



RELIGIOUS STUDIES RESOURCE CENTRE 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

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This Annual Report reflects the first year of our operation as a separate entity supported by Nottinghamshire County Council through its Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) and working closely with the Nottingham Inter Faith Council.

The Centre has been hosted through the year by Bluecoat Academy at the Aspley Campus with The Bluecoat Foundation Trustees providing an Independent Examination facility for our accounts at no charge

During the year, the Management Team has faced the need to physically downsize the Centre, which has entailed a number of urgent and time-consuming actions. A full check of our stock was undertaken over the summer holiday period and our catalogue updated. Many items which are not borrowed by subscribers have been removed, including the collection of videos. We donated some Hindu texts to a Hindu Temple as part of our re-organisation and our artefact collection has been re-housed within the Centre to provide better security whilst retaining ease of display to visitors.

This effort – which occupied some 400 hours of voluntary work during the year to finalise, has meant that our re-launching of the website has been delayed.



The Centre has continued to offer loans to subscribers as well as advice and guidance on a range of issues relating to Religious Education. We have welcomed meetings during the year with teachers and other interested parties to explore the work being offered from the Centre.

Our website has attracted over 80 unique visitors per month and we have received e-mails thanking us for links to other sites and also offers of new links from around the globe.

During the year, we have welcomed new subscribers and been involved with the development of Teacher Networks within the County. Our relationship with the Nottingham Inter Faith Council has been of mutual benefit. We also participated in the Faiths Fair at Loxley House during the November National Inter Faith Week

There has been expansion in the Faith Experience Project, where we have offered new experiences to meet the schools desired outcomes. We have also assisted in RE days, which are a growing feature in some schools.

The evaluation comments we have continued to receive from schools have shown that this is a valued way of teaching RE and has been welcomed by pupils and teachers alike.

During this period the Centre has been represented at the County Primary Head Teacher's Conference and has delivered training about RE to students from Nottingham SCITT. We were also invited to the Southwell & Nottingham Diocesan Conference of Headteachers

We are members of the National Federation of RE Centres and through this have engaged in dialogue with other centres and are involved in editing their newsletter.

The Centre has also worked with St John's College, to promote an RE revision conference for Post 16 students, during this period. We are currently developing links with the Theology Department of the University of Nottingham.

There was a small but positive Annual Meeting held in the Autumn Term when an account of the Centre's operations was given.

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 make available a collection of resources for loan to teachers, faith communities, and other organisations exploring the faiths of our world and community.
- 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.
- To develop the Faith Experience project to engage young people in discovering more about religion in new ways.

Management.

The Centre Manager, Rev'd Ken Johnson, has overall responsibility for the project. There is a Management Committee which consists of various stakeholders which includes Nottingham Inter Faith Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Bluecoat Academy and the Bluecoat Foundation Trustees.

For further information contact:

Rev Ken Johnson
R.S.Resource Centre,
c/o Bluecoat Academy
Aspley Lane, Nottingham, NG8 5GY.

E-mail: info@rsresources.org.uk

www.rsresources.org.uk



INCOME & EXPENDITURE **2012**

<i>INCOME</i>	£
Bluecoat school A/c	1237.86
Faith Experiences	4575.00
Subscriptions	315.00
B/F Balance	4166.44
TOTAL	10,294.30
<i>EXPENDITURE</i>	
Faith Experience Costings	3141.99
IT	90.55
Resources	146.54
Federation RE Centres	55.00
TOTAL	3434.08
End of year balance	6860.22

As a result of our downsizing our operations, in that we have no staff payments, due to voluntary staffing and through monies coming together into one fund we have a balance of £6,860.22 This balance will be our sole source of income to replace, maintain and repair through wear and tear unless we are successful in obtaining any external funding. This balance is in the light of the Centre carrying forward £5,404.30 from the previous year.

We acknowledge the continuing support of the Bluecoat Academy, which hosts the RS Centre and provides infrastructure amenities, enabling us to operate and further develop our expansion. We also acknowledge the support of the Nottingham Bluecoat Trustees and the Nottingham Inter Faith Council, as we work together to promote social cohesion within our schools and communities. The work of the Centre is also supported by the Nottinghamshire SACRE.

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