



## Annual Report 2013

*Welcome to our newlook Annual Report for 2013*

### **Where we are and what we do**

The RSResource Centre is looked after by the Centre Manager, the Rev'd Ken Johnson, former Bluecoat School Chaplain, operating from Bluecoat Academy on Aspley Lane. We assist schools to enhance their delivery of RE through the items we have available for loan or through our Faith Experiences. The Centre is also the office of Nottingham Inter Faith Council and together we try to answer a range of enquiries made to us.

By payment of £15 per financial year, subscribers can borrow artefacts / books/ DVDs from our range to enhance their work in RE. Orders are placed on line, and collected from the Reception of the Academy, to where they are returned after use.

The Centre Manager voluntarily gives his time to run it and to communicate the work of the Centre. We are affiliated to the Federation of RE Centres operating across the country. The Centre Manager currently serves as the Secretary of the Nottinghamshire County Council Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education, (SACRE).

Through our website, teachers can find out about what is happening in RE and can consult the County SACRE pages.

Our Management Committee is made up from our various stakeholders: - The Nottingham Inter Faith Council, Bluecoat Foundation Trustees, Nottinghamshire County Council, Bluecoat Academy and the Centre Manager. This Committee meets termly and holds an Annual Meeting in the Autumn Term.

The RSResource Centre is self financing, receiving no financial assistance from any authority. The finances of the Centre are independently examined by the Bluecoat Foundation Trustees.

### **The year gone by**

The RSResource Centre has continued to operate within the Bluecoat Academy with a re-negotiated agreement about its use of the Centre on the Aspley Lane Campus. The RSResource Centre has assisted schools with artefacts on loan during the year and has attracted new subscribers as well as renewing subscriptions from schools.

We are grateful to members of the Academy's reception staff, who have assisted in handing out loans for collection and receiving the returns, which is a great benefit to the Centre's loans operation. The time spent on the administration of the Centre, not including Faith Experience work, has fallen to around 140 hours in the past year.

We completed our involvement with Nottingham SCITT (School-centred initial teacher training) during this year, which saw us providing lectures on RE in the Primary Curriculum. We have enjoyed our association with SCITT and meet teachers trained on this scheme in various primary schools on Faith Experiences.

## Conferences and Courses

The Centre has been invited to different conferences to put on displays about our work in developing RE in schools. We have been present at Diocesan Head Teacher's conferences, Inter-Faith exhibitions at Loxley House and conferences for newly qualified teachers. We have also been involved with the County Networks at both Secondary and Primary level. We have been present at County SACRE RE Conferences and teacher courses. We also assisted in the planning and organisation of Post 16 RE Conference, which has involved the University of Nottingham Theology Department, St John's College and County SACRE.

## National Associations

We continue as members of the Federation of RE Centres and our Centre Manager edits their newsletter. We have also attended conferences about "The Future of RE" which was held at Worcester University and the Christian Muslim Forum held in Westminster Abbey.

## Faith Experiences

The development of Faith Experiences continues and we have evolved new materials to meet the requests of schools. During the year we have delivered Faith Experiences to over 2,400 young people in the City and County. We have visited 21 places of learning, some of them several times in a year.

We are grateful to those members of the Faith communities who have assisted us in delivering Faith Experiences and also advising us on new developments. We worked in one school on Buddhism for Foundation pupils; which has meant creating new approaches and have also worked on Hinduism at the same level. During 2013, Hinduism had the most requests followed by Islam as the subject for Faith Experiences. We delivered mainly in County Schools but have also worked in four new City schools.

We were invited to take an act of worship outlining a major religion to one school of 200 pupils and received the following evaluation:-

*"We felt it worked really well as a whole school assembly. Rev Johnson ensured the whole school was engaged in the experience and the variety of activities kept the children interested throughout"*

We were invited to assist in a Diversity Day for year 8 students in a Church Academy in the County and have also worked with the staff of a school in their staff meeting about ways of teaching about religion.

## Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting heard about the work done in the past year as well as considering the future and taking into account the development work needed to meet new requests and a commitment to replacing equipment and artefacts. Following on from changes in our pattern of using the Centre, there will be a new mobile number for the RSResource centre which will mean a faster response to messages, though a lot of our communication is now through e-mail.

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