

SACRE members discussed the importance of holding meetings in different venues around the county in order to engage with local faith communities. They resolved to identify a range of different meeting venues in the academic year 2025-26. Time will be built into future meetings to hear from members of these faith communities.

SACRE arrangements

The work of SACRE is supported by a local authority RE Adviser, a local authority representative and a clerk. Funding is provided through the Central Schools Services Funding Block to meet the costs of this support.

Throughout the reporting period, SACRE has had membership of all four committees. However, one meeting was inquorate and SACRE is actively seeking to recruit members to Committees A and C. Amendments to the constitution have been considered to broaden the recruitment Following County Council elections in summer 2025, membership of Committee D changed. Induction training on the core functions and responsibilities of SACRE was provided for all new members of Committee D, along with refresher training for those members of SACRE who wished to receive it.

During the year, SACRE members have also received training on:

The National Content Standard for RE (2023) and its implications for SACREs

The Ofsted RE subject report (2024)

Changes to Ofsted inspection handbook (2025)

The religion and worldviews approach and the Religious Education Council's associated handbook for syllabus and curriculum writers

Appendix 1: Membership of SACRE

Committee A: Christian and Other Religious Denominations (up to 10 members)

Chris Burke (**Chairman**), Roman Catholic Church

Eve Darwood, Humanist

Dr Amanda Grant, Jewish Community

Andrew Hornsby, Methodist Church

Dr Tanweer Ahmed MBA, Islamic Association of Lincoln

Claire Simons, Salvation Army

Swathi Sreenivasan, Hindu Community

Sian Wade, Assemblies of God Pentecostal

Committee B: Church of England (up to 4 members)

Cherry Edwards OBE (**Vice-Chairman**)

Lynsey Norris

Mark Plater

Committee C: Associations Representing Teachers (up to 4 members)

Jennifer King, NAS/UWT

Elizabeth Moore, NAHT

Chris Thompson, NEU

Committee D: Lincolnshire County Council (up to 4 members)

Councillors A J Baxter, Mrs J Brockway and M A Whittington (to May 2025)

Councillors A J Baxter, B H Collier (from May 2025)

Also in attendance at SACRE meetings during the reporting period:

Jill Chandar-Nair (LA)

Wendy Harrison (LA RE Adviser)

Gillian Georgiou (Diocesan RE Adviser)

Emily Wilcox (Clerk to SACRE)

Jess Wosser-Yates (Clerk to SACRE)

Appendix 2: Examination Data

GCSE Religious Studies Full Course (2025)

Lincolnshire, regional and national outcomes

Gender	% of 9-5 Lincolnshire	% of 9-5 East Midlands	% of 9-5 England
Female	67.2		68
Male	45.4		54.1
All	56.6	57.3	61.6

For comparison:

GCSE Religious Studies Full Course (2024)

Lincolnshire, regional and national outcomes

Gender	% of 9-5 Lincolnshire	% of 9-5 East Midlands	% of 9-5 England
Female			67.8
Male			54.6
All			61.8

GCSE Religious Studies Full Course (2023)

Lincolnshire, regional and national outcomes

Gender	% of 9-5 Lincolnshire	% of 9-5 East Midlands	% of 9-5 England
Male	44		58.2
Female	68		72.8
All	58%		61.3

GCSE Religious Studies Examination Data by School (Lincolnshire)

School name	School type	GCSE Full Course Entries (%)	GCSE Full Course Grade 9-4 (%)	GCSE All Entries (%)	GCSE No Entries (%)
Boston High School	Academies	20.2	91.7	20.2	79.8
Boston High School	Academies	20.2	91.7	20.2	79.8
Bourne Academy	Academies	5.5	69.2	5.5	94.5
Bourne Grammar School	Academies	37.7	91.1	37.7	62.3
Bourne Grammar School	Academies	37.7	91.1	37.7	62.3
Branston Community Academy	Academies	93.7	45.8	94.2	5.8
Branston Community College	Academies	93.7	45.8	94.2	5.8
Caistor Grammar School	Academies	17	100	17	83
Caistor Grammar School	Academies	17	100	17	83
Cowley Academy	Academies	10.4	53.8	10.4	89.6
Grantham the Walton Girls' High School & Sixth Form	Academies	10.5	83.3	10.5	89.5
Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School	Academies	98.3	98.9	98.3	1.7
Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School	Academies	98.3	98.9	98.3	1.7
Kesteven and Sleaford High School	Academies	93.9	86.9	93.9	6.1
Kesteven and Sleaford High School Selective Academy	Academies	93.9	86.9	93.9	6.1
King Edward VI Academy	Academies	8.9	57.1	8.9	91.1
King Edward VI Grammar School	Academies	81.9	99.2	81.9	18.1
Lincoln UTC	Free Schools	0.9	100	0.9	99.1
North Kesteven Academy	Academies	9.6	61.5	9.6	90.4
North Kesteven School	Academies	9.6	61.5	9.6	90.4
Robert Pattinson School	Academies	6.1	78.6	6.1	93.9
Sir Robert Pattinson Academy	Academies	6.1	78.6	6.1	93.9
Sir William Robertson Academy, Welbourn	Academies	0	.	96.4	3.6
Skegness Grammar School	Academies	18.5	85	18.5	81.5
Spalding Academy	Academies	29.7	78.5	29.7	70.3
Spalding Grammar School	Academies	19.3	92.9	19.3	80.7
Spalding Grammar School	Academies	19.3	92.9	19.3	80.7
The Barnes Wallis Academy	Academies	20.2	42.9	20.2	79.8
The Boston Grammar School	Academies	46.4	77.6	46.4	53.6
The Boston Grammar School	Academies	46.4	77.6	46.4	53.6
The Giles Academy	Academies	17	80.8	17	83
The King Edward VI Grammar School, Louth	Academies	81.9	99.2	81.9	18.1
The King's School, Grantham	Academies	11.9	95.2	11.9	88.1

The King's School, Grantham	Academies	11.9	95.2	11.9	88.1
The Priory Academy LSST	Academies	96.9	71.5	97.2	2.8
The Priory City of Lincoln Academy	Academies	86.8	37.7	87.9	12.1
The Priory Pembroke Academy	Academies	13.2	64.3	13.2	86.8
The Priory Witham Academy	Academies	0	.	22	78
The Queen Elizabeth's High School, Gainsborough	Local authority maintained schools	19.8	97.1	27.7	72.3
The Robert Manning Technology College	Academies	5.5	69.2	5.5	94.5
The Sir William Robertson High School, Welbourn	Academies	0	.	96.4	3.6
The Skegness Grammar School	Academies	18.5	85	18.5	81.5
Thomas Middlecott Academy	Academies	50	60.8	50	50
Walton Academy	Academies	10.5	83.3	10.5	89.5
William Farr CofE Comprehensive School	Academies	96.7	69.4	96.7	3.3
William Farr CofE Comprehensive School	Academies	96.7	69.4	96.7	3.3

AS Level Religious Studies (2025)

Lincolnshire, regional and national outcomes

Gender	% of A* to C Lincolnshire	% of A* to C East Midlands	% of A* to C 9-5 England
All	59	65	

A Level Religious Studies (2025)

Lincolnshire, regional and national outcomes

Gender	% of A* to C Lincolnshire	% of A* to C East Midlands	% of A* to C 9-5 England
All	86		

For comparison:

A Level Religious Studies (2023)

Lincolnshire, regional and national outcomes

Gender	% of A* to C Lincolnshire	% of A* to C East Midlands	% of A* to C 9-5 England
Male	78		
Female	78		
All	78		79.6

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