



Nottinghamshire Standing Advisory  
Council for Religious Education

Annual Report  
2022/2023

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# **Nottinghamshire SACRE**

## **1.1 Chair's introduction**

### **Welcome**

**A year that has seen us as a group say a fond farewell to many long-standing members including our long standing secretary Ken Johnson and a huge welcome to many new members and of course our new secretary to SACRE Sally MacDonald who has established a seamless transition.**

**We have met at The Well Retford, Southwell Minster and the National Holocaust Centre continuing our great work on The Agreed Syllabus and SACRE's role in our local communities.**

**Again thank you for having me as your Chairman, it is an honour.**

**Looking forward to the ensuing year.**

**Kind Regards**

Boyd

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Elliott', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Councillor Boyd Elliott**

Chair of SACRE  
Vice Chairman of Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee  
County Councillor for Calverton

## 1.2 Meetings of SACRE

SACRE met once each term during 2022-2023

### **November 2022**                      ***The Well, Retford Baptist Church***

*We were given a tour of The Well and an introduction to the work that is done there across the community.*

*The meeting was not quorate but we continued with the agenda and made recommendations to be ratified at the next meeting*

- Election of vice chair was postponed until a quorate meeting
- Membership update
- The SACRE Code of Conduct was discussed and agreed for acceptance at the next meeting
- A discussion about funding from the LA was raised.
- The Development plan was reviewed and discussed
- Local & National Developments were looked at and it was agreed that our Cllrs would write to our local MPs regarding the shortage of adequately trained RE teachers
- A discussion was held about how to best facilitate members' attendance at meetings

### **March 2023**                              ***Southwell Minster***

*Diane Ives enabled a tour of the Minster and signposted the Minster's work with schools*

*The meeting was not quorate again, but we continued with the agenda and made recommendations to be ratified at the next meeting*

- Election of vice chair was postponed until a quorate meeting
- Membership update- new members from Roman Catholic church and an observer from Church of Later Day Saints welcomed
- The SACRE Code of Conduct was discussed, some changes suggested to be brought to next meeting
- There was a review of the advice to governors.
- The development plan was reviewed and it was agreed to prioritise actions
- Review of the advice on collective worship

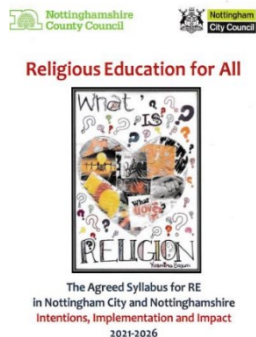
### **June 2022**                                      ***National Holocaust Centre***

*We were given an introduction to **The Journey**- part of the experience that schools are offered at the centre*

- Vice-chair elected from group D.
- Membership reviewed and discussed.
- Development has been RAG rated and immediate issues highlighted.
- The code of conduct was reviewed, issues discussed and it was accepted
- The route for the Annual report to be accepted and ratified by Notts CC was confirmed.

- Updated advice to governors was approved.
- A review of Ofsted reports on Nottinghamshire Schools was discussed.
- Feedback from the SACRE conference and RE network was received.
- Research on Hindu hate crimes was introduced and agreed to be shared with members following the meeting.

## 2.1 The Agreed Syllabus



The resources on the website have been re-organised to ensure ease of access for teachers. Each unit of the syllabus now has a folder where related materials that may be used for teaching are available. Through Lat Blaylock's input at the SACRE conference and the secretary, Sally MacDonald's, attendance at a conference for SEND and RE and the annual NARTE conference additional resources have been added.

## 2.2 Standards & monitoring

Nottinghamshire schools RE GCSE results are shared with SACRE but this represents a small percentage of the total figures as it does not include academies. It is therefore difficult to use these for a reliable method of monitoring standards in RE in the county.

Many of the schools do not report the number of hours given to RE at KS3 & 4.

Scrutiny of Ofsted reports for Nottinghamshire schools, where RE was mentioned or where deep dives into RE were completed in the inspection are shared with SACRE on a termly basis. Of 24 Nottinghamshire Primary Schools inspected in 2022, 21 had good outcomes, 9 deep dives into RE were conducted and there were 15 positive comments related to RE and the important role it plays in teaching British Values.

## 2.3 Teacher CPD & Support Materials

This year we have had three, termly network meetings for Primary RE leaders across the county and a SACRE conference for RE leaders.

Our Primary RE Network met each term for a half day of training and sharing good practice. Subjects covered have included:

- Using book scrutiny and pupil voice to monitor standards of RE in your school
- Assessment methods
- Sharing of resources that support and enhance the units in the agreed syllabus
- Insights from recent Ofsted inspections
- Preparing for an Ofsted inspection
- Developing an RE leaders' action plan

- Reflections from a member completing an MA in RE teaching
- Effective use of visits and visitors to enhance RE teaching

The pattern of the meetings includes some input followed by group work and sharing of practice. Attendees are always asked to bring something for discussion and to share with others. This is something they do generously and with great professionalism.

Date of network	Attendees	Feedback- really useful	useful	Some use or not useful
November 22	23	15	5	0
March 23 (NUE strike day)	22	11	9	0
July 23	25	17	2	0

Feedback regularly mentions highlights being:

- time to network with other professionals
- looking at materials/RE books from other schools
- reassurance that they are taking the subject in the right direction

### **SACRE Annual RE Conference – June 2023**

#### **Build Better RE in your school with the Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus**

Led by Lat Blaylock

- What does it mean to enable greater depth in pupil learning in RE?
- Many religions and worldviews: developing diversity and attending to respect for all
- Assessing RE to meet the standards of the syllabus: 5 practical ideas
- Inspiration for leading RE in the primary school

60 teachers signed up to attend the conference.

36 completed evaluations. 35 said it was excellent, 1 good.

Some responses:

- A very informative session which has given me the confidence to head back to school and lead a staff meeting! Thank you
- The training was really inspiring, and the clear links made to the Nottinghamshire Syllabus makes it easy for me to see how I can successfully implement these ideas in our curriculum. Thank you so much for such an inspiring and thought provoking day
- It was an excellent day. For the first time in ages I felt that I had been given the tools/time to have a really good overview of the subject, see where the resourcing could be developed, and be able to discuss with others some best practice. The work on GDS from the outset was so empowering as it immediately took the sessions (and those we would plan for the children) from a regurgitating of facts to higher thinking. Genius idea. I could see, as the sessions progressed, exactly where I needed to go and what to do next. I now feel secure that I could have a conversation with an inspector, explaining where we are and why, and what we have planned for the next steps. Thank you so much. We would like- (An

opportunity to attend this again (we are a Derbyshire school but really valued the day) or for Lat to run one for Derbyshire.)

- It was clear, relevant and very informative. A fantastic day that has left me excited to be RE lead.

## **2.4 Other Information**

The Secretary of SACRE has not received any formal requests from schools facing withdrawal issues either concerning sessions or full-scale withdrawal from RE. Clarification and guidance regarding parent's right to withdraw has been requested by some schools and the guidance. The secretary shared the NAHT and NATRE guidance which was well received.

There have been no complaints about the teaching of RE in schools.

Information concerning SACRE is available on the local Authority website:-

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/nottinghamshire-standing-advisory-council-for-religious-education-sacre-1>

This includes:

- Agendas and minutes of the meetings
- SACRE constitution
- Past annual reports
- A contact for the determinations policy
- Contact details for enquiries

## **3. Collective Worship**

A link to the directors report on Collective Worship in Nottinghamshire schools is available on the SACRE page of NCC's web-site: [collectiveworshipdirectorsreport.doc \(live.com\)](#)

### **3.1 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.

Nottinghamshire SACRE does have a policy on Determination which can be requested.

## 4 SACRE LINKS

### 4.1 National Groups

SACRE continues to keep up to date with developments in the RE world through membership of NATRE and NASACRE. The secretary attended the online conference of NASACRE – Strictly RE in January 2023. Some members of SACRE have attended the online training courses offered by NASACRE. These bodies remain important and valuable sources of advice and information.

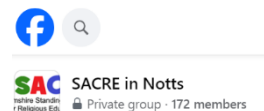
### 4.2 Local Groups

SACRE membership includes 17 representatives from the faith groups and denominations that exist across Nottinghamshire. It also includes teachers from schools in the county, different academies, along with representatives from Nottingham University.

A representative of the RSresource centre attends SACRE meetings as well our links with the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham advisors.

The RSresources centre is used by schools in the county to support the teaching and resourcing of RE.

SACRE in Notts Facebook page has 172 members. Posts are regularly shared with members from national organisations to inform and support the continued teaching and development of RE.



## 5. SACRE involvement in the Local Area

### 5.1 Local information

SACRE have an electronic flyer regarding what SACRE is. This is available to schools and can be made available to Faith communities in the County: [bit.ly/NottsSACRE](https://bit.ly/NottsSACRE)

### 5.2 Governors

SACRE advice to governors has been updated this year and shared through NCC.

### 5.3 Advice on community issues



The Secretary has provided schools with advice on issues which arise. Primary Picture news is also shared which gives schools regular news items to share with pupils in a Primary friendly format.

SACRE members provide the secretary with advice from the bodies that they represent from time to time. This advice is passed on to other SACRE members and schools as appropriate. For example, our Hindu representatives shared a research paper on Hindu hate crime in the UK which was shared with members and teachers.

## 6. SACRE



## **6.1 Support professional & administrative**

The Local Authority provides a Secretary for SACRE who provides guidance to the SACRE on various matters pertaining to Religious Education and Collective Worship from various bodies which exist. The LA also provides support with minute taking and circulation of materials and other administrative assistance.

## **6.2 Training**

SACRE members new to the body are sent the document produced by NASACRE about being new to the role and are invited to attend the on-line training sessions which NASACRE provide.

NASACRE have a rolling programme of training events and useful resources which are available to all our members.

Advice is given to the LA regularly through the Authority representative about courses, network, and conferences to assist teachers, as well as sharing concerns which have been voiced. These requests are then discussed with liaison with higher authorities in the LA.

## **6.3 Membership, representation and recruitment**

The Secretary of SACRE approaches all groups represented on SACRE when a vacancy arises to ensure that the groups mentioned in the constitution are properly represented. In 2022/2023 two out of the three meetings were not quorate so work has been done to ensure meetings are well attended. This includes the development of a code of conduct that states the expectation that members attend meetings or send suitable replacements. In addition the secretary has undertaken work to ensure that the membership of SACRE is current and that all groups have full and active representation.

## **6.4 Finance**

The LA has provided funding to cover the following over the past year:

- The administrative work of SACRE
- The provision of refreshments at venues
- Membership subscriptions of NASACRE and NATRE
- The secretary's attendance at training events
- Time spent by the SACRE Clerk on a range of duties.
- The time of the secretary to SACRE in facilitating the RE teacher's network

## 7. Appendices

### 7.1 Examination results

#### **GCSE and A Level results 2023**

SACRE has noted the national provisional figures for UK - Source JCQ

<b>GCSE Full Course</b>	June 2023 Notts	June 2023	June 2022	June 2019
Total	<b>1869</b>	<b>243735</b>	<b>243252</b>	<b>221419</b>
Grades				
9-5	57.6%	31.2%	35.2%	38.7%
9 - 4	68%	72.8%	77.2%	80.5%
9- 1	97.8%	98.4%	98.4%	99.5%

<b>GCE A Level</b>	June 2023	June 2022	June 2019
Total	16853	17789	19406
Grades (% cumulative)			
A* - C	79.6	87.6	76.7
A* - E	98.1	99.0	98.2

## Trends in Nottinghamshire over time

Nottinghamshire				
All Pupils				
Exam Yr	NoE	9-5	9-4 / A*-C	9-1 / A*-G
2015	2,308		71.4	98.4
2016	2,085		72.7	98.0
2017	1,945		72.6	98.8
2018	1,641	57.4	70.4	97.4
2019	1,630	60.8	73.1	98.8
2020				
2021				
2022	1,924	58.0	69.2	97.8
2023(p)	1,869	57.6	68.0	97.8

Girls				
Exam Yr	NoE	9-5	9-4 / A*-C	9-1 / A*-G
2015	1,310		79.0	99.5
2016	1,158		79.1	98.7
2017	1,120		78.3	99.2
2018	896	67.2	80.5	98.9
2019	887	71.6	82.4	99.5
2020				
2021				
2022	1,009	67.4	76.5	98.9
2023(p)	1,023	64.3	74.4	98.4

Boys				
Exam Yr	NoE	9-5	9-4 / A*-C	9-1 / A*-G
2015	998		61.5	97.1
2016	927		64.7	97.1
2017	825		64.8	98.2
2018	745	45.6	58.4	95.7
2019	743	47.9	62.0	98.0
2020				
2021				
2022	915	47.5	61.1	96.6
2023(p)	846	49.4	60.2	96.9

## 7.2. CPD

SACRE has offered primary RE Leads a Network course over three half days which have been well supported. SACRE also provides the opportunity for an Annual RE Conference. All these CPD activities are made available to City of Nottingham Schools and academies as well as those in the County. Accounts of them were included in the report above.

The secretary attended training facilitated by Doncaster SACRE on RE and SEND. This was led by Lat Blaylock and Anne Krisman. As a result, Nottinghamshire teachers will have input on SEND and RE from the secretary and Ian Coles, an RE teacher in Nottinghamshire, at the November 2023 network and the secretary is working with Anne Krisman and Lat Blaylock to organise a RE and SEND conference in Nottinghamshire in 2024.

## 7.3 Attendance Record

Attendance at SACRE meetings: -                      Membership from nominated groups: 35

November 2022 from the nominated groups	9 present,	15 apologies,	26%present
March 2023 from the nominated groups	11 present,	14 apologies	31% present
July 2023 from the nominated groups	21 present,	4 apologies,	60%present

## 7.4 Any LA/SACRE policy statements on RE or CW

These have not been changed in the year 2022/23 and continue to be available as detailed above.

## 7.5 Development Plan

The development plan is considered at each SACRE meeting and progress is noted. This year the plan has been prioritised to highlight outstanding actions.

## 7.6 Circulation details of Annual Report

Due to the reorganisation of NCC committees the acceptance of last year's SACRE annual report was delayed. It has now been confirmed that the SACRE Annual report, following it's acceptance by SACRE in November will be taken to NCC select committee to be accepted. It will then be shared with NASACRE and DfE in January. It is also sent to all schools and academies in Nottinghamshire and is available on SACRE's web-page.

## **7.7 SACRE Constitution**

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/2901573/nottinghamshiresacreconstitution.pdf](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/2901573/nottinghamshiresacreconstitution.pdf)

## **Conclusion**

SACRE continues to develop its role in advising, supporting and resourcing schools to deliver high quality RE in Nottinghamshire. We 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:

Sally MacDonald  
Secretary to SACRE  
[Sally.MacDonald@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:Sally.MacDonald@nottscc.gov.uk)

## SACRE Members

2022- July 2023

**Group A** *Three representatives of the Children and Young People's services*

Councillor Boyd Elliott (Chair of SACRE)  
Councillor Tracey Taylor  
Councillor Richard Butler

**Group B** *Five representatives of the Church of England*

Dr Anne Lumb  
Mrs Megan Brooksby  
Mrs Kate Charlesworth  
Mr Craig Moxham  
Vacancy

**Group C** *Eight representatives of teachers in Nottinghamshire*

Mrs Mary Moran Secondary  
Mr Mike Follen/ Pearl Day NAHT  
Mrs Bethan Inglis Secondary  
Mr Richard Linford Primary  
Vacancy NEU  
Vacancy NASUWT  
Mr James Bakewell Wale Secondary  
Mr Godfrey Nix Baha'i  
Mr Russell Davies Pagan  
Mr Will Richardson BHA  
Dr Irfan Malik Nottingham Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Network  
Vacancy Muslim  
Will Richardson Humanist

Co/opted  
Denis Hill Church of Latter Day Saints

Jon Hoover/Tim Hutchings Nottingham University

**Group D** *Sixteen representatives of Christianity (other than Church of England) and other religious faiths representing the principal religious/world views of Nottinghamshire*

Mrs Gemma Pettifor	Assemblies of God
Mr Mike Arnold (until March 2023)	Baptist
Vacancy	Buddhist
Dr Shanaya Rathod	Hindu
Dr C Saluja	Hindu
Mrs Naomi Posner	Jewish
Mr Alan Darlington	Methodist
Tom Drew	Society of Friends
Mr David Quinn	Roman Catholic
Miss Caroline Hornsby	Roman Catholic
Mr Andrew Whitehouse	Salvation Army
Mr Gurjeet Singh	Sikh
Dr Graham Jennings	United Reformed Church