

SACRE Annual Report 2022



*An overview of the work of North East
Lincolnshire SACRE during the calendar
year January 2022 to December 2022*

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Contents

SACRE Annual Report 2022	1
Welcome and Executive Summary	3
Context.....	4
Statutory Responsibilities: Religious Education	6
Standards and Monitoring: Ofsted inspections	6
Standards and Monitoring: Section 48 inspections	6
Standards and Monitoring: GCSE Religious Studies	7
Standards and Monitoring: A Level Religious Studies	7
Standards and Monitoring: Compliance	8
RE Support and Advice	8
Other Information.....	9
Statutory Responsibilities: Collective Worship	10
Links with Other Bodies (Local and National)..	11
Management of SACRE and Contribution to Wider Local Authority Agenda	12
SACRE MEMBERSHIP	13



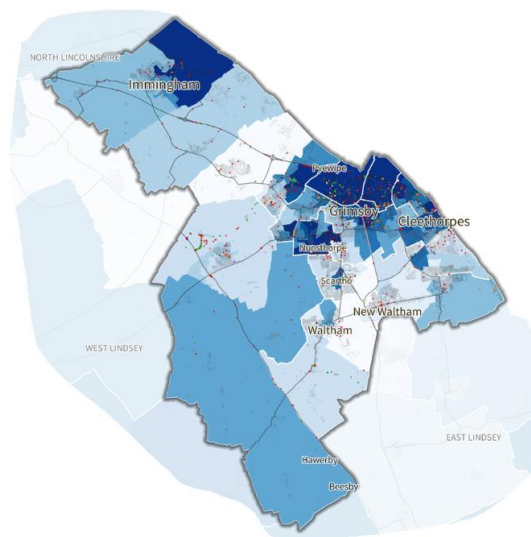
Welcome and Executive Summary

Welcome to our Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) annual report for the period January – December 2022.

During this period, schools and academies across the region have continued to embed the Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus for Religious Education, which was adopted by North East Lincolnshire SACRE in 2021.

North East 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 meetings have been held in person throughout this period at schools and places of worship across the region. We have also co-hosted the joint SACRE Conference with North Lincolnshire SACRE. RE teachers and leaders from North East Lincolnshire contributed to this conference by delivering workshops.



Context

Local authorities have a duty to set up a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). The duties of the SACRE include gaining an overview of the quality of religious education provision in local authority maintained schools and developing effective strategies to promote the highest standards.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) holds the legal responsibility for revising the Agreed Syllabus. 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.

A SACRE is set up to represent a balance of all the interests of the local community. This includes elected councillors, representatives of local faith and belief communities and members of the education community. The constitution of the SACRE is determined by law.

SACRE membership is comprised of the following groups:

- Representatives of Christian denominations other than the Church of England and representative of other faiths
- Representatives of the local Church of England diocese
- Representatives of Teachers' Associations
- Local Authority Representatives

For a list of serving SACRE members, please see Appendix 1 on p.12 below.



SACRE

Meetings

2022

During 2022, North East Lincolnshire SACRE on the following occasions:

Wednesday 2nd February 2022

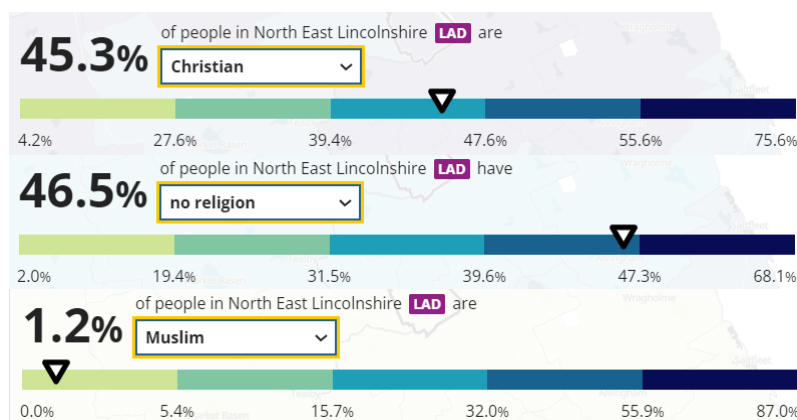
Monday 20th June 2022

Monday 26th September 2022

The meetings were all quorate

These meetings covered a range of topics, including:

- The funding allocated by the local authority for the statutory work of SACRE
- Membership of SACRE, including identifying, appointing and training potential new members
- Analysis of Ofsted and Section 48 reports for references to Religious Education and collective worship
- Discussion of national developments in Religious Education, including the draft National Statement of Entitlement, and their implications for schools and academies in the region
- Analysis of data, including school survey data, workforce data and GCSE/A Level data
- Planning for the SACRE conference held jointly with North Lincolnshire



Census 2021 – Religion (North East Lincolnshire)

Statutory Responsibilities: Religious Education

Standards and Monitoring: Ofsted inspections

During this period, SACRE analysed the reports from seven Ofsted inspections, covering infant, primary and secondary schools and academies across North East Lincolnshire. These were a mixture of Section 5 (graded) and Section 8 (ungraded) inspections. None of the inspections involved a ‘deep dive’ or ‘shallow paddle’ in RE.

Although RE was not specifically mentioned in any Ofsted report, there were a range of comments about pupils’ preparedness for life in modern Britain. The majority of schools and academies were able to evidence that they are preparing pupils well for life in modern Britain and that they are supporting pupils’ personal development effectively. A minority of reports (one out of seven) indicated that pupils were not being prepared sufficiently well for life in modern Britain and specifically cited pupils’ weak understanding of different faiths and beliefs; this was a secondary academy. SACRE proactively contacted this academy to remind leaders about the duty to provide RE as part of the broad and balanced curriculum and offering support to ensure that the RE curriculum is effective.

Standards and Monitoring: Section 48 inspections

An inspection carried out under Section 48 is an inspection of a faith school or a school of religious character to ensure that the religious character of the school is being appropriately upheld. This includes Church of England and Catholic schools and academies across North East Lincolnshire. RE and collective worship must be considered as part of this inspection. Although all Catholic academies have the quality of education in RE inspected by denominational authorities because the RE curriculum is shaped by a diocesan syllabus, the

same is not the case for all Church of England schools and academies. Voluntary controlled Church of England schools and academies receive a general comment on RE and collective worship as part of a Section 48 inspection, also known as a SIAMS.¹ In these schools, Ofsted can carry out a ‘deep dive’ in RE as part of a Section 5 (graded) or Section 8 (ungraded) inspection in order to judge the quality of education in the school. This is because in voluntary controlled Church of England schools and academies, there is a legal requirement to follow the locally agreed syllabus for RE. Voluntary aided Church of England schools and academies receive the equivalent of an Ofsted ‘deep dive’ in RE as part of SIAMS; these schools are provided with a comment on the quality of education in RE. This is because in voluntary aided Church of England schools and academies, the RE curriculum is designated by the governing body. They are not required to use the locally agreed syllabus as the basis of their RE curriculum.

During this period, one primary academy received a SIAMS. Comments about both the effectiveness of RE and the impact of collective worship were very positive. SACRE recorded their congratulations to this school and a SACRE meeting hosted by this school in the next academic year.

Standards and Monitoring: GCSE Religious Studies

For data purposes, Ofqual treats Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire as one region. For that reason, the data below covers all three unitary authorities; it is not possible to share the data specific to North East Lincolnshire.

During this period, 23% of KS4 students across greater Lincolnshire sat a qualification in Religious Studies. This is lower than the national average (27%). It also raises questions regarding the statutory provision of RE at KS4 for all students.

Of the students who sat GCSE Religious Studies across greater Lincolnshire, 75.4% received a grade 5 (standard pass) or above. This was lower than the national average for the subject (76.7%). 62% received a grade 5 (strong pass) or above. This was lower than the national average for the subject (66%).

SACRE discussed concerns about the numbers of students being offered the opportunity to sit a GCSE qualification in Religious Studies at KS4. All secondary provision in the region is academised, so SACRE has no legal right to intervene in decisions around curriculum, but concerns were raised with particular secondary academies during this period where it appeared that very few or no students had the opportunity to sit a GCSE in Religious Studies, and, furthermore where it seemed that academies were in breach of the funding agreements in relation to RE at KS4 (*see Compliance section below*).

Standards and Monitoring: A Level Religious Studies

For data purposes, Ofqual treats Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire as one region. For that reason, the data below covers all three unitary authorities; it is not possible to share the data specific to North East Lincolnshire.

During this period, 1.96% of students sat an A Level in Religious Studies. This ranks the region 14th out of 47 counties in England. Of the students who sat A Level Religious Studies, 88.3% achieved a grade of C or above, which is marginally higher than the national average of 87.6%. 7.7% of students achieved the top grade of A*, compared to the national average of 12.5%.

SACRE discussed concerns about the numbers of students being offered the opportunity to sit an A Level qualification in Religious Studies at KS5. All secondary provision in the region is academised, so SACRE has no legal right to intervene in decisions around curriculum, but concerns were raised with particular secondary academies during this period where it appeared that very few or no students had the opportunity to sit an A Level in Religious Studies, and, furthermore where it seemed that academies were in breach of the funding agreements in relation to RE at KS5 (*see Compliance section below*).

Standards and Monitoring: Compliance

During this period, SACRE scrutinized data, including inspection reports and workforce data, as well as anecdotal evidence from RE teachers and leaders.

According to the School Workforce Census data, only one secondary academy in North East Lincolnshire met the required curriculum allowance for RE at KS3. The same academy was the only academy that complied with statutory duties in relation to RE at KS4. All other academies were non-compliant at KS4.

Apparent non-compliance in secondary provision continues to be a grave concern to SACRE members. As noted above, all secondary provision in the region is academized. SACRE note that all academies are required to include RE as part of the broad and balanced curriculum, as designated on their funding agreements. Whilst there is flexibility in how this might look in a given secondary academy, it is of great concern that many students in the region are not receiving their entitlement to a high-quality education in religion and worldviews. SACRE continues to proactively contact secondary academies to offer advice, guidance and assistance. To date, very few secondary academies have requested support.

RE Support and Advice

Unlike other SACREs, North East Lincolnshire does not retain the services of an RE Adviser to deliver support, advice and training to schools and academies in the region. Although the Diocesan RE Adviser attends SACRE meetings and provides advice and guidance to SACRE members, she was not asked to provide training sessions during this period. Although SACRE members drawn from Committee D (teacher representatives) have provided networking meetings for RE leaders and teachers in the past, these did not take place during this period. SACRE has noted this, and planned to deliver networking meetings in the academic year 2023/4.

Other Information

During this period, North East Lincolnshire SACRE co-hosted a conference for RE leaders and teachers with North Lincolnshire SACRE. This is an annual event and greatly appreciated by schools and academies in the region. The event was held at Normanby Hall, and included keynote speeches by Lat Blaylock and Gillian Georgiou, along with workshops delivered by teachers across North and North East Lincolnshire. The feedback from this event was very positive and SACRE intend to continue to support it into the future.

During this period, SACRE did not receive any complaints about the delivery of Religious Education in North East Lincolnshire schools or academies. SACRE did not track the number of pupils withdrawn from the RE curriculum, although information on how to handle requests for withdrawals was shared with school and academy leaders across the region. SACRE did not provide any specific advice to the local authority regarding Religious Education, other than the advice shared with school leaders at local authority leadership briefings.

Statutory Responsibilities: Collective Worship

During this period of reporting, North East Lincolnshire did not actively monitor collective worship, although members of SACRE offered advice and guidance to schools and academies that sought it, especially regarding the right of parents/guardians to withdraw their children from collective worship. No training on collective worship was provided by North East Lincolnshire SACRE.

North East Lincolnshire SACRE did not receive any requests for determinations during the period of reporting.

North East Lincolnshire SACRE did not receive any complaints in relation to collective worship.



Links with Other Bodies (Local and National)

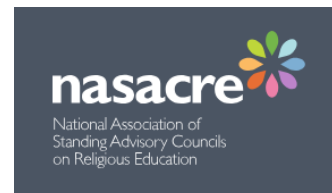
North East Lincolnshire SACRE continues to work closely with the Church of England Diocese of Lincoln, and the Diocesan RE Adviser has worked alongside the SACRE members to deliver advice, support and training to schools and academies in North East Lincolnshire.

A member of SACRE is also a member of the Executive for the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) and this has facilitated the sharing of resources and key data to schools and academies in the region. Other members of SACRE provide a useful link with faith communities in the region and schools have benefited from this through the arrangement of virtual and in-person visits and visitors.

North East Lincolnshire SACRE is a member of NASACRE and accesses training and support through this.



The Diocesan
Board of
Education



Management of SACRE and Contribution to Wider Local Authority Agenda

The work of SACRE is funded by the Central School Services Block (CSSB). In the academic year 2021-22, North East Lincolnshire received £1,420,271. NASACRE recommends that 2% of the CSSB should be designated for the work of SACRE. In the period of reporting, North East Lincolnshire SACRE received the funds to retain the use of a clerk, along with £5000 to contribute to the joint SACRE conference.

Unlike other local authorities in the region, North East Lincolnshire SACRE does not retain the services of a local authority RE adviser; support work and advice is primarily provided by members of Committee D (Teacher Representatives) and the Diocesan RE Adviser, who sits on SACRE as a co-opted adviser. This had a direct impact on the capacity of the body to fulfil its statutory duties and is a matter of serious concern to the members of SACRE. The members of SACRE seek to fulfil their statutory duties as best they can.

During this period, membership of Committee C (Local Authority Representatives) has been strengthened with the result that the work of SACRE has a greater profile within the local authority. This has not yet translated into sustained funding for the work of SACRE. Recruitment of new members remains a priority in order to increase the positive impact of SACRE in the region.

APPENDIX 1

SACRE

MEMBERSHIP

Chair of SACRE
Vice Chair of SACRE
Strategic Officer for SACRE
Clerk to SACRE

Councillor Daniel Westcott
 Katherine Bruning
 Wendy Jackson
 Nicola Best / Diane Grimshaw

<p>Committee A</p> <p>Representatives of Christian denominations other than the Church of England and representatives of other faiths</p>	<p>Julia Beckett (Humanists UK – co-opted member) Nigel Bishop (Methodist Church) Amanda Mellows (Catholic Church) Shereen al-Ankar (Muslim community)</p>
<p>Committee B</p> <p>Church of England representatives</p>	<p>Pat Barlow</p>
<p>Committee C</p> <p>Local authority representatives</p>	<p>Cllr Brian Robinson Cllr Sophia Farren Cllr Daniel Westcott (Chair)</p>
<p>Committee D</p> <p>Teacher representatives</p>	<p>Katherine Bruning (Vice Chair) Julie Childs Inga Greet</p>



