



Nottinghamshire Standing Advisory
Council for Religious Education

Annual Report
2023/2024

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Nottinghamshire SACRE

1.1 Chair's introduction

Welcome

It is a great privilege to work with our SACRE members, a group drawn from education, Nottinghamshire County Council and the many faith groups represented in Nottinghamshire. We have maintained a fairly stable membership this year, with just a couple of our valued members moving on to other things and new members joining; we are so grateful for the time and expertise that all our members give to SACRE.

Our first meeting of the year was at Nottingham University where we heard about the work of the Department of theology and religious studies. As our purpose is to support and promote the teaching of religious education in Nottinghamshire, it was interesting to hear about where this may lead students, were they to continue their studies in this area at a higher level. We also heard how the university promotes religious and world views education in schools.

We have recently welcomed a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints onto SACRE and were delighted to have our second meeting of the year at their church in Mansfield. In the summer our meeting took us to Underwood Church of England Primary School, where the pupils shared their work on courageous advocacy, a brilliant example of good quality RE education making an impact on the lives of our young people, enabling them to become engaged, caring and active citizens.

Again, thank you for having me as your chairman, it is an honour. I would particularly like to thank our secretary, Sally MacDonald, clerk Val Jones and EIA, Bryony Charnock-Walmsley for their continued hard work and dedication to the work of SACRE.

I am looking forward to the ensuing year when we will be making preparations for the review and rewrite of our Agreed Syllabus in 2025/26. I have also recently asked a question of the new East Midlands Mayor through EMCCA, regarding funding streams for educational purposes. I look to updating SACRE with their reply.

Kind Regards

Many thanks



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 2023-24.

November 2023 Nottingham University's Department of theology and religious studies

Jon Hoover, Tim Hutchings and Marian Kelsey gave a presentation on the work of the department with the implications for RE and RE teaching.

20 members attended the meeting.

- Members agreed to change the constitution to include a delegate from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Group D
- Ken Johnson and Simon Foulds from the RSresource centre presented the meeting with the current vacancy for someone to run the resource centre and provide faith experience days for schools- as Ken is retiring.
- Delegates discussed the summary of Ofsted reports in Nottinghamshire and noted the bland statements on RE. It was agreed that the chair would write to Ofsted, sharing SACRE's concerns.
- The 2022/23 Annual Report was accepted and a new reporting channel with NCC confirmed.
- The development plan was reviewed.
- It was confirmed that SACRE will now receive a discreet budget from NCC, more details will follow when the amount has been decided.
- Local and national developments were shared.

March 2023 – Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints, Mansfield

Denis Hill gave a presentation of the work of the church in the local area and a tour of the facilities.

20 members attended the meeting.

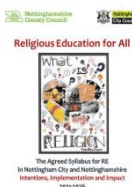
- Members considered the latest summary of Ofsted reports and asked that letter to Ofsted be sent by the chair.
- Delegates for the NASACRE conference were agreed.
- Five vacancies were acknowledged- 2 in Group C- Education and 3 in group D- Faiths.
- The secretary shared an ongoing record for county Primary schools' engagement with the work of SACRE, RE and CW.
- Members ratified advice on Ramadan to be shared with schools on SACRE web page.
- Local and national developments were shared.

July 2024 - Underwood CofE Primary School

The Ian Baxter the head teacher, staff and children of Underwood C of E gave a presentation about the work of the courageous advocacy that the pupils of the school are engaged with.

- The development plan was reviewed.
- A review of Ofsted reports on Nottinghamshire Schools was discussed.
- Feedback from the NASACRE conference from Caroline Hornsby- ideas for being an activist SACRE were shared and it was agreed these would be discussed in more detail at November 2024 meeting.
- A survey sent to school has received 69 responses. The survey asked school leaders about: hours of RE taught, who taught RE, what resources were used, how CW was delivered. Outcomes will be shared at the November meeting.
- Members agreed to use the template provided by NASACRE to write to their newly elected MPs raising awareness of the importance of good RE provision in schools
- The secretary and RE advisor will be reading the RE council's toolkit for delivering a Religious and Worldviews Curriculum and reporting back to SACRE

2.1 The Agreed Syllabus



The Agreed Syllabus has been bought by 411 schools.

The associated resource package has been bought by:409.

The RE leader's network and SACRE conference focus on supporting teachers to effectively deliver the agree syllabus. 24 schools signed up to the network.

Of 75 Primary schools who responded to a SACRE survey in July 2024, 61 used the Agreed Syllabus, 10 used it in part, 4 did not use it.

25 of 75 respondents had positive feedback on the syllabus.

19 had suggestions for improvements or reported issues they experienced when trying to deliver the syllabus.

2.2 Standards & monitoring

2.2i Exam outcomes:

The reporting of GCSE and A level results has been delayed this year and was not available at the time of writing this report. They will be reported to SACRE at the meeting after they become available, probably March 2025.

2.2ii Ofsted:

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.

Ofsted inspection of schools in Nottinghamshire 2023/24			
Number of inspections and type of school	RE Deep Dives	Positive comments related to RE	Developmental comments related to RE
25 LA controlled	3	14	3

24 Primary Academies	0	8	0
9 VA, VC and Foundation Schools	0	6	0
11 Secondary Academies	0	5	2

2.2iii SACRE survey

75 Primary schools completed the July survey. This is the first year a survey has been sent out by SACRE so comparisons cannot be made this year. Outcomes will be shared in full with SACRE in November 2024 and included in this report in relevant sections.

Regarding teaching of RE:

In KS1 59 schools provided weekly RE teaching

In KS2 61 schools provided weekly RE teaching

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 dive
- Information on school website 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 and SEND
- RE Assessment
- Subject progression
- Diversity and unconscious bias
- Introduction to World Views approach
- Implications of Ofsted's Deep and Meaningful report
- Sharing of resources and planning linked to the Agreed Syllabus
- An introduction to Jig-Saw RE.

Guest speakers: Laura Gregory-White, Bryony Charnock-Walmsley 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
October 23	21	16	4	10
March 24	18	11	6	0
July 24	15	13	2	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 2024

Led by Lat Blaylock, the conference covered:

- creative ideas that are linked to specific units of learning in the Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus
- the progression of a concept across the primary school- 5-11
- ways for you to inspire your staff to teach RE confidently and creatively

38 teachers attended the conference.

36 completed evaluations. 26 said it was really useful, 9 useful, 1 of some use.

Some responses:

- *The range of ideas and resources are brilliant*
- *A new perspective on teaching the curriculum and inspiring adults and pupils alike*
- *Lots of good ideas for lesson plans and progression across the curriculum*
- *Everything could be implemented in school, which is really useful.*

2.4 Other Information

The Secretary of SACRE has received one informal, but no 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.

Presentation to Primary School Senior Leaders:

In May 2024 Bryony Charnock-Walmsley and Sally MacDonald presented to 60 school leaders on the work of SACRE, Collective Worship, Withdrawal, Ofsted’s report on RE in

schools – Deep and Meaningful, The National Entitlement for RE from The RE council, training opportunities and support offered to 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 \(live.com\)](http://collectiveworshipdirectorsreport.doc(live.com))

In the SACRE survey of the 50 schools who completed the survey:

Collective worship sessions each week	Number of schools
5	30
4	11
3	15
2	5
1	3
0	5

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 and SACRE member, Caroline Hornsby attended the NASACRE annual conference in May 2024 and reported back to SACRE in July. One member of SACRE attended the online training courses offered by NATRE on making faith visits to schools. These bodies remain important and valuable sources of advice and information.

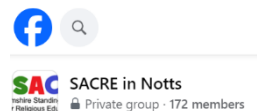
4.2 Local Groups

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.

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

The RSresources centre has been used by schools in the county to support the teaching and resourcing of RE. The centre has been looking for a replacement for Ken Johnson, who retired in summer 2024. Nottinghamshire SACRE have supported and advertised this vacancy. To date no replacement has been found but the resource loans work is continuing and preparation to provide faith experiences in school is ongoing.

SACRE in Notts Facebook page has 176 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

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 has been updated this year 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. This year SACRE produced advice on Ramadan that was shared with schools and 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.

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. We currently have one vacancy in the Education Group (C) and three 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 has been agreed over the past year. This will be managed by Denise Bryant- Team Manager of the Education Improvement Service.

7. Appendices

7.1 Examination results

GCSE and A Level results 2024

The government have issued a statement that the release date for exam results has been moved from October 2024 to November/December 2024. These will be added below in due course.

GCSE Full Course	June 2024	June 2023 Notts	June 2023	June 2022
Total		1869	243735	243252
Grades				
9-5		57.6%	31.2%	35.2%
9 - 4		68%	72.8%	77.2%
9- 1		97.8%	98.4%	98.4%

GCE A Level	June 2024	June 2023	June 2022
I		16853	17789
Grades (% cumulative)			
A* - C		79.6	87.6
A* - E		98.1	99.0

Trends in Nottinghamshire over time (2024 to be added when available)

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.

7.3 Attendance Record

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

November 2023 from the nominated groups	20 present, 12 apologies, 57% present
March 2024 from the nominated groups	20 present, 12 apologies 57% present
July 2024 from the nominated groups	19 present, 10 apologies, 54% present

7.4 Any LA/SACRE policy statements on RE or CW

These have not been changed in the year 2023/24 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

Following its acceptance by SACRE in November the annual report 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 webpage.

7.7 SACRE Constitution

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

2023- July 2024

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

Councillor Boyd Elliott (Chair of SACRE)

Councillor Sam Smith

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 Ian Coles Primary

Sarah Brown/Sue Craven 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

Vacancy Buddhist

Denis Hill Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Will Richardson Humanists UK

Naomi Posner Jewish

Alan Darlington Methodist (Resigned March 2024. Post now vacant)

Dr Irfan Malik Nottingham Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Network

Yousaf Arif Muslim

Russell Davies Pagan

Mr David Quinn Roman Catholic

Miss Caroline Hornsby Roman Catholic

Vacancy Salvation Army

Dr Shanaya Rathod/ Dr C Saluja Sanatana Dharma

Mr Gurjeet Singh Sikh

Tom Drew Society of Friends

Dr Graham Jennings United Reformed Church