

Standing Advisory Council
For Religious Education
Children and Young People's Services

Annual Report
2009/2010

Nottinghamshire SACRE

Chairman's introduction

"This has been a very busy year the County's SACRE which has not only continued to offer support to teachers with the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus, but has also been reflecting on national changes and guidance on RE.

Our training course and RE Conferences continue to be well supported and appreciated by teachers from the County and the City along with teachers from Derbyshire this year.

As chair of SACRE, I have enjoyed engaging in dialogue with the faith communities and seeing evidence of the good work being produced by young people in the County who are well supported and encouraged by their teachers."

Cllr Allen Clarke

Chair -



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1. What is SACRE?

The 1988 Education Reform Act established the statutory requirement for all local authorities (LAs) to establish a permanent body called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). The Nottinghamshire SACRE is an independent body which advises the LA on matters concerned with the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship.

SACRE comprises four groups:

Group A: Elected County Council Representatives

Group B: Church of England Representatives

Group C: Teacher Representatives

Group D: Representatives of Christian denominations and other religions reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area

Each group has equal status and voting rights.

Functions of SACRE

Executive functions:

- To consider and determine (in accordance with Section 12 of the 1988 Education Act) applications from county schools to be disapplied from the requirements concerning Collective Worship being broadly Christian.
- To consider whether or not to require a review of the Agreed Syllabus adopted by the Cabinet.

- To publish an annual report.

Advisory functions:

- To give advice on methods of teaching the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.
- To advise the LA on the provision of training for teachers.
- To monitor inspection reports and standards of achievement in Religious Education.
- To give advice on Collective Worship.

Purpose

Within its statutory responsibilities SACRE is concerned to support and enhance the provision of Religious Education within Nottinghamshire schools where the Agreed Syllabus is in use. SACRE seeks to encourage the provision of high-quality in-service training for those whose responsibility it is to deliver this aspect of the basic curriculum.

Decision making

This is determined by one block vote from each of the four groups listed in the membership above.

Co-opted members do not vote.



2. Meetings

There were three meetings of SACRE in the academic year 2009-2010.

Main issues discussed at the meetings:

November 2009

- We accepted the SACRE Effectiveness Plan for 2009-2010 and several issues were highlighted for follow up
- Report received on the largest RE Conference to date, when the Agreed Syllabus had been launched. Members watched a video of the keynote speech at the conference
- The Nottinghamshire Draft SACRE Annual Report was presented.
- National Developments in RE were reported to SACRE

February 2010

- The meeting was held in the Guru Nanak Sat Sang Gurdwara in Nottingham, where members toured the Gurdwara
- Review of the Co-option of the BHA representation was discussed.
- Date of the RE Conference had been changed to avoid a clash of events in the summer.
- Discussion of issues raised from the Effectiveness plan
- Draft Annual Report was discussed
- Religious Education in English Schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010 was distributed for information

June 2009

- Met at St Peter's CE Primary School, East Bridgford
- SACRE members had a tour and talk about RE in the School and saw evidence of work by students
- New members were welcomed to SACRE
- Details of the RE Conference at the Racecourse were given and how we were attracting schools from Derbyshire.
- Primary RE training on the Agreed Syllabus had been so popular that a repeat was being planned for October
- Discussion of Non-statutory Guidance for RE document. In particular there was discussion about Role of LA and SACRE; academies and the relationship with higher education establishments
- National Celebration of RE for March 2011 was mentioned
- Training CD from NASACRE was circulated for members to see.
- Report on SACRE & INTERFAITH was issued
- County Policy on Collective Worship - following an enquiry, SACRE decided to adopt the guidance given in the National Guidelines 1/94 on worship which were still in force.



3. Determinations

From time to time a school may request from the SACRE a "determination", that is, permission to waive the legal requirements for religious education and collective worship to be 'wholly or mainly Christian'.

There were no requests by schools in Nottinghamshire for a determination that the specific requirements regarding the character of collective worship, as set out in the Education Act 1996, should not apply to them.

4. Professional development opportunities

Course offered for 2009-2010:

In support of the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus from September 2010 the following courses were offered. These were offered to teachers cross the City and the County as part of a collaborative package of support

- Primary Focussed Days
Three days in the autumn term but due to demand we organised a further repeat day in the summer term. The support for this meant that we planned another day in October 2010

98 teachers supported these dates
- Secondary Focussed Day
One Day in the autumn term
- Spring Term 2010
We offered opportunities for teachers to meet for twilight

sessions in order to become familiar with the New Agreed RE Syllabus. There was sufficient support to run three of these sessions in different venues across the City & County

5. SACRE RE Conference

We offered a Conference for teachers of RE across all key stages in the summer term at the Nottingham Racecourse.

What a fantastic day at our first racecourse RE Conference as the participants, all arrived in good time for the 9.30 start. We welcomed colleagues from Derbyshire Schools as well as from the City and the County.

Workshops covered:-

Making RE more thoughtful 7-14

Creative storytelling 4-11

Making space for the spiritual:

Religious Experiences Primary and KS3

how to use them to enhance RE

Around the world in 40 faiths

Community cohesion through RE 5-11

An Introduction to using Philosophy for Children in RE (primary or secondary)

Using fantasy to develop the imagination?

The Conference also had exhibitors present from the City and County who work to enhance RE.

There was a display from Stapleford Centre and TTS, along with a display from the holocaust centre at Beth Shalom. The RSResource Centre was present along with Time Travelling from Southwell Minister and the William Booth Birthplace Museum – Nottingham. We also welcomed Muslim resources from Leicester.

Teacher evaluations included the following



- Very informative day
- Lots of ideas to take forward in school.
- Helped to give confidence, clarity and enthusiasm for RE
- Good to catch up with other colleagues. Lat was inspirational
- The networking was invaluable. Have got lots of new friends and contacts
- 3 years on... best conference yet. The workshops and mix of activities have been well balanced and enjoyable

6. Standards in RE in Nottinghamshire

As the nature of Ofsted inspection reports has altered it has become difficult to comment upon their findings with regard to RE and Collective Worship.

Examination performances

Entry level Certificate in Religious Studies offers candidates not yet ready for the GCSE the opportunity to focus on religious and moral issues, which relate to their own lives, and to meet the statutory requirements for Religious Studies. This was the first year we have entries for this examination.

120 students were entered

45.8 % achieved Level 3

40% achieved Level 2

13.3% achieved Level 1

GCSE Full Course

SACRE noted that there was a another decrease in candidates this year, as 1654 pupils sat the full GCSE course compared to 1855 in the previous year. Nationally there was an increase in the numbers sitting at this level.

OCR continues to be the most popular examination board across the County's schools followed by Edexcel.

Summary of GCSE Results 2006- 2010

Percentage of pupils in Nottinghamshire attaining A*-C and A*-G grades in the full GCSE:

	A*-C	A*-G
2006	59.3	94.7
2007	59.1	97.2
2008	63.8	98.3
2009	69.3	98.5
2010	64.8	98.1

National results

2006	70.6	94.9
2007	71.5	98.2
2008	72.5	98.5
2009	73.4	98.5
2010	73.1	98.6

GCSE Short Course

Our entries for the short course decreased from 4424 entries in the previous year to 3795 last year in the County's schools.



Summary of GCSE Short Course Results
2006- 2010

Percentage of pupils in Nottinghamshire attaining A*-C and A*-G grades for the last ten years in the short GCSE:

	A*-C	A*-G
2006	41.6	94.9
2007	46.1	95.7
2008	41.6	95.2
2009	42.8	94.9
2010	47.3	95.8

National results

2006	54.1	96.1
2007	53.4	95.5
2008	53.7	96.1
2009	54.3	96.5
2010	54.6	96.1

A/S

The number of entries was slightly less than last year at 87.

Summary of A/S Results 2006 - 2010

Percentage of pupils in Nottinghamshire attaining A-C and A-E grades for the last four years at A/S level:

	A-C	A-E
2006	55.0	86.0
2007	67.4	93.3
2008	56.2	98.3
2009	54.0	91.0
2010	62	90.7

National Results

2006	70.2	90.8
2007	70.1	93.3
2008	69.1	93.3
2009	67.9	92.6
2010	67.6	92.5

A Level

The numbers entered at this level increased from 182 to 217

Summary of A Level Results 2006- 2010

Percentage of pupils in Nottinghamshire attaining A-C and A-E grades for the last eight years at A-level:

	A-C	A-E
2006	70.7	98.1
2007	71.1	99.4
2008	71.7	100.0
2009	74.2	98.9
2010	74.1	99

National Results

2006	80.2	98.4
2007	81.6	98.7
2008	80.9	98.6
2009	80.9	98.6
2010	79.3	100

SACRE is pleased to note that these results indicate that there have been some signs of improvement within the County schools but this is an area to support so we can reflect the National trends more.

Considering these results, SACRE needs to continue to consider how schools can be supported in order to raise achievement further and to consider ways in which schools can promote examination work in Religious Education.



7. Areas for further improvement

Targets for further improvement:

1. Continue to improve the levels of achievement across all key stages, particularly Key Stage 4 and 5.
2. Liaison with Higher Education Institutions to consider ways of enhancing the examination performances of students in County Schools.
3. Develop the awareness of SACRE of the needs of teachers to achieve increasing examination numbers and levels
4. Create greater awareness of the work of SACRE.

8. Support for schools in bringing about further improvement

1. To promote and monitor effective training to support schools in improving the quality of RE and raising standards through courses and the RE Conferences.
2. Give clear guidance and support for schools in developing more effective assessment strategies through training and the use of new guidance materials being produced by the QCDA.
3. Developing access to and

promotion of Resources at the Bluecoat RS Resource Centre.

4. Offering guidance on developments in RE teaching and learning.

9. Conclusion

SACRE continues to develop its role in supporting schools and advising the Children and Young People's Cabinet on RE and Collective Worship and would welcome feedback and suggestions for its continuing work. If you have any comments on the work/role of SACRE or require any further information please contact:

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Secretary of SACRE
Children and Young People's Services
40 Lawn View House
Sutton-in-Ashfield
Notts
NG17 5GA

10. SACRE Members 2009-2010

Membership of Nottinghamshire SACRE

Under the chair of Councillor Allen Clarke, SACRE membership comprises four groups:

Six Elected County Council Representatives

(Group A)

Councillor Allen Clarke (Chair of SACRE)
Councillor Rod Kempster
Councillor Barrie Cooper
Councillor Lynn Sykes
Councillor John Allen
Councillor Rev Tom Irvine



Five representatives of the Church of England

(Group B)

Mrs A Lumb
Mr D Maddison
Mr J Heard
Mr K Palmer
Mr D Conidi replaced by Mrs C Bywater

Eight representatives of teachers in Nottinghamshire

(Group C)

Mrs Lee Probert (NUT)
Mrs V Stone (NAHT)
Mr M Wilson (NASUWT)
Mrs K Strachen (Secondary RE teacher)
Ms S Smart (ATL)
Three places vacant

Thirteen representatives of Christian (other than Church of England) and other religious faiths representing the principal religious traditions of Nottinghamshire

(Group D)

Ms C O'Connell	Assemblies of God
Mrs H Wyton	Baptist
Mr S Gunpatrao	Hindu
Mrs Naomi Posner	Jewish
Rev Terry Nowell	Methodist
Safiz Muntazir	Muslim
Mr M Groves	Roman Catholic
Mr S Singh Nijran	Sikh
Dr G Jennings	United Reform Church
Mr A Whitehouse	Salvation Army
Mrs Julia Kurcin	Buddhist

Afro-Caribbean United Council of Churches (Awaiting nomination)
Religious Society of Friends (Awaiting nomination)

CO-OPTED

Mr A Summerfield British Humanist Association

