



**Standing Advisory Council
For Religious Education**

Annual Report
2019/2020

Nottinghamshire SACRE

Chair's introduction

2020 the year that I am sure will go down in history for giving us 'The New Normal' way of meeting.

The year started off with a continuation of the great work that this group had started focussing on the Agreed Syllabus.

We did have a full diary of meetings planned for the year starting off at the beautiful Baitul Hafeez Mosque in Sneinton hosted by Dr Malik. This was such an enjoyable evening with wonderful culinary treats on offer. The evening was extremely educational culminating in a tour of the Mosque something which I personally had never done before, so it was a privilege. We then held the next meeting at Porchester Junior School in February. This seems a long time ago now

Unfortunately, that was the end of meetings due to the Covid19 outbreak resulting in a National lockdown. Our meetings could not take place and delegates could not travel. I suppose we can take as a positive the level of interest that was shown in the launch event which we had planned.

So, as we bring this SACRE year to an end let us look to the future and a positive 2021 where we may all meet together once again.



Councillor Boyd Elliott

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

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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 County Council SACRE comprises of 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 having 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 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. The Chair has a casting vote if required.

Co-opted members do not vote.

2. Meetings of SACRE

During the academic year, 2019-2020, SACRE has met only in the Autumn and Spring Terms due to the Covid 19 situation

November 2019 SACRE met in the Baitul Mosque in Nottingham as guests of the Ahmadiyya community



- Presentation of the work and role of Ahmadiyya community, members looked round the mosque at the end of the session.
- The Vice chair was elected from Group D
- There was a preliminary discussion concerning the membership as laid down in the constitution
- The co-option of the Pagan network for a further two years was agreed
- The Draft Annual report was considered, and amendments were proposed.
- Members felt it was important to raise the profile of SACRE
- The SACRE Effectiveness Plan 2019-2024, which is a working document was agreed.
- Members received feedback on the progress with the Agreed Syllabus
- The attention of members was drawn to local and national developments concerning RE
- The Spring Term meeting was to be in a Junior School and June in a school which has achieved an award for its RE
- The Chair of the ASC was elected - Mrs Gemma Pettifor and all members of the SACRE were agreed as members of the ASC which met after the SACRE meeting.
- There was a discussion about the desirability of a simple leaflet to explain about SACRE as well as a discussion about Determinations.
- Cllr Boyd was to take the Annual report of SACRE to the CYP committee to showcase the work of SACRE

ASC meeting

- This reported back on the workings of the joint working party from the City & county SACRE.
- There was a discussion concerning Sexual relationships – SRE. The City SACRE were keen on having something about this noted and it was suggested that this could be part of the appendix to the syllabus to be available online.



- The syllabus would be copyright and is not to be put online by schools on their websites.

March 2019 SACRE met at Porchester Junior School

ASC meeting

- The draft Syllabus was discussed as this had to be agreed by County SACRE and the City SACRE.
- The view was that most schools would prefer a printed copy, and these should be priced to cover the cost of the enterprise.
- The ASC propose that SACRE be asked to recommend this document to the Local Authority so that it became “The Agreed Syllabus for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Religious Education for all 2020”, if this is accepted by Nottingham City SACRE at their subsequent meeting.
- A series of launch events was suggested to take place in July 2020 so that the syllabus could become operational from September 2020

SACRE Meeting followed on from the ASC

- The DfE had replied to receiving our annual report asking for some clarification on a couple of points.
- Group D asked for a discussion concerning the constitution about membership at the next meeting – this was agreed.
- The Agreed Syllabus for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Religious Education for All 2020 was agreed unanimously, with all groups being in favour
- A SACRE leaflet was discussed further and it was suggested that we should involve the borough councils in this.
- A working group was established to look at a policy on Determinations, though we have never had a request for one, but it was thought wise to have a policy ready for consideration at the next SACRE meeting.

Attendance at SACRE meetings: - Membership from nominated groups: 29

November 16 from the nominated groups 10 apologies 55%

February 17 from the nominated groups 9 apologies 57%

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 2019-2020

Our Primary Network was scheduled to meet for two half days however, due to the situation it only met in the Autumn Term

At the November meeting co-ordinators of RE networked with each other and shared some hopes of their schools. They then were made aware of local and national developments with the RE world.

This covered: -

- the preparations for celebrating 400 years of The Mayflower Journey which involved a range of learning activities.
- SACRE risk assessments for visiting places of worship.
- County CPD events for the academic year including the Agreed Syllabus and Holocaust KS2 day
- The work of SACRE and Updates on the Review of the Agreed Syllabus
- Sharing of schemes of work/resources people had found useful in their teaching
- National RE – Spirited Arts
- Using RE Weeks/RE Days – sharing of experiences
- Progression in teaching Diwali Assessment – Skills Ladder progression. Recording Pupil progress
- Ofsted changes – benefits for RE?
- Year 6 RE What should be on your school website about RE

There was a request that at the next meeting we should look at Understanding Christianity for non-faith schools – unfortunately, this meeting was unable to take place.



The Annual SACRE Primary RE Conference

Intentions, Implementation, Impact: - Ofsted Updates

This attracted 61 delegates in February 2020. Lat Blaylock guided everyone through this day looking at the new requirements for RE as well as how to teach them in exciting and interesting ways. 88% of the delegates said it was extremely useful.

In the many evaluations delegates mentioned how good it was to be able to interact with colleagues, to share as well as network. This was felt to be a clear benefit of such courses. The day made clear what the 3 "I"s were concerned with and an improved understanding of the key vocabulary was developed. The resources which were received were "excellent, yet simple ideas of effective teaching in a fun way." Conference delegates also welcomed the highlighting of many resources extremely useful.

Many valued *"the opportunity to reflect on our RE provision & how to develop it to assist the purpose for life in a diverse country."* The analysis by NATRE of OFSTED reports was also found to be useful and this knowledge would assist schools to help to raise the profile of RE as well as seeing how OFSTED sees its role. Some delegates mentioned they were beginning to understand progression, as well as expectations and ways of creating quality memorable RE. The work of pupils which was shared was also found to be extremely helpful as this would help to build up sticky knowledge.

An interesting comment was received by one delegate that they had *"been doing RE in isolation, it was wonderful to have contacts & know that I am on the right track."* *"Fabulous day – feel really inspired"* and *"An excellent day with fresh ideas"* were two more comments.

Teachers felt they would return to school with the aim of developing pupil voice as well as cascading the information to colleagues, some had already got slots on staff meetings already arranged! There was a feeling that information gained would allow them to allow driving improvements forward in implementation & impact. Feeling more confident, knowledge of deep dives & where to start preparing. All this would give the schools ideas for implementation - *"this gave me a buzz & inspired me"* - *"Lots of ideas/justifications for pushing RE in my school"*- *"RE is spiritual & includes world views"*. Many felt that they knew the direction in which RE needs to go. This would result in developing more creative ways of improving lesson ideas & developing RE across the schools so that RE becomes a school priority.

Many teachers said that they were looking forward to the New Agreed Syllabus which would help them to achieve these aims as well as the building up of networks. Some areas which were felt to be in need of further training listed were: dealing with split year groups, progression skills as well as how do you cope with some students, who decline in cognition & do not have an end point due to health issues. How do you show progressions with students with complex SEND?

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

Unfortunately, the new look day for KS2 students was unable to go ahead due to Covid 19 and the lockdown. What was noticed with interest is that this was once again oversubscribed; this would have been the fifth year of the event with schools being asked to contribute to the costs for the first time. This indicated the value of such a day in the eyes of our schools, some of whom had previously been on the day and reaped benefits from this unique event.

6. Faith Experiences in County Schools

Until schools were closed, the Nottinghamshire RSResource Centre had been taking Faith Experiences into schools across the County.

A Faith Experience is when an allocated teaching space is given a makeover 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 several ways. Faith experiences visited 16 schools in the County, working with around 1,500 young people. Schools value these days as could be seen that 5 schools had at least two days of them in their school. Unfortunately, a further 18 experiences were cancelled in the County.

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.

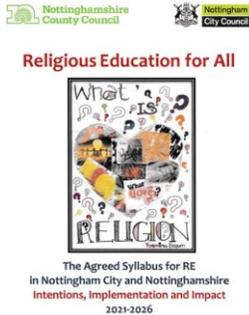
Here is a selection of some of the teacher evaluations received from these experiences in the County: -

“An interactive informative workshop tailored well to Year 2 keeping them both engaged and intrigued. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about Judaism, Jewish traditions and festivals.”

“An excellent experience introducing the children to the Islamic faith”

“A great opportunity to expose our pupils to diversity & understanding of the world. Very well resourced, clearly communicated with an obvious wealth of knowledge & experience.”

7. Agreed Syllabus



Over the year Nottinghamshire SACRE and the Nottingham City SACRE have collaborated concerning the review of the Agreed Syllabus. A Working Party was formed from teachers in the County and City along with members of both SACREs along with our consultant Lat Blaylock from REToday.

They met together at times and made various contributions via email. The result was New Agreed Syllabus came before both SACREs in the Spring Term to be agreed. The aim was to have a launch in the Summer of 2020; however, this was not possible, so it was moved to

November 2021 and had to become an online event as face to face training was not possible.

SACRE wishes to acknowledge the work of this team in producing a syllabus to take us from 2021-2026.

8. Supporting Schools through Lockdown

During the lockdown weeks SACRE placed various links to assist teachers on the private Facebook page. This highlighted resources and which teachers could access to assist their pupils during this unprecedented period and also reflected the way in which many organisations were willing to assist teachers with a range of resources to enable good RE to continue through home learning.

9. Standards in RE in Nottinghamshire

This year we have not been able to acquire details of the “examination” results from schools within the LA due to the Coronavirus situation so SACRE cannot comment about how the local candidates fared

We refer to the National Figures from the Joint Council for Qualifications Provisional Results which came out after the change of decision on how to award grades last summer.

Examination performances

Nationally there was a continued decrease in the number of candidates at this level in England 226,767 –compared to 227,913 last year.

Summary of GCSE Results 2016- 2020

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

Nottinghamshire		Exam Year	National Results	
A*-C	A*-G		A*-C	A*-G
9 - 4	9 - 1		9 - 4	9 - 1
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
No figures available		2020	72.3	98.5

GCE A/S

A/S 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 2016- 2020

Nottinghamshire		Exam Year	National Results	
A-C	A-E		A-C	A-E
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
No figures available		2020	86.0	99.0

Nationally there was a continued decrease in candidates this year from 6,259 to 5,246

A Level

Nottinghamshire		Exam Year	National Results	
A-C	A-E		A-C	A-E
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
No figures available		2020	89.6	99.8

Nationally there was a decrease in the number of candidates from 19,406 to 17,539 which shows that a decline in numbers is continuing.

10. Areas for developments to assist schools in bringing about further improvement during the academic year 2020- 2021

Targets for further improvement:

1. To continue 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 2020-2021

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

11. SACRE Members

2019-2020

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 *until February 2020*

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
Mr Richard Linford Primary
Mr Che Webster NASUWT *until February 2020*
Mr Andrew Widdowson NEU
Mr James Wale Secondary

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 Jyotida Melbourne	Buddhist
	<i>until March 2020</i>
Dr Shanaya Rathod	Hindu
Mrs Naomi Posner	Jewish
Mr John Heard	Methodist
Mr Hafiz Muntazir	Muslim
Deb Martin	Religious Society of Friends
Mrs Naomi Waring	Roman Catholic
Miss Caroline Hornsby	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
Mr Russell Davies	Pagan Network
Observers	
Sophie Farrell	National Holocaust Centre
Dr Irfan Malik Nottingham	Ahmadiyya Muslim Community