



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

**Nottinghamshire County
Council
Standing Advisory Council
For Religious Education**

**Annual Report
2017/2018**

Nottinghamshire SACRE

Chair's introduction

After my first full year of chairing the County's SACRE, I have enjoyed getting to know so many and varied members who give of their time freely to this important role within the Authority. Their level of commitment is such, that we have had quorate meetings throughout the year. The Local Authority is grateful to the members of SACRE, some of whom have stood down from the various groups they represent.

Once again, our annual report outlines our termly meetings in different venues as well as documenting some of the CPD opportunities we have offered to our teachers who implement the Agreed Syllabus in our schools.

We are kept aware of the National and local developments within the RE world, as well as putting our views forward on issues which affect the delivery of Religious Education in schools across the country. It was pleasing to see our contributions included in the guidance and resource pack from Cardiff University on Diversity of Religion and Belief in Primary Schools.

The Authority funded our Third day at the Holocaust Centre for years 5 & 6 students which was well received and supported by so many of our schools, an event which is always oversubscribed!

SACRE has continued its work in an effective manner throughout the year with informed discussion and reflection. It was really impressive to hear young people from one of our schools talk with conviction about the work RE does in their school. We were pleased to hear about the initiative of a Faith Council being set up in one of our schools. This could be a model for other schools to develop in future years bringing the schools and local community together.

This really reflects the hard work and enthusiasm of our teachers who use our Agreed Syllabus and benefit from the courses offered through the Authority at the suggestion of SACRE.

Councillor Boyd Elliott

Chair 2018

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1. What is SACRE?

The 1988 Education Reform Act established the statutory requirement for all local authorities (LAs) to establish a permanent body called a **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)**. The Nottinghamshire SACRE is an independent body which advises the LA on matters concerned with the provision of Religious Education Nottinghamshire SACRE comprises four groups;

Group A: Elected County Council Representatives

Group B: Church of England Representatives

Group C: Teacher Representatives

Group D: Representatives of Christian denominations and other religions reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area

Each group has equal status and voting rights.

Functions of SACRE

Executive functions:

- To consider and determine (in accordance with Section 12 of the 1988 Education Act) applications from county schools to be disapplied from the requirements concerning Collective Worship being broadly Christian.
- To consider whether or not to require a review of the Agreed Syllabus.
- To publish an annual report.

Advisory functions:

- To give advice on methods of teaching the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.
- To advise the LA on the provision of training for teachers.
- To monitor inspection reports and standards of achievement in Religious Education.
- To give advice on Collective Worship.

Purpose

Within its statutory responsibilities SACRE is concerned to support and enhance the provision of Religious Education within Nottinghamshire schools where the Agreed Syllabus is in use. SACRE seeks to encourage the provision of high-quality in-service training for those whose responsibility it is to deliver this aspect of the basic curriculum.

Decision making

This is determined by one block vote from each of the four groups listed in the membership above. Co-opted members do not vote.

2. Meetings of SACRE

During the academic year, 2017-2018, SACRE met termly to discuss a range of issues itemised below:-

November 2017 SACRE met at the National Justice Museum



- Presentation of the work of the Museum and its work across all Key Stages.
- There was discussion about the various workshops on offer and how the Museum could contribute more to Religious Education & Spirituality.
- Our SACRE Effectiveness Plan for 2017-2021, our five year plan was discussed as a working document to help make us an effective SACRE.
- SACRE members were informed that our Annual Holocaust Day would be going ahead due to the generosity of the Authority for Key Stage 2 pupils.
- Our Draft Annual Report was presented for consideration by SACRE and amendments were made.
- SACRE were pleased to hear of the growing use of our 'SACRE in Notts' Facebook page.
- SACRE noted concerns which had been voiced nationally over Withdrawal.
- Safeguarding & Visits to Places of Worship – SACRE established a working party to consider developing advice on this area.
- Members expressed views on the survey on the Interim Report of RE, particularly the sections on SACRE.

February 2018 SACRE met at The John Clifford Primary School



- SACRE members received a presentation about the John Clifford Faith Council which had commenced in the school.
- SACRE received an update on the progress of the work being undertaken about Safeguarding and Risk assessment in places of worship.
- SACRE received a report on the AREIAC / NASACRE which was attended on the Review of RE.

- SACRE was informed of the National Inter Faith Youth Survey being undertaken
- Updates were given on CPD courses.

June 2018 SACRE met at the Holocaust Centre



- SACRE received an update on the work currently going on at the Centre which was grateful of the support from SACRE
- A report was given on CPD during the year with positive and supportive evaluations received from each event including the recent conference.
- CPD courses for the coming academic year were outlined.
- Following a presentation by members of SACRE, who were present at The Holocaust Centre for Year 5/6, SACRE wished to ask the Authority to consider funding this for the next academic year.
- The SACRE Secretary had distributed electronic copies of the Diversity of Religion and Belief publication from Cardiff University to which SACRE had contributed.
- Members heard of events covered at the NASACRE AGM.

Every SACRE meeting has been quorate with an attendance of around 65% of nominated members at meetings.

3. Determinations

There were no requests by schools in Nottinghamshire for a determination that the specific requirements regarding the character of collective worship, as set out in the Education Act 1996, should not apply to them.

4. Professional development opportunities 2017-2018

The Primary Network met for two half days in the Autumn and Spring Terms. The sessions reflect the interests and needs of the participants



At the November session participants were told a little about the work of SACRE as well as learning about resources which were available in the local area to enhance the work of RE in schools. Representatives from the Archbishop of York Youth Trust outlined their work of developing young leaders in schools. There was a chance to share what had gone well in

participants schools to develop a sharing of good practice particularly in regard to hold RE Days and RE weeks.



In our Spring Session one of our RE Co-ordinators shared the approach of her school on dealing with pilgrimage which was of great interest and acted as a spring board for other coordinators.



Picture News shared how they could assist schools in their RE, Acts of Worship and British Values work.



We were also joined by Dr Opinderjit Kaur Takhar MBE from Wolverhampton University who came to answer questions as well as to share guidance about how to teach the Sikh Faith.

We also considered what should be in a school's RE Policy.

Value of Network

In the evaluations our Network provision, our RE Coordinators commented on the value of:-

- Sharing with others about good practice and being able to meet external agencies.
- Having time to discuss and finding out about new ideas and resources which are available.
- Discovering what was on offer for CPD and being enthused with new ideas to take back to school.
- Having "Fantastic inspirational speakers, who shared great ideas." with us
- Information on Sikh was riveting:- "Feel excited and want to start teaching the Sikh faith asap"
- Picture News- "an excellent resource which I want to consider as a way to raise questions"
- Use of images on talking points & current issues.

"Today far exceeded expectations – look forward to the next one -was a final comment!"
Our teachers wish these Network sessions to continue

Using the 'Understanding Christianity' Resource in the Primary School

SACRE offered 2 full days which were led by the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Advisors.

The delegates commented that they had benefited by working in a practical way with the materials coupled with excellent facilitating from knowledgeable trainers. Each delegate received a resource pack which they said was a good resource to take away. They were going to return to school to ask for staff meetings to cascade their learning down to colleagues.

This course demonstrated our working with qualified trainers from the Diocese who really enthused the delegates.

Amongst the evaluations from delegates:-

‘Made us rethink/organise delivery of Christianity within our school’

‘Helps to see how Understanding Christianity fits into Agreed Syllabus’

The Annual SACRE RE Conference

‘Challenging RE for every pupil: inclusion, standards, imagination’

Our conference was aimed at primary teachers and led by Lat Blaylock from RE Today and Anne Krisman, from Little Heath Special School, London Borough of Redbridge



Our day commenced with a Keynote:

‘Religion as a source for learning’

Delegates were offered three examples for the Gifted and Talented pupils and three examples for SEN children.

Teachers could then select from two workshops out of three on offer:-

- Six ways of helping the infant to think for themselves
- Special Needs in Mainstream as well as in Special schools using the 5 Keys Approach – a practical approach for special pupils
- 5 – 11 Drama, music, dance & poetry – linking RE to creativity

Delegates said they benefited from:

- Having time to reflect on how to give children different ‘doors’ to choose from. Lots of ways for teachers to find the right key...’All Welcome – think deeply all ye who enter.’
- Realising RE has a pivotal role in the child’s well-being – which is so important in today’s climate.



- Excellent, interesting & inspiring to see children’s work across the whole Spectrum.
- Seeing how important RE is for SEN children & ways to teach it to them.
- Appreciating how important / integral RE is to other subjects
- A fantastic day...
- “I feel today has helped to show ways to stimulate those in school with no interest in RE”

Teachers indicated that on returning to their various schools that they would like to:-

1. Use some of the resources shared to tackle difficult issues to enable more respectful attitudes.
2. Develop more cross curricular activities as well as enhancing the curriculum to include more hands on and creative activities to assist children of all abilities to express their views and beliefs. Encourage more reflective based learning using more visual stimuli to help make RE more thoughtful and creative.
3. “As a TA supporting RE in a Special School this was a great help with ideas to move forward.”

The assessment guidance – a much better understanding of the 8 steps and how they relate to the children in different year groups.

5. “British Values, human values: investigating what matters” at the National Holocaust Centre – Beth Shalom A Key Stage 2 Day

The Local Authority supported our Third year at Beth Shalom when we invited schools to apply for places on this unique day. SACRE was pleased to see how popular this was with our schools, as once again the day was oversubscribed.

We worked with the National Holocaust Centre and with Lat Blaylock from RE Today and some 60 young people with their teachers and members of SACRE.



The day involved an outline of the day, an ice breaker and then listening to Simon, a survivor from the Holocaust who told his story. After various activities in which pupils from the different schools worked together there was an afternoon of creating sculptures based on themes given to them arising out of the work during the morning.





What did the participating schools say about this experience?

“The talk from Simon, the Holocaust survivor, was enthralling. All the children were fascinated and listened intently to the recount of his experiences. Simon told his story in an appropriate age related way. They were excited to be able to retell the details to the other children when they returned to school.

Their awareness of the treatment of victims during the holocaust was raised; all the children expressing the view that this is something that should never happen again.”

“The sculpting work lead to some in depth thinking & discussion between the children. It was an excellent team work activity & I think it would be beneficial for the school to use this form of art as a stimulus to speaking, listening & writing.

The importance of being a kind, helpful & tolerant person came across through our work. How proud I was of our pupils, the way they responded, worked with others & made use of previous learning.”

“Last Wednesday 6 of our Year Six pupils attended an RE event “British Values, human values: investigating what matters” at the National Holocaust Centre – Beth Shalom. 9

During the day the children explored four themes:

Commitment, Hope, Wisdom and Freedom after Suffering.

The group were fully involved throughout the day, working with pupils and staff from other Nottinghamshire schools, taking part in teaching activities and discussions, drawing upon their own knowledge of the Jewish Faith and world issues. *“The school was pleased to name the children for their mature attitudes and for being such wonderful representatives for our school.”*

During the day the children were particularly struck by some words they saw on one of the walls in the centre, and during a discussion with their class they asked for this to be the Quote of the Week.

“He who saves a single life...saves the world entire”

6. Faith Experiences in County Schools

A faith Experience is when the RS Resource Centre brings a faith into the school and is allocated a teaching space to makeover in order to create what a place of worship might look like in the faith chosen by the school.



The RS Resource Centre has noted how motivated the young people in County Schools are in finding out about different faiths in their school and how teachers welcome these visits as can be seen from the frequent visits to some schools.

The RS Resource Centre also loans out artefacts to subscribing schools to enhance their RE and has been operating since 2000. The RS Resource Centre, which is a member of the Federation of RE Centres across the country, is the only Centre which offers Faith Experiences and is based in our County.

During the academic year seventeen schools within the County had availed themselves of at least one faith experience. In fact six of these schools had more than one experience in the year which meant that some 3,000 young people benefited from these visits into their schools.

Evaluations from teachers within the County after these experiences said:-

“A super session, encouraging questioning and thinking whilst being informative and highly enjoyable.”

“A fantastic hands on experience, which accommodated all year groups.”

“A good practical & educational experience for the children

“A truly worthwhile experience for pupils living in a community that is basically non-religious”

“Very informative, our children were extremely engaged! Thank you, I learned lots too!”

“The experience generated awe & wonder in the pupils and brought to life the learning they had done so far.”

“A fantastic, multisensory experience that engaged the children and provided accessible information about the Hindu faith.” “A fabulous experience for the whole school.”

“Our children found out about Islam and the meaning of ‘respect’ in relation to religion. Misconceptions were addressed.”

“Being able to ask questions, seeing a Muslim and a Christian working together and first hand experiences.”

“It was an invaluable and informative experience for pupils and staff. Thank you”

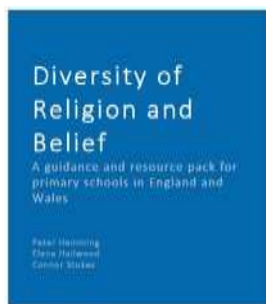
“A light hearted yet serious delivery of facts and information which added to the children’s prior learning.”

“Fun, interactive workshop, excellent resources and an excellent informative session on the key messages of Islam- understanding of peace and respect.”

“Provides the opportunity to understand other faiths around the world”

7. SACRE National involvements

SACRE has contributed to the work of NASACRE by taking part in surveys and sharing news of events within the Authority.



SACRE expressed views through the National Inter Faith Survey. Schools were sent copies of the guidance and resource pack published by Cardiff University which Nottinghamshire SACRE had been involved with through the consultation and submitting reflections. Some schools had fed back positive responses to receiving this document.

8. Standards in RE in Nottinghamshire

As the nature of Ofsted inspection reports has altered it has become difficult to comment upon their findings with regard to RE and Collective Worship.

Examination performances *these are Provisional Figures*

National Figures are taken from the Joint Council for Qualifications Provisional Results

Our breakdown of results no longer indicates which examination boards are used by our schools

SACRE noted that 30 Centres entered candidates at this level compared to 32 in the previous year and that the number of candidates was less than in the previous year – 1641 compared to 2,086.

Nationally there was a decrease in the number of candidates at this level 254,618 – compared to 282193 last year. That is 10.1 % fewer entrants though it remained the 7th most popular GCSE subject overall

Summary of GCSE Results 2014- 2018

With the change in the grading system which came in 2018 the following are the equivalent grades.

| | |
|--------|------------------|
| A* - A | Grades 9 - 8 - 7 |
| B – C | Grades 6 - 5 - 4 |
| D – G | Grades 3 - 2 - 1 |

Percentage of pupils in Nottinghamshire attaining A*-C and A*-G grades in the full GCSE:

| Nottinghamshire | | Exam Year | National Results | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|------------------|--------------|
| A*-C | A*-G | | A*-C | A*-G |
| 9 - 4 | 9 - 1 | | 9 - 4 | 9 - 1 |
| 66.0 | 96.9 | 2014 | 71.5 | 98.0 |
| 71.4 | 98.4 | 2015 | 72.2 | 98.3 |
| 72.2 | 97.9 | 2016 | 71.6 | 98.0 |
| 72.4 | 98.8 | 2017 | 71.3 | 98.2 |
| 70.3 | 97.4 | 2018 | 71.8 | 98.3 |

SACRE noted a slight decline in A*-C (9-4) taking us slightly below the national results.

| Gender in the County | Entries | Entries | A* - C 4 plus | A* - G 1 plus |
|----------------------|---------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Female Candidates | 2015 | 1,310 | 78.9% | 99.0% |
| | 2016 | 1,158 | 79.0% | 98.6% |
| | 2017 | 1,120 | 78.3% | 99.2% |
| | 2018 | 896 | 80.4 % | 98.9 % |
| Male Candidates | 2015 | 998 | 43.0% | 97.0% |
| | 2016 | 928 | 63.7% | 97.1% |
| | 2017 | 827 | 64.4% | 97.0% |
| | 2018 | 745 | 58.3 % | 95.7% |

Nationally there are more females, 137,210 (152,701 - 2017) taking the subject at this level than males 116,408 (129,492 - 2017)

GCSE Short Course

In the light of changes nationally, the information we receive on qualifications comes from the Department for Education's secondary school performance tables. Under new rules introduced in 2014, qualifications which were smaller in size/value than a GCSE were no longer included in performance tables' measures. As short courses are half the size of a full GCSE they are no longer counted so we no longer receive information on GCSE short courses in our data feeds.

This does not necessarily mean schools are not offering these qualifications but just that they are not included in official school figures and therefore we do not have access to this data.

Nationally there was a continued decrease in entries at the Short Course from 57,844 to 37,954 which reflects the fact that Short course GCSE is no longer counted and entries to this course are no longer seen as viable for inclusion in performance tables.

Summary of GCSE Short Course Results 2014- 2018

Percentage of pupils in Nottinghamshire attaining A*-C and A*-G grades for the last five years in the short GCSE:

| Nottinghamshire | | Exam Year | National Results | |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| A*-C | A*-G | | A*-C | A*-G |
| 43.7 | 93.0 | 2014 | 56.8 | 95.8 |
| | | 2015 | 57.5 | 96.3 |
| | | 2016 | 56.4 | 95.2 |
| | | 2017 | 54.3 | 95.4 |
| | | 2018 | 58.9 | 95.4 |

GCSE Full Course

A/S

AS Level results are for pupils at the end of key stage 5 (typically 18 year olds) and are based on those students who did not continue this qualification onto full A Level or are those who achieved a grade U at full A Level – they are not based on total AS Level entries.

SACRE noted that there was a decrease in the number of candidates from 107 to 73 who were entered from 19 centres compared to 21 centres the previous year.

Summary of A/S Results 2013 - 2017

Percentage of pupils in Nottinghamshire attaining A-C and A-E grades for the last five years at A/S level:

| Nottinghamshire | | Exam Year | National Results | |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|
| A-C | A-E | | A-C | A-E |
| 47.7 | 85.5 | 2014 | 67.3 | 92.2 |
| 47.7 | 84.4 | 2015 | 69.4 | 93.2 |
| 41.0 | 86.0 | 2016 | 69.3 | 93.0 |
| 43.0 | 81.3 | 2017 | 71.5 | 94.1 |
| 33.0 | 68.0 | 2018 | 65.9 | 93.4 |

Nationally there was a continued decrease in candidates this year from 19,027 to 8,454 This reflects a 63% decline on 2017.

| | | Entries | A - C | A* - E |
|-------------------|------|---------|--------|--------|
| Female Candidates | 2016 | 67 | 31.0% | 51.0% |
| | 2017 | 79 | 46.0% | 84.8% |
| | 2018 | 48 | 38.0 % | 70.8% |
| Male Candidates | 2016 | 27 | 11.0% | 27.0% |
| | 2017 | 28 | 36.0% | 71.4% |
| | 2018 | 25 | 13.0% | 60.0% |

A Level

SACRE noted a decrease in entries from 252 to 155 this year.

| Nottinghamshire | | Exam Year | National Results | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|
| A-C | A-E | | A-C | A-E |
| 76.6 | 100.0 | 2014 | 79.5 | 98.5 |
| 78.7 | 99.5 | 2015 | 80.1 | 98.6 |
| 73.0 | 100.0 | 2016 | 80.4 | 98.4 |
| 79.0 | 100.0 | 2017 | 80.7 | 98.3 |
| 81.0 | 98.1% | 2018 | 77.8 | 98.0 |

Our A - C results were better than the National Results.

Nationally there was a decrease in the number of candidates from 26,086 to 20,527 which is a 22.8% decline when we reflect that the subject's popularity had grown in recent years.

| | | Entries | A* - C | A* - E |
|-------------------|------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Female Candidates | 2016 | 126 | 81% | 100 % |
| | 2017 | 193 | 81% | 100 % |
| | 2018 | 106 | 85% | 98.1% |
| Male Candidates | 2016 | 70 | 74% | 100 % |
| | 2017 | 69 | 78% | 100 % |
| | 2018 | 49 | 84% | 98% |

SACRE noted the slightly improved results for grades A*-C

10. **Areas for development from SACRE to assist schools in bringing about further improvements during the academic year 2018 - 2019**

- To continue to explore and report on how SACRE supports the delivery of RE & Collective Worship in all schools/academies.
- To maintain our work with HE institutions in order to consider ways of enhancing exam performance of students.
- To explore ways of raising the profile of SACRE in educational institutions and communities across the county.
- To continue to promote the Agreed Syllabus as a means of making RE more effective and contributing to British Values.
- To continue to support teachers in delivering the Agreed Syllabus in the County through a CPD programme.
- To support the continued development of networks for teachers/coordinators/lead teachers of RE in schools/academies.
- To facilitate and encourage educational visits to places of worship by developing further Risk Assessments for local places of worship in collaboration with the hosts.

Conclusion

SACRE continues to develop its role in supporting schools and advising the Children and Young People's Cabinet on RE and Collective Worship and would welcome feedback and suggestions for its continuing work.

If you have any comments on the work/role of SACRE or require any further information please contact:

Rev'd Ken Johnson
Secretary of SACRE

c/o
Val Jones, EIS team, First Floor,
Meadow House
Littleworth
Mansfield
Notts NG18 2TB

11. SACRE Members

2017-2018

Group A

Councillor Boyd Elliott (Chair of SACRE)
Councillor Phil Rostance
Councillor Vaughan Hopewell

Group B *Five representatives of the Church of England*

Dr Anne Lumb
Mr John Graham
Mrs Kate Charlesworth
Mr Craig Moxham
Mr Andy Wall

Group C *Eight representatives of teachers in Nottinghamshire*

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mrs Mary Moran | Secondary Teacher (June 2017) |
| Ms Fiona Hunter | Trent University |
| Mr Mike Follen | NAHT |
| Mrs Bethan Inglis | Secondary RE teacher |
| Mr Richard Linford | Primary Teacher |
| Mr Andy Vickers | NASUWT |
| Mr Andrew Widdowson | NEU |
| Mr James Wale | Secondary Teacher |

Group D *Thirteen representatives of Christianity (other than Church of England) and other religious faiths representing the principal religious traditions of Nottinghamshire*

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Mrs Gemma Pettifor | Assemblies of God |
| Mr Mike Arnold | Baptist |
| Mr Mark Melbourne | Buddhist |
| Dr Shanaya Rathod | Hindu |

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Mrs Naomi Posner | Jewish | |
| Mr John Heard | Methodist | |
| Mr Hafiz Muntazir | Muslim | |
| Mr Gordan Thomas | Religious Society of Friends | |
| Mr Michael Groves | Roman Catholic | |
| Mrs Eddy Walton | Roman Catholic | |
| Mr Andrew Whitehouse | Salvation Army | |
| Mr Gurjeet Singh | Sikh | |
| Dr Graham Jennings | United Reformed Church | |
| Co-Optioned members | | |
| Mr Godfrey Nix | Baha'i | until November 2018 |
| Mr Russell Davies | Pagan Network | until February 2019 |