



Annual Report 2015

Where we are and what we do

The RSResource Centre operates from rented accommodation within 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 academic 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 at The Vine, to where they are returned after use.

The Centre Manager voluntarily gives his time to run and to communicate the work of the Centre, which is affiliated to the Federation of RE Centres operating across the country. He currently serves as the Secretary of the Nottinghamshire County Council Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education.

Through consulting our web site, teachers can find out about what is happening in RE and can consult the County SACRE pages which are hosted on our web site.

Our Management Committee, which meets each term is composed of a representative from our various stakeholders such as - The Nottingham Inter Faith Council, Bluecoat Foundation Trustees. The Centre is self financing, receiving no financial assistance from any authority, our account is independently examined within those of the Bluecoat Foundation Trust.

The year gone by

We continue to be grateful for the willingness of the Vine Reception staff to assist with the handing out of loan orders and receiving them back for us. This service enables us to continue assisting schools in their development of good RE through the use of many of our artefacts. We have welcomed visitors from schools and other groups to the Centre to view the resources we have available, though this needs to be arranged in advance. Most of the administration of the Centre is done away from the Centre itself which is why we ask for 7 working days notice for loans.

Conferences and Courses

During the year we have attended conferences and courses across the County about our work in developing RE in schools. We were present at the Diocesan Head Teacher's conference as well as being involved with the County Primary Network meetings along with the County SACRE launch of the Agreed Syllabus in January and teacher courses through the year. We also ran a workshop on how RE can develop tolerance in schools as part of a day on British Values.

We continue our active membership of the Federation of RE Centres; our Centre Manager edits the Federations newsletter. We were represented at the Federation Conference held in Durham which houses the largest Centre in England. It was good to be able to share our experiences with others and hear also of their work and approaches to assisting schools and working with communities.

Faith Experiences during 2015

We have worked with just under 3,000 young people in 17 different schools, of which some had more than one experience in the year. These have occurred in schools in the City of Nottingham and the County. Of these one City and one County school had two experiences on the same day within an RE Day. We were also pleased to visit two schools in Derbyshire along with a school in Leicestershire.

The Diocese of Peterborough recommended us to a school in Northamptonshire, where we spent a day working with the young people there. Our aim is to recreate what a place of worship might look like, within the school, but we have developed themes around this in response to requests from schools.

We continue to be grateful to those who offer practical support in any way to our experiences. It is through the work of the Faith Experiences that we raise the finances to run the centre and develop our work.

Teacher evaluations from 2015

"I didn't know what to expect but it was brilliant" "very valuable, most enjoyable – a fantastic experience."

"Pupils got to experience the customs of what happens within a mosque and various aspects of the religion. Children learnt an unbelievable amount of knowledge and understanding!

Very good questioning and explanations to engage and teach." - a City School

"A practical, exciting introduction to Sikhism, delivered in an engaging way" It was fantastic!

"A well organized day that left the children buzzing!" - a Derbyshire School

A Headteacher wrote: "What an inspiring day you gave us..... I learned so much, never mind the children!

Feedback from staff, governors and the children has been really positive.it is so important that Christians and Muslims continue to work together to try and teach future generations not to perpetuate the misconceptions rife in this day and age."

- a County School

"Lovely to have tried to ensure every child had the chance to make some comment or observation."

"It developed my knowledge, which will help me better to give information next time."

"Brought completely to life and children made to feel very comfortable as they could ask any questions.

"Fantastic learning opportunity for young children with an engaging experience!"

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"As ever, you were very knowledgeable during the experience. The children were captivated throughout and relished the multi-sensory approach to learning. Looking forward to next year all ready!"

"Very well matched to the year group. Good use of a range of media."

Our Web site

Records show that we still attract around 70% new visitors each month, mainly from across the country but we have some hits from overseas.

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