

Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City SACRE Meeting

Bluecoat Aspley Academy

Thursday 27th February 2025

Joint SACRE at 6.00 – 7.30 pm

SACRE groups 7-7.15

Present	Representing
Bryony Charnock-Walmsley	NCC
Craig Moxham	B Church of England
Dr Anne Lumb	B Church of England
Sara Klapkowskie	B Church of England
Ian Coles	C Education (Primary)
Godfrey Nix	D Ba'hai
Naomi Posner	D Jewish Faith
Will Richardson	D Humanist UK
Ambrish Tiwari	D Sanatana Dharma (Hindu faith)
Graham Jennings	D United Reformed Church
Denis Hill	D Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Sally MacDonald	Secretary
Christine Cushing	Observer

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Cllr. David Mellen of Nottingham City SACRE welcomed everyone to the meeting commenting on the strength of our two SACREs working together.

Each member introduced themselves.

2. Apologies for Absence (Nottinghamshire)

Group A- Cllr Richard Butler, Boyd Elliot- so Craig Moxham VC will stand in

Group B- Kate Charlesworth, Megan Brooksby,

Group C- Bethan Inglis, Mike Follen

Group D – Clare Stones, Irfan Malik

3. Conflicts of Interest

None

4. The purpose of our meeting:

Heidi Shewell-Cooper Nottingham City SACRE LA Officer outlined the purpose of the meeting as set out in the papers set out before the meeting. Thanks were given to Bluecoat Aspley Academy for hosting the meeting

5. The changing RE curriculum:

Charlotte Newman: Archway Learning Trust, Religious Studies Lead gave a presentation on the changing RE curriculum and how Archway Trust were implementing a curriculum that included a world views approach as well as enabling pupils to engage with the different disciplinary approaches in RE study.

6. How can SACREs make use of Ofsted's Deep & Meaningful report?

Ian Coles- RE leader Carr Hill Primary School, Nottinghamshire gave a presentation on the NASACRE training he had received on Ofsted's Deep and Meaningful report.

7. **A New Agreed Syllabus for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire:**

Lat Blaylock and Julie Childs- RE Today gave a presentation on how they would approach revising and rewriting a syllabus for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City.

8. **Shared discussion, questions and responses to the proposal;**

Heidi Shewell-Cooper & Sally MacDonald

Members from both SACREs were able to ask questions of all those who had presented.

These included:

Q. Amrish- Will the syllabus be for Nottingham or Nottinghamshire?

A. Lat confirm for both produced collaboratively.

Q. David Mellen- Question about world views that are a negative influence

A. Charlotte – stressed the importance of including equity and inclusion, respect, what is appropriate, allowing safe space to discuss

A Ian-RE improves children's critical analysis skills

Not all world views are valid but they all worthy of study and be critically analysed

Q. Heidi- what is the danger not revising the syllabus.

A. Lat -It would ignore current thinking and not meet the needs of our pupils at this time. There is a need to refresh, update and future proof. Asking stake holders for their views will ensure it is current.

Q. Deb Martin- Is there any choice of time lines? Concerns that there will not be enough time to complete such detailed work.

A. Lat if we notify DofE that a review has commenced they are unlikely to question, if syllabus isn't published in 2026. RE Today are confident it can be done in 12 months.

A. Julie- stake holders views can affect time lines but this will be factored in.

Q. Prashant- who are stakeholders? -

A. Lat & Julie- Teachers, pupils, SACREs. They will bring proposals to each SACRE meeting through the process, RE Today send report to each SACRE meeting over 12 months.

Teachers- consult online.

Q. How are teachers able to fit everything in?

A. -Don't have to teach all faiths. Better to go deeper on less faiths,
Time guidance in Agreed Syllabus- but up to HTs to set own timetable
Ambitious advice in syllabus

Q. Nottingham Child friendly city-how is child view collected?

A- teachers in settings

Q -Has a review been done in another Council which has done well?

Clear and progressive syllabus- commercial scheme may help to deliver. Can energise an old curriculum.

Q. How do RE Today ensure they represent different faiths correctly?

A. RE Today employ professional religious education experts and they work with SACRE members from different faiths and listen to their voices.

9. **SACREs met separately:** Craig Moxham (VC) chaired the discussions for Nottinghamshire.

Nottinghamshire was not quorate as only one member represented the Education Group. Bryony joined Ian as she does work in education and the group accepted their vote. This can be verified at the next meeting.

The two SACREs met in their separate groups to discuss the following:

- Discuss and agree response to proposal

Groups, B, C & D unanimously accepted proposal B- Revise the existing Agreed Syllabus in light of new research and educational or other changes, working with RE today.

Group B wished the following points to also be considered:

- The new Agreed Syllabus needs to be genuinely 'new' and not just 'light touch' in view of all the developments taking place within RE, as discussed at the meeting.

- Church schools across the Diocese are already beginning to engage with the Religions and Worldviews approach and the teaching of disciplinary knowledge and will be looking to the Agreed Syllabus to provide a coherent framework for this.
- Teachers are asking for greater support with teaching materials linked to the Agreed Syllabus. Therefore, SACRE needs to be clear about the remit of the 'working group' and, if this does not cover the production of teaching materials to support the Agreed Syllabus, then additional funding may be required to facilitate this. At the Diocese, I have recently set up a working group of RE Leads who are going to work on producing some case studies to trial, to support the introduction of a Religion and Worldviews approach in church schools. It may be possible to link this work with the development of support materials for the Agreed Syllabus.
- Concerns about the under-representation of secondary colleagues on both City and County SACREs which may mean we don't have enough secondary representation on the working group. If this turns out to be the case, can we co-opt a couple of secondary RE teachers onto the working group?

Group C also added the following points

- Need for primaries to have separate year groups (not paired as in current), to include ages as well as year group. Need to know the end points for the children – what should a Y3 child have learned that is different to a Y4 etc in terms of disciplinary and substantive knowledge.

Group D also added the following points

Sufficient time needs to be allocated to ensure a thorough revision and rewrite of the syllabus. They also had concerns about the phrase 'light touch'.

Consideration needs to be given in the review of the breadth and depth of the coverage

- Recommend members for working parties

Of those present these people would like to be involved in working groups:

- Group B- Anne Lumb, Kate Charlesworth, Sara Klapkowski, Craig Moxham
- Group C- Ian Coles, Christine Cushing,
- Group D – Ambrish Tiwari, Naomi Posner(?)

- Membership update

It was noted that Cllr. Christopher Barnfather replacing Cllr Sam Smith
Welcome to Sara in Group B and agreed that Christine would join group C
Ambrish in Group D representing Sanatana Dharma

- Minutes of last meeting were approved

10. Report back and agree next steps:

Both SACREs unanimously agreed to opt for option B. Heidi and Sally to take expressions of interest from those who would like to be involved in the working parties and to agree a work plan and budget with RE Today.

11. Proposal for joint RE Hubs training for places of worship and faith representatives working with schools:

Heidi Shewell-Cooper & Sally MacDonald

Debbie Yeomans from REhubs has offered to come and do school visitor training for interested SACRE members. Those people's details would then be shared on the RE Hubs page of school speakers– she would need 20 people to commit to the training. About 2 hours one evening, possibly at a place of

worship. It would be very beneficial to our schools to have accredited speakers to use in RE lessons. Both SACRE expressed interest in this training. Heidi and Sally to contact Debbie Yeomans of REHubs to arrange.

12. Conclusion

Craig Moxham thanked all those present for their engagement he expressed once again the strength of the two SACREs working together on this project.

He thanked Charlotte and Ian for their presentations which helped set the scene for our discussions.

He thanked Lat and Julie for their presentation and presence at the meeting.

Craig commented on the palpable energy in the room and the positive outcome of the meeting.

Future SACRE meetings: Wednesday 2 July 2025 Holocaust Centre - Laxton

Meeting closed 7.30pm