



Nottinghamshire Standing Advisory
Council for Religious Education

Annual Report
September 2024/August 2025

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Nottinghamshire SACRE

1.1 Chair's introduction

It is my privilege to introduce Nottinghamshire County Council's SACRE Annual Report for 2024-2025. This has been a year in which our SACRE has again demonstrated its noblest virtues and its highest ideals. Whilst we have shown ourselves to be a group with a broad diversity of worldviews and beliefs, we have also demonstrated a unity of purpose and endeavour. And what has united us as a group has been our shared aspiration to empower the generations following to be better informed, more understanding, more respectful and less fearful of the worldviews and beliefs of others.

In this respect – and in united endeavour – we have met as a group three times during the year and, in the process, have 'set the ball rolling' on a re-write of our Agreed Syllabus. Productive meetings have been held at St. Paul's Church in West Bridgford, Bluecoat Aspley Academy and The National Holocaust Centre in Laxton. We have also had meetings of the Agreed Syllabus Working Group and Agreed Syllabus consultation meetings with a wide variety of stakeholders.

Highlights of the year for me have been the meeting we shared with our colleagues on Nottingham City SACRE in Aspley and the well-attended SACRE Conference held in June at the John Fretwell Centre in Warsop. I recall remarking, in my closing comments at the joint meeting, on the evident engagement and palpable energy within the room and highlighting the strength of our partnership working. Similarly, the enthusiasm for high quality Religious Education and the eagerness to continuously develop practice in the classroom were, for me, the highlights of the truly inspirational conference.

As I commend this report to you, I would like to thank Sally for her diligent work as SACRE Secretary, all the members of SACRE for their service and dedication, and Cllr Boyd Elliott for his commitment to and support of SACRE as our outgoing Chair. And, as we look towards the 2025-2026 academic year and the publishing of a thoroughly revised and forward-looking Agreed Syllabus, I would like to extend a welcome to Cllr Hana John as our incoming Chair.

Craig Moxham
Vice-Chair of SACRE
Member of Group B - Church of England Group

1.2 Meetings of SACRE

SACRE met once each term during 2024-2025

November 26th 2024 St. Paul's Church, Wilford Hill

Chris Belton, head teacher at Jesse Gray Primary School in West Bridgford spoke to SACRE about the relationship they have built with St. Paul's and the contribution it makes to the school delivering a vibrant and relevant RE curriculum. Revd. Tim Fox, the vicar of St. Paul's explained how this work was part of the church's vision for being a community church.

12 members attended the meeting

The following items were discussed and agreed:

- In response to our monitoring of Ofsted reports a letter was sent to Ofsted
- Over 70 schools responded to the SACRE summer survey. Results were shared
- SACRE's involvement with Nottinghamshire's MATs
- Two members had attended NASACRE training or REhubs- they shared their learning
- The development plan was reviewed
- A collaboration with Nottingham City has been instigated to work together on reviewing and revising the current Agreed Syllabus, which finishes in 2026. Our next meeting will be a joint meeting to agree our next steps

February 27th 2025 – Bluecoat Aspley Academy

This was a joint meeting with Nottingham City SACRE. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the options for reviewing and revising the Agreed Syllabus. The separate SACREs also met briefly to discuss matters outlined below.

10 Nottinghamshire members attended the meeting

Presentations were given by:

- Charlotte Newman, RE leader at Archway Academy Trust about the changing landscape in RE teaching
- Ian Coles, a primary teacher about how SACRE's can make use of Ofsted's Deep & Meaningful report
- Lat Blaylock & Julie Childs from RE today outlined how they would approach revising and rewriting the Agreed Syllabus

SACRE groups then met to discuss the proposal and agree their response.

In the absence of our chair, Craig Moxham the vice-chair chaired the meeting of the Nottinghamshire SACRE.

- All groups voted to revise and rewrite the existing syllabus and gave various provisos for consideration.

- Members for the working party were suggested

We came back together and both SACRE's agreed to revise and rewrite the existing syllabus. It was agreed that RE Today would be contracted to undertake the work.

July 2nd 2025 - National Holocaust Centre, Laxton, Nottinghamshire

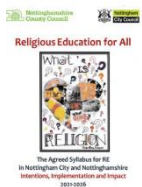
Sam, an educator at the centre introduced the work that is done at the centre and took the group on a tour of The Journey- an interactive journey through the life of a Jewish child in Germany. She described how this was used with school

12 members attended the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Craig Moxham, our vice chair, as no councillors had been allocated to SACRE following local elections in May.

Members discussed and agreed the following:

- A more formalised process for nominating and agreeing SACRE members
- Catering at SACRE meetings
- Update and further discussion on the consultation about the revision of the Agreed Syllabus.
- Monitoring update
- Effectiveness and development plan was reviewed and it was agreed to include the action to maintain a SACRE presence on social media, ie. Our Facebook page.
- RE GCSE and A level results for last year were considered. SACRE agreed that in future years a letter of commendation and certificate should be sent to schools achieving above national results in RE.

2.1 The Agreed Syllabus



The Agreed Syllabus has been bought by 411 schools.

The associated resource package has been bought by 409 schools.

The RE leader's network and SACRE conference focus on supporting teachers to effectively deliver the agreed syllabus. 30 schools signed up to the network.

41 attended the SACRE conference on June 20th 2025

Of 51 schools who responded to a SACRE consultation on the revision of the Agreed Syllabus in July 2025,

- 93% used the Agreed Syllabus,
- 8% found it very useful and practical,
- 40% found it sufficiently useful and practical
- 40% found it quite useful and practical
- 4% found it not at all useful or practical
- 6% didn't know

Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire SACREs agreed in February to review and revise The Agreed Syllabus. Lat Blaylock of RE Today has been commissioned to consult with stake

holders and meet with a working party to undertake this work. The new syllabus should be completed and ready for schools by summer term 2026.

2.2 Standards & monitoring

2.2i Exam outcomes:

The reporting of GCSE and A level results was delayed this year and so were considered by SACRE in July 2025. It was acknowledged that some schools in Nottinghamshire are obtaining results above the national figures and SACRE would like to acknowledge and celebrate this with those schools. GCSE and A level results for 2025 can be found in Appendices 1i.

2.2ii Ofsted:

All Ofsted reports for Nottinghamshire schools and academies in 2024/25 were analysed. Note was taken of deep dives into RE, positive comments related to religious education or spirituality and developmental comments. This report will be received for discussion by SACRE in November 2025

Ofsted inspection of schools in Nottinghamshire 2024/5			
Number of inspections and type of school	RE Deep Dives	Positive comments related to RE	Developmental comments related to RE
17 LA controlled	0	7	0
41 Primary Academies	1	20	0
8 VA, VC and Foundation Schools	0	3	1
12 Secondary Academies	0	6	2
6 Special schools	0	0	1

2.2iii SACRE survey

The SACRE survey is conducted on a bi-annual basis so is due to be sent out again in summer term 2026. This year SACRE conducted a consultation on the revision of the Agreed Syllabus (reported above in 2i).

2.2iv Engagement monitoring

The secretary also monitors schools' engagement with SACRE and reports to SACRE at each meeting. Engagement includes:

- Attendance at RE network meetings
- Attendance at SACRE conference
- Enquiries to SACRE
- RE Deep dives
- Information on school web-site regarding RE curriculum and collective worship

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:

- RE in EYFS
- The RE council tool kit
- Sharing of resources and planning linked to the Agreed Syllabus
- Progression in RE
- Assessment
- NATRE membership
- Use of pupil voice for monitoring
- Revision of Agreed Syllabus

Guest speakers: Jo Redfern and Ian Coles.

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
November 2024	25	14	9	0
March 2025	23	13	10	0
July 2025	13	10	3	0

Feedback regularly mentions highlights being:

- time to network with other professionals, sharing ideas and resources
- input that enables better leadership
- ideas for leading staff training

SACRE Annual RE Conference – June 2025

Led by Lat Blaylock, the conference covered:

Dialogue, Creativity, Worldviews, Achievement- Great ways to learn in RE with 4-11s

- Making the subject come alive for every pupil

- Taking pupils on a learning journey towards high standards.
- A dozen or more great ideas to illustrate best practice, 4-11
- Takes OFSTED's challenge to be 'deep and meaningful'
- Provides examples of methods in dialogue and creativity.
- A focus on high standards

41 teachers attended the conference.

37 completed evaluations. 32 said it was really useful, 5 useful, 0 of some use.

Some responses:

- *Inspiring, rich knowledge, tasks designed for deeper learning, clear explanations of how they fit with Notts syllabus*
- *Meaningful and relevant information and resources to take back to school*
- *I'm looking forward to implementing what I've learned today. Thank you for this creative and inspiring conference*
- *Learning so much great practice. The session on dialogue was particularly helpful*
- *The use of personal stories shows how we can do the same in our lessons*
- *This enables me to think about the priorities for the subject action plan- dialogue is definitely a priority*
- *Starting my journey as RE lead in September, can't wait to look at planning to focus on dialogue, creativity, individual understanding rather than teacher-talk facts*
- *Thank you! This was my first but was inspirational- hope it won't be my last!*

Resource site:

We continue to provide resources which support the teaching of the Agreed Syllabus. These are available to schools for a small subscription from [Resources | Page | SLA Online](#)
These will be fully updated and reviewed following the launch of the new syllabus in 2026.

2.4 Other Information

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

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, NASACRE and the East Midlands RE hub. One member of SACRE attended the online training courses offered by NATRE on Ofsted's Deep & Meaningful Report- a summary was reported to SACRE in our February meeting. Another member attended the East Midlands RE hub autumn meeting and presented to SACRE in November.

These bodies remain important and valuable sources of advice, training and information.

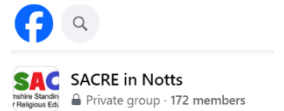
4.2 Local Groups

SACRE membership includes 18 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 and teaching unions.

Unfortunately no replacement for Rev Ken Johnson has been found to continue his work at the RSresources centre which was used by schools in the county to support the teaching and resourcing of RE. Schools seeking faith experience days are now directed to The Open Centre in Derby. [Schools - Derby Open Centre](#)

Faith artefact boxes are still available through subscription from [RSResourcesJoinUs](#)

SACRE in Notts Facebook page has 173 members. Posts are regularly shared with members from national organisations to inform and support the continued teaching and development of RE and to encourage engagement with SACRE training and events.



5.SACRE involvement in the Local Area

5.1 Local information

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

5.2 Governors

SACRE advice to governors was updated in 2024 and shared through NCC.

5.3 Advice on community issues

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. SACRE's advice on Ramadan is available on SACRE's web page.

- [Read guidance for Ramadan in schools \[PDF\]](#)

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.

East Midlands RE hubs provides training and information which all SACRE members can access.

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. Following local elections in May all members of group A were replaced and had not been confirmed for the meeting in July. Three new councillors have now been identified to join SACRE. We currently have one vacancy in the Education Group (C) and four vacancies in the Faith Group (D).

SACRE has 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

A discreet budget for SACRE of £12,000 has been agreed. This will be managed by Denise Bryant- Team Manager of the Education Improvement Service.

SACRE costs:

April 2024 to March 2025		
10.07.24	Underwood C of E Primary	90.00
26.11.24	St Paul's Wilford Church	130.00
27.02.25	Bluecoat Aspley School	0.00
FEB 2025	S. MACDONALD MILEAGE RECODE APR - DEC 2024	176.12
MAR 2025	S. MACDONALD 4099000 MARCH 2025 MILEAGE RECODE	26.68
JUL 2024	NASACRE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 24-25	115.00
AUG 2024	NASACRE ONLINE TRAINING PACKAGE	60.00
NOV 2024	NATRE RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP 42012 -2024	120.00
	Sally's pay for 2024 2025	8551.178
	total costs	9,268.98

Leaving a surplus of £2,731.02

7. Appendices

7.1 Examination results

GCSE

GCSE Full Course	June 2025	National June 25	June 2024	June 2023
Total	1,893	218,561	1,916	1,869
Grades	%	%	%	%
GCSE Full Course Girls	June 2025 Notts	National June 25	June 2024 Notts	June 2023 Notts
Total	1,060	118,329	1,060	1,023
Grades	%	%	%	%
9-5	63.1	67.8	61.9	64.3
9 - 4	74	77.6	73.8	74.4
9- 1	97.6	98.2	99.3	98.4
GCSE Full Course Boys	June 2025	National June 25	June 2024	June 2023 Notts
Total	833	100,232	856	846
Grades	%	%	%	%
9-5	43	54.2	44	49.4
9 - 4	58.3	66.1	55.5	60.2
9- 1	96.3	96.1	96	96.9

A Level results in Nottinghamshire 2025 (not available at time of completion of this report.)

GCE A Level	June 2025	June 2024	June 2023	June 2022
Total		146	16853	17789
Grades (% cumulative)				
A* - C		76.1	79.6	87.6
A* - E		96.7	98.1	99.0

7.2. CPD

SACRE has offered primary RE Leads a Network course over three half days which continues to be 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 are included in the report above.

7.3 Attendance Record

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

November 2024 from the nominated groups 11 present, 9 apologies, 31% present
 February 2025 from the nominated groups 10 present, 8 apologies 29% present
 July 2025 from the nominated groups 12 present, 7 apologies, 34% present

Membership at meetings has fallen from averaging around 50% to 30% this year.

7.4 Any LA/SACRE policy statements on RE or CW

These have not been changed in the year 2024/25 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. Outstanding items are highlighted for each SACRE meeting.

7.6 Circulation details of Annual Report

Following its acceptance by SACRE in November copies of the annual report will be circulated to:

- Martin Elliot in democratic services, who will circulate it to members of the Children and Families Select committee.
- Published on the NCC web-site
- Shared with NASACRE and DfE.
- all schools and academies in Nottinghamshire.
- each represented faith community
- Libraries in Nottinghamshire
- Nottingham Inter-faith council

7.7 SACRE Constitution

(NB. The current constitution is under review and will be confirmed by SACRE in the coming year. It will be published on the SACRE website.)

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

SACRE Members

2024- July 2025

Group A	<i>Three representatives of the Children and Families select committee</i>
Councillor Boyd Elliott	(Chair of SACRE) (until local elections in May 2025)
Councillor Sam Smith	until January 2025 then replaced by
Christopher Barnfather	until local elections in May 2025.
Councillor Richard Butler	until local elections in May 2025

Group B *Five representatives of the Church of England*

Dr Anne Lumb
Megan Brooksby
Kate Charlesworth
Craig Moxham (Vice-chair)
Sara Klapkowski

Group C *Eight representatives of teachers in Nottinghamshire*

Mary Moran	Secondary
Mike Follen/ Pearl Day	NAHT
Bethan Inglis	Secondary
Ian Coles	Primary
Christine Cushing	Primary
Sarah Brown	NEU
Vacancy	NASUWT
Jon Hoover/Tim Hutchings	Nottingham University
Simon Foulds	RS Resource Centre

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

Gemma Pettifor	Assemblies of God
Godfrey Nix	Baha'i
Clare Stones	Baptist (resigned Spring 2025. Post now vacant)
Vacancy	Buddhist
Denis Hill	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Will Richardson	Humanists UK
Naomi Posner	Jewish
Vacancy	Methodist
Dr Irfan Malik	Nottingham Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Network
Yousaf Arif	Muslim
Vacancy	Pagan
David Quinn	Roman Catholic
Caroline Hornsby	Roman Catholic
Vacancy	Salvation Army
Ambrish Tiwari	Sanatana Dharma
Gurjeet Singh	Sikh
Tom Drew	Society of Friends
Dr Graham Jennings	United Reformed Church