



Annual Report 2014

Where we are and what we do

Our RSResource Centre operates from the Vine Community Centre on Bobbers Mill Road in Nottingham, and is looked after by the Centre Manager, the Rev'd Ken Johnson. 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 Vine, 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, which is affiliated to the Federation of RE Centres operating across the country. He also 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. We have supported the revision of the 2015 County Agreed Syllabus during the year.

Our Management Committee, which meets termly, is made up from our various stakeholders: - The Nottingham Inter Faith Council, Bluecoat Foundation Trustees, along with the Centre Manager. The RSResource Centre is self financing, receiving no financial assistance from any authority. Its finances are independently examined, within the accounts of the Bluecoat Foundation Trust.

The year gone by

2014 has been another year of change and development for the Centre. At Easter we moved out of the Centre which had been based in Bluecoat Academy since 2000. This move meant another downsizing of our resources as we disposed of many resources which were not used on a regular basis. We re-located to smaller premises at the Vine Community Centre in Bobbers Mill Road, where we have been made very welcome.

We are grateful for the willingness of the Vine Reception staff to assist with the handing out of loan orders and receiving them back for us so enabling us to continue assisting schools in their development of good RE through the use of many of our artefacts. We have welcomed some visitors to the Centre to view the resources we have available.

The RSResource Centre has continued to assist schools with artefacts on loan during the year and has attracted new subscribers as well as renewing subscriptions from previous members.

A lot of the administration of the Centre, due to electronic communications, is done away from the Centre itself which is why we ask for 7 working days notice for loans.

Conferences and Courses

We have been invited to different conferences to put on displays about our work in developing RE in schools. We were present at the Diocesan Head Teacher's conference and County head teacher briefings. We have also been involved with the County Primary Network meetings as well as having been present at County SACRE RE Conferences and teacher courses. We also assisted in the planning and organisation of the Post 16 RE Conference, which involved the University of Nottingham Theology Department, St John's College and County SACRE. We were present at the Young People's conference held at the City Ground when ITV filmed some of the events, showing banners from the Centre and Nottingham Inter Faith Council.

National Associations

We continue as members of the Federation of RE Centres and our Centre Manager edits their newsletter.

Faith Experiences

During 2014 we had enquiries about visiting a school in North Lincolnshire with a Faith Experience and also delivered our first experience to a school in Ilkeston. Over the year we have delivered 20 full days of Faith Experiences; 8 half day experiences and 1 special assembly to over 3,150 young people in the City, County and Derbyshire. We visited 32 places of learning, some of them several times in a year which also included 7 schools who had their first visit from us.

We are grateful to those members of the Faith communities who have assisted us in delivering Faith Experiences. We delivered one experience to the whole school in the city after a request to **help make RE different**, as well delivering an assembly for a school, introducing the faith being studied. We also delivered an experience to year 7 students in a Church Academy in the County.

Teacher comments have included the following:

“ Excellent learning experience where children are interested at all stages of the workshop. “

“ Liked the relaxed nature of the presenters, involving the children whilst still getting their message across. Excellent artefacts and packs of resources. The way you put the whole experience across was exciting, fun and interesting. Fantastic! “

“ Thank you for such an informative and exciting session!. The children really got involved. Brings a religion to life and gives the children a real experience.”

“ A fantastic experience, the children were hooked from the moment they walked through the door.”

“ A wonderful experience! The class thoroughly enjoyed the 'hands on' approach delivered in a fun and enjoyable way. Thank you from all 6MW.”

Our Web site

Our website records show that we have around 70 - 80% new visitors each month, mainly from Nottinghamshire but a few hits from overseas.

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