



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

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

**Annual Report
2018/2019**

Nottinghamshire SACRE

Chair's introduction

During the academic year we have met as the County SACRE each term and this year we have become more aware of what is in our local community to support RE teaching in our schools.

We visited TTS, a publisher of support materials for RE, amongst other subjects which is based within the County; visited the Liberal Synagogue to discover how the faith community supports learning about the Jewish faith in a hands on manner as well as visiting the National Holocaust Centre where we met with the City SACRE.

As a SACRE we have also produced some Risk Assessments to help schools visiting the Liberal Synagogue and a mosque. We were grateful for the support of a member of SACRE in developing these, along with the places of worship, which we are sure schools will find useful as they plan visits in the future and they will also provide a template for visits to other places of worship.

We also offered our annual Holocaust Day for Key Stage 2 pupils, which was again oversubscribed. This was supported by the generosity of the Local Authority coupled with support from various County Councillors. A report of this day can be found within this report.

At our joint meeting of SACREs we considered ways in which we can work together more closely and discussed the Review of The Agreed Syllabus which will be a key venture between the two SACREs starting in the next academic year.

Our SACRE has seen some changes of membership over the year and I am continually impressed by the level of commitment given to this body by our members who bring a wealth of experience and expertise to our meetings which consider a range of issues through the agenda. Our meetings have continued to be quorate over the year and as always the Local Authority is grateful to the members of SACRE who give so generously of their time to this work.

On behalf of SACRE, I was pleased to write to schools concerning the changes in OFSTED inspections which means that the subject may be inspected more in the future and offered schools the support of SACRE.

Councillor Boyd Elliott

Chair 2019

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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, 2018-2019, SACRE has met termly to discuss a range of issues itemised below:-

November 2018

SACRE met at the TTS Group Ltd in Nottinghamshire



- Presentation of the work of TTS and how the company assists the teaching of RE in schools,
- The Bahá'í community had their co-option renewed on SACRE
- A update on the work of SACRE producing Risk assessments was given as we had one for visits to the Nottingham Liberal Synagogue now ready
- Our SACRE Effectiveness Plan for 2018-2023 was received, this is our five year plan which is a working document to help make us an effective SACRE.
- SACRE members were informed that our Annual Holocaust Day 2019 would be going ahead due to the generosity of the Authority and County Councillors.
- Our Draft Annual Report was presented for consideration by SACRE and amendments were made. Discussion was held making this more accessible to teachers within the Authority.
- There was discussion concerning the CORE National plan for RE and comments were invited to be fed back to NASACRE.
- SACRE agreed to complete the NASACRE funding of SACRE enquiry.
- A working party was established to consider the application for NASACRE/ West hills Award for next year.

March 2019

SACRE met at the Nottingham Liberal Synagogue



- SACRE members received a presentation about the work of the Liberal synagogue with schools who can visit the synagogue.
- Members participated in finding out about Judaism from their visit, experiencing some of the activities used to engage young people looking at the 5 teaching areas.
- SACRE members were informed that further work on producing more Risk assessments to place of Worship were in hand.
- Receipt of the Annual Report had been received from the DfE and NASACRE
- The Review of the Agreed Syllabus 2020 was given an initial airing. SACRE felt that we needed to have an Agreed Syllabus which reflected the needs of our county. Discussions were in hand over whether the City would participate in this work.
- The revision of OFSTED inspections and framework was considered with views being shared with NASACRE.



June 2019

SACRE met at the Holocaust Centre



This was a joint meeting of the County SACRE along with the City SACRE.

- The Holocaust Centre updated SACRE on their work with young people across several learning programmes
- The Chair of the City SACRE led a discussion concerning how the SACREs could work closer together in the future.
- The Chair of the County SACRE introduced a discussion concerning the revision of the Agreed syllabus.
- Various groups/ individuals on the SACREs volunteered to be involved in the review of the Syllabus.
- The City wished more time to consider their involvement in the Review process.

During the Academic Year, two meetings were attended by 55% of the nominated members and one meeting by 48%

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 2018-2019

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



Our Autumn session was hosted in the Nottingham Liberal Synagogue. Here participants discovered how the Synagogue reaches out to schools through their educational programme of visits to this place of worship. There was a review of local and national

Developments in RE which included details of a range of resources available. The CORE report was explained. One of our lead teachers shared her creative approaches to teaching RE and another member shared their long term planning.

In our Spring Session we met at the National Holocaust Centre where our co-ordinators found out about what was happening at the Centre. They also looked at local and National updates, which included plans for the Mayflower celebrations in 2020. This also included details of resources Exploring Secularism. There was a sharing of work on creating a Policy for RE in schools

Value of Network

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

- A visit being held in a religious place, for some this was my first visit to a synagogue
- Tour of synagogue / artefacts was found to very helpful for teaching about Judaism & visit ideas
- The sharing of some fantastic creative ideas – how they were planned and carried out in school 2
- Sharing with others about good practice.
- Having time to discuss & to find out about new ideas and resources which are available.

Our teachers continue to voice their support for these Network sessions to continue.

The Annual SACRE Primary RE Conference

“Better RE – standards, values, spirituality”



The Conference was designed to follow on offering teachers uplifting, creative and practical ideas to utilise in the classroom which would enhance the profile of RE in schools. Delegates also received ideas on various ways to continue the exciting development of RE within their schools

Delegates commented that they enjoyed the examples of work they saw, being able to engage in group discussion and being able to *“Model a diverse range of activities which allows us to teach RE creatively.”*

- Finding out what other schools do for RE.
- Inspirational ideas presented in a fun and engaging way and a real understanding of how children learn best.
- Seeing RE more as an opinion rather than a set of facts about places of worship.
- I have been rejuvenated in passion for leading this subject.

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

- Develop spirituality throughout the school.
- Sharing of ideas with colleagues & SLT to ensure we have a creative approach
- Formulate ideas for me to lead the next academic year – themed weeks
- This will give me lots of ideas to share with staff in September which will engage children and help them to think for themselves as active learners. As yet I have little knowledge of standards in RE across the school so these ideas will enable me to see what inspirational RE should look like.



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



The Local Authority along with County Councillors financially supported our Fourth 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 well oversubscribed.



We worked with the National Holocaust Centre and with Julia Conway-Diamond from RE Today and some 60 young people with their teachers along with members of SACRE.

After receiving an outline of the day, there was an ice breaker activity which was followed by a talk by Simon on his own experiences of the Holocaust.

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.

During the day the children explored four themes:



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



Faith Experiences are delivered in schools by the Nottinghamshire RSResource centre, which is a member of the Federation of RE Centres.

A faith Experience is when the RS Resource Centre takes 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.

Young people are involved in these experiences in a number of ways. Faith experiences visited 14 schools in the County, some of which were visited more than once and worked with around 2,500 young people

Our local RSResource Centre is a member of the Federation of RE Centres across the country but is the only centre to offer such experiences as well as loaning out artefacts to assist teachers in their delivery of RE.

One school invited parents to come in at the end of the day to be shown what they had been doing

Here is a selection of some of the evaluations received from these experiences across the County:-

“The session was informative, fun & interactive. The children thoroughly enjoyed it and learnt lots of information.”

“... a fantastic day, the children really enjoyed learning about & experiencing Jewish festivals.”

“The session exceeded my expectations- it was fab!”

The faith experience was immersive & engaging – the children loved it & were excited to talk about what they had experienced.

“A class of challenging pupils were ‘hooked’ and enthralled, taking in new experiences & enjoying recalling the old!”

An invaluable experience for our children to further their understanding of Islamic beliefs and Muslim prayer. Fabulous and relevant links to Christianity and other religions.

Great with Visually Impaired child.

Pupil comments

“I didn’t know very much about Buddhism before: it was a good opportunity to learn about what it means to be a Buddhist.”

“Today has been really interesting – all the sights, smells and sounds helped me to learn a lot.”

“At times it felt like I was in a Buddhist temple; Reverend Johnson helped to explain what everything meant.”

The Chair of the Management team of the RSResource Centre, Ms Tara Flannagan, after being involved in a full day with 320+ young people said:-



“I cannot explain in words how the children’s willingness to learn and engage in finding out about Buddhism made me feel. I am smiling from the memory, knowing that we are impacting and influencing children’s lives is a privilege.”

“When the parents came in at the end of the day the children took the lead and explained to them what they’d learnt! “

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 as well as attending the AGM of NASACRE.



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 only 26 Centres entered candidates at this level compared to 30 in the previous year and that the number of candidates was less than in the previous year – 1630 compared to 1641. The downward trend continuing.

Nationally there was a decrease in the number of candidates at this level 254,618 – compared to 282193 last year.

Summary of GCSE Results 2015- 2019

GCSE Full Course

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 9 - 4	A*-G 9 - 1		A*-C 9 - 4	A*-G 9 - 1
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
73.1	98.8	2019	72.4	98.4

SACRE noted a slight increase A*-C (9-4) taking us slightly above 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 %
	2019	887	82.4%	99.5%
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%
	2019	743	62.0%	98%

Nationally there are more females, 135,605 (137,210 -2018) taking the subject at this level than males 113,417 (116,408 - 2018)

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 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 2015- 2019

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 4 plus	A*-G 1 plus
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

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 2015- 2019

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

7 centres entered candidates.

Nottinghamshire		Exam Year	National Results	
A-C	A-E		A-C	A-E
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
46.7	70.0	2019	68.7	93.6

Nationally there was a continued decrease in candidates this year from 8,454 to 6,259

		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%
	2019	16	50 %	68.8%
Male Candidates	2016	27	11.0%	27.0%
	2017	28	36.0%	71.4%
	2018	25	13.0%	60.0%
	2019	14	42.9%	71.4%

A Level

SACRE noted an increase in entries from 155 to 174 this year from 20 centres.

Nottinghamshire		Exam Year	National Results	
A-C	A-E		A-C	A-E
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	78.8	98.2
78.7	98.9	2019	76.7	98.2

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

Nationally there was a decrease in the number of candidates from 20,527 to 19,406 which shows that a decline in numbers is continuing.

		Entries	A* - C	A* - E
Female Candidates	2016	126	81%	100 %
	2017	193	81%	100 %
	2018	106	85%	98.1%
	2019	130	81.5%	100%
Male Candidates	2016	70	74%	100 %
	2017	69	78%	100 %
	2018	49	84%	98%
	2019	44	70.5%	95.5%

SACRE noted a decline in the results this year.

9. Areas for developments to assist schools in bringing about further improvement during the academic year 2019- 2020

Targets for further improvement:

1. To support the introduction of the Revised Agreed Syllabus in the County through CPD provision.
2. To continue to explore and report on how SACRE can support the delivery of RE & Collective Worship in all schools/academies.
3. To explore ways of raising the profile of SACRE in all our educational institution and in our communities
4. To seek to enhance the examination performance of our children and young people by continuing our engagement with HE institutions.

Support for schools in bringing about further improvement 2019-2020

1. To support schools as they begin to implement the Revised Agreed Syllabus in the context of the current OFSTED Framework.
2. To support the continued development of networks for teachers / coordinators and lead teachers of RE in schools and academies.

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

All photos are submitted with consent

10. SACRE Members

2018-2019

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
Ms Fiona Hunter	Trent University
Mr Mike Follen	NAHT
Mrs Bethan Inglis	Secondary RE teacher
Mr Richard Linford	Primary Teacher
Mr Che Webster	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-Opted members

Mr Godfrey Nix	Baha'i
Mr Russell Davies	Pagan Network