



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES RESOURCE CENTRE

**ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11**



**2010-2011**

## Review of the Activity of the Centre

We have a mixed review of the year. On the one hand, the demand for Faith Experiences has mushroomed beyond our expectations. We have taken them across the County and even crossing county borders into Lincolnshire, where we spent two days. Evaluations from both teachers and children have been most positive. Working together with Nottingham Inter Faith Council in these experiences has been most rewarding enabling us to take representatives of different faiths into schools to engage with pupils. We are grateful for Faith members giving time for these ventures.



**HOSTED BY THE NOTTINGHAM  
BLUECOAT SCHOOL & TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE**

The website has expanded with new sections, one concerning **Post 16 RE**, another which assists with developmental work with St John's College. Also there is the 'What's on' section, where we give details of local events of interest to teachers. The County SACRE pages now contain the minutes of past meetings as well as the Agreed Syllabus. Our website continues to receive new hits each month, from all over the world. We are grateful to have also received proposals of links from various schools. This shows that many schools are finding our website to be useful and helpful.

Unfortunately we lost our financial support from both City and County Authorities in March 2010, as a result of which much time has been spent during this last year, trying to secure core



funding to enable the work of the centre to continue. We have managed to obtain some specific funding from Ashfield District Council for Faith Experiences, to develop their work on community cohesion in that district. However, it is the funding for our core work which has proved difficult to obtain.

The centre's Management Committee has met concerning this situation. As can be seen in our Financial Report, included here, the day to day work of the centre has been a drain on the reserves built up over several years. This has meant that we have given notice to the Inter Faith Council that we can no longer afford to contribute towards staff secondment, resulting in a future reduction of service to our members, unless other funding can be found.

During the past year, the Centre has continued to develop training of new RE teachers in Nottingham, through SCITT . Representatives attended Head Teacher's Conferences in the County and it has supported work with Prisons and the Nottingham Hospice. It continues to expand networks, through representation at events such as those run by the National Federation of RE Centres.

## **Our Vision**

Our vision is to provide a unique opportunity for personal teaching and learning development across all faiths, for both the City and County of Nottingham.

## ***Our Aims and Objectives***

To continue to develop methods of delivery for RE through innovative schemes such as the Faith Experiences.

To make available on loan, a collection of resources to teachers, faith communities, and other organisations, exploring both local and world religions.

To improve access to resources by generating our own materials; developing a resource bank of other teachers' materials and good practice guidance; signposting to other sources of support; as well as giving opportunities to inspect published materials.

To encourage connections between users and faith communities, e.g. by building a network of reliable contacts, providing guidance on visits to places of worship.

To provide an environment for teachers' research and learning, e.g. through short courses.

To develop community education in faith issues, using our facilities to support courses, discussions, events, exhibitions, small group meetings and facilitating conferences.

## ***Management.***

The Centre Manager has overall responsibility for the project, worker(s) and volunteers.

### ***For further information contact:***

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## **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2010-11**

| <b>INCOME</b>            | <b>£.</b>   |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Funding                  | 0           |
| Subscriptions            | 325         |
| Miscellaneous            | <u>448</u>  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>773</b>  |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>       |             |
| Staff costs              | 4500        |
| Stationery and Printing  | 276         |
| Books and subscriptions  | 86          |
| Miscellaneous            | <u>199</u>  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>5061</b> |
| Income surplus           |             |
| Balance at start of year | <b>6059</b> |
| End of year balance      | <b>1771</b> |

As can be seen from the above report, our financial situation is of concern. However, we are grateful for the continued support of the Nottingham Bluecoat School, which hosts the RS Centre and provides infrastructure amenities. This enables us to operate and further develop our expansion.

Also our partnership with Nottingham Inter Faith Council (NIFC) continues, as we work together to promote social cohesion within our schools and communities. This partnership is reflected in the networking between NIFC and our School subscribers in the arranging of visits from schools to places of worship and that of Faith representatives to visit schools, for Acts of Worship and classroom input.

The NIFC Faiths Exhibition is made available on loan, from the Centre to schools and community groups.