

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

Annual Report  
2012/2013

# Nottinghamshire SACRE

## Vice - Chair's introduction

As Vice Chair of SACRE, I am very pleased to write this introduction to our Annual Report which outlines the activities of the Council over the academic year 2012-2013.

During my year of office as vice-chair, SACRE has been involved in far ranging discussions at our meetings. The SACRE has been considering its own role as well as supporting initiatives to assist teachers through courses, conferences and teacher networks. In addition, our support of Post 16 Students has led to us developing links with institutions of higher education within the County.

Our termly meetings have given us the opportunity to both discuss important agenda items, but equally to hear first hand about our students passion for RE and their wish for it to be recognised as being an essential part of every young person's curriculum - something that our current Secretary of State is becoming increasingly aware and supportive of. Earlier in the year we were fortunate to find out more about the inclusion work of the Salvation Army, as well as listening to young people telling us about their studies in RE. Students are passionate about the subject which they see as being an integral part of every person's curriculum. We have also been kept up to date with developments nationally in the RE world.

It has been my pleasure to have been part of SACRE, a group which devotes so much time in a voluntary capacity to support the continued development of RE within the County of Nottinghamshire. I would also like to thank all those who work so hard in our schools, academies and special schools for making RE accessible and relevant to our young people.

*Mr Mike Follen*

Vice Chair



## ***Table of Contents***

<b>No</b>		<b>Page</b>
1.	What is SACRE? - Functions - Purpose - Decision making	4
2.	Meetings	5
3.	Determinations	6
4.	Professional development opportunities	7
5.	SACRE RE Conference	7
6.	Post 16 Revision Day	9
7.	Faith Experiences in County Schools	10
8.	SACRE National Conference involvements	11
9.	Standards in RE in Nottinghamshire	12
10.	Areas for further improvement	14
11.	Support for schools in bringing about further improvement	15
12.	Conclusion	15
13.	SACRE members 2012-13	16

## 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 2012-2013.

Main issues discussed at the meetings:

### **November 2012**

- Members discussed the possibility of establishing a Student Forum and whether this could be linked to the RE Conference for teachers.
- Plans for the SACRE RE Conference were outlined for the Summer Term.
- News was shared of the newly formed Secondary and Primary Networks for RE teachers in the County.
- The Post 16 Study Day was outlined working with the University of Nottingham Theology Department and St. John's College. This day was also to be advertised to local SACREs.
- Amendments were received towards a revision of the Constitution.
- Members completed a SEF on the work of SACRE.
- The Annual Report first draft was circulated and discussed.
- SACRE members decided to wait until Autumn 2013 to consider a revision of the Agreed Syllabus so we would be better informed about developments in the curriculum and the place of RE.
- The City SACRE were to be approached with regard to a revision of the Agreed Syllabus to work in a partnership as we did previously.
- Attention was drawn to the RE Quality Mark which was now available to schools.

### **March 2013**

- SACRE met at the Salvation Army in Nottingham and received a presentation of the work of the Salvation Army on Inclusion. This had aspects which SACRE thought were adaptable by schools and offered some different ways of working alongside young people.
- Progress was reported on the Post 16 Study Day held at St John's College.
- Updated reports were given of the Teacher networks which were running successfully and were appreciated by those attending.
- The Draft Annual Report was further discussed with the addition of targets from the different groups within SACRE and was agreed.
- The Self Evaluation Results were discussed and these would help produce a new effectiveness plan for SACRE.
- The review of the co-option of the British Humanist Association representative was deferred to the next meeting at the request of the representative.
- National Developments in RE were reported on to members of SACRE.

## June 2013

- Met at The Kimberley School where members had a presentation about RE and its value from a range of pupils across the school. Members of SACRE were encouraged to participate by the young people.
- The Co-option of the British Humanist Association representative was discussed.
- Members watched a film clip of the successful application of students from Redhill Academy to become RE Ambassadors. This led to members requesting to meet them at their school in the next academic year. SACRE sent a letter of congratulations to them as they were due to address MPs in the House of Commons in the following week.
- Feedback was received from the Christian Muslim Forum which was held in Westminster Abbey looking at Religious Literacy & Spirituality. A paper had been forwarded from the conference with regard to the place of RE in the curriculum.
- Feedback was also shared from the Post 16 Study day and the SACRE RE Conference.
- Feedback was given from the NASACRE AGM by a member of SACRE and discussion followed.
- The Truth Unmasked Report was discussed by SACRE.
- Westhill SACRE Awards were discussed for 2014 and it was agreed that we should apply working alongside the RE Ambassadors and other interested groups to hold a young people's event.
- SACRE agreed to consider producing a document aimed at parents about SACRE and what RE is like.
- The Draft Programmes of Study for RE Key Stages 10-3 were issued and responses were invited to REC.
- A new specialist Leader of Education for RE was mentioned in Nottinghamshire.
- Outlines of provisions for CPD events were shared.



### 3. Determinations

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

Courses offered for 2012-2013:



In response to requests from the previous RE Conference:  
“Help, I’m the RE Co-ordinator”

This was a course for primary colleagues - March 6<sup>th</sup> - this was led by Lat Blaylock and was held at Edwinstowe.

There were 29 delegates present at this event and this was well received by the delegates.

### Teacher Networks

SACRE supported the establishing of two networks during the academic year. There was a Secondary one which had a session where teachers shared ideas and involved ASTs. This met in Retford and Southwell.

### Secondary Network evaluations

They have been very worthwhile and interesting. It is fantastic networking with other colleagues and sharing ideas. It is great working with like minded teachers who understand the nature of our subject and the value of exploring the spiritual side of humanity.

**The Primary Network** came about as a response from Primary teachers and over 30 teachers expressed an interest in having a network. After an exploratory session to discuss what might be involved in a network, teachers came to the second one sharing good practice ideas and looking at how schools were offering RE days or weeks.

## 5. SACRE RE Conference

Our venue moved north in the county to the Derbyshire Hotel near Junction 28.

This year our theme was:-

### “Developing Inspirational RE”

The aim of the conference was to provide teachers with many practical ideas for deeper thinking and creativity in RE that feeds and supports pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (the current OFSTED priority).

Our providers were:-

Lat Blaylock and Fiona Moss from RE Today

Owing to illness, our other provider was not able to be with us, but delegates opted into the workshops on offer.



This year we were pleased to welcome schools from other authorities, joining us for the conference, along with members of SACRE. Some 58 delegates, as well as the Chair of the Derby Diocesan Board of Education, prepared to be uplifted.

Fiona Moss, set the scene with her Keynote about “RE to inspire pupils and teachers”. Delegates were thoroughly immersed in the range of activities.

There were four workshops during the day.

The morning sessions were:-

4-7s: Discover/Explore/Imagine: Stories and celebrations for RE 4-7;

7-14: Thinking and engaging: Better AT2 RE – 5 examples for KS2.



Followed by the afternoon workshops of:

7-11s: Muslims and Hindus: Dynamic learning from religion at Key Stage 2;

5-14: Spiritual development and creativity: 6 ideas for RE which use art, drama, music and poetry.

Lat then brought the day to a close with the Plenary: ‘Inspiring religion, inspiring children’

Once again extremely positive evaluations of the conference were received. We have included a selection below:

- ✚ Thank you for offering the day to schools in other authorities, very inspirational day – lots of ideas. Derby
- ✚ Thank you for a great day. Leicester
- ✚ I had a wonderful day, such a super rewarding day. Conferences like these need to happen more often – they are very inspiring events. More teachers should be encouraged to come. Derby & Leicester
- ✚ Practical resources & ideas. ....Inspirational, as always.
- ✚ Lots of ideas for livening up lessons and getting the children to engage more with the subject.
- ✚ The fast pace. Dynamic speakers Use of exciting stimuli.
- ✚ Interactive learning – doing not just listening, time to consider use of ideas in school, discussion with other colleagues, being given resources rather than having to download.
- ✚ Ideas were well presented for me as a co-ordinator to take back to a staff meeting. Also as a teacher to use in my teaching and learning.
- ✚ Opportunity to meet with RE teachers who are willing to share their enthusiasm and expertise.
- ✚ So many useful and practical ideas. Feel rejuvenated and inspired.
- ✚ The range of resources/handouts offered and more importantly, the criteria for delivering an inspirational RE lesson.
- ✚ An excellent conference – this needs to continue to upskill/enhance RE work.
- ✚ Today was a very valuable use of time. Thank you for the varied programme provided.





- ✚ Was a brilliant day – can't fault it..... It was all fantastic! Thank you!
- ✚ I could have halted time and done all the workshops.
- ✚ The main thing I would ask for is that there continues to be an annual SACRE conference in Notts. I cannot over emphasize the significance in terms of inspiration and excitement. This event makes me desperate to get back to school to pass it on. Thank you so much for a great day.



The Conference always asks for suggestions of content and ways of enhancing the Annual SACRE Conference and these ideas are incorporated into the next year's CPD opportunities whenever possible and viable.

These were some of the suggestions received:-

- Monitoring / assessment
- Planning ideas - long and medium term
- Acts of worship ideas for and developing
- Differentiation for G & T
- Creative RE in Key Stage 4 & 5
- Ideas for teaching other faiths
- More focus on Key Stage 3 & 4
- More examples of whole unit plans
- Aspects / change to 'new' curriculum
- Work scrutiny

## **6. Post 16 Study Day**

For the study day we worked with Nottingham University Department of Theology as well as St John's College based in Bramcote. The day also involved some under graduate students to share their experiences with Post 16 students. For the day we were joined by some students from the City, County and also Derbyshire.

This was part of SACRE's effectiveness plan to work more closely with institutions of higher education in the County to see how we can assist young people in their future learning and development alongside teachers of Religious Education.

Comments from those who attended included the following:-

- ✚ "Enjoyed the three different style lectures, it's good to get a snap shot of what undergraduate students get at university"

- ✚ I came last year as well. It's great. My class this year is only me, so this gives me a really good chance to talk through ideas with other people and hear different perspectives.
- ✚ Really helpful in preparation for my exams
- ✚ The talk about the existence of God, I found it absolutely fascinating and very helpful.
- ✚ Having the chance to meet other people who appreciate the value of RS
- ✚ Talk on evil and human existence as it provided detailed alternative viewpoints.

## 7. Faith Experiences in County Schools

County Schools have continued to use the opportunity to bring in Faith Experiences into their schools. These experiences are provided from the RS Resource Centre which co-operates with the Nottingham Inter Faith Council. During the academic year 15 different County schools have booked faith experiences, sometimes booked over several days / visits and over 1,652 young people have benefited from them.



Teachers in their evaluations were asked to comment on what they thought was valuable from such experiences going into their schools.

- “The chance to ask questions to a person who has actually worshipped in a Mosque. So important for our children to see Christians and Muslims working together.”
  - “An understanding of the faith and respect towards it.”
  - “The multi-sensory experience, information about the gods and listening to the story of Ganesh.”
  - “How values of love, caring, respect are both in the Hindu faith and our own Christian faith.”
  - “An insight into other cultures and beliefs.”
  - “They were fully immersed allowing them to have a memorable experience. They gained greater understanding and acknowledged that the Islamic beliefs are often linked to their own personal beliefs, e.g care and respect of animals”
- “Much better than anything we could offer! Fantastic”
  - “RE brought to life!”
  - “The children and staff learned so much.”

Experiences were also used within Secondary schools this academic year and also were designed to fit more specific requests from schools particularly for younger children.



Once again through the visit of Faith Experiences to County Schools, it has been discovered that there is a positive interest by young people into Religion and that their understanding and knowledge is a credit to the work being undertaken by many teachers in the Authority, who are often surprised and pleased with the involvement of their young people in sharing and learning through this different form of engagement.

Student reflections on Faith experiences

“The Islam experience was exciting to learn about as it is a new religion. I thought it was nice to learn about how to pray and which direction to face and which mosque is the biggest and where it is in the world. I think it is a good idea to teach about Islam so other children don't tease people with Islamic beliefs.”

- Jamie

“I thought that the Islam experience was very educational and interesting. Personally I do not believe that there is a god of any kind, but I don't mock people who chose to believe there is a god, I respect people like that because they show me that all people are different.”

- Mark, Yr 6

“I found this really interesting because it's important to understand other people's faiths and religions. I also found it interesting a lady talked about her religion but if it was the teacher you wouldn't learn as much because it might not be their religion. It was a fun experience as our classroom as turned into a mosque. You always treat everyone with respect.”

-Sophie

## **7. SACRE - National Conference involvements**

Nottinghamshire SACRE has been represented at the NASACRE AGM as well as being invited to be represented at the Christian Muslim Forum meeting held at Westminster Abbey to discuss Religious Literacy and Spirituality which resulted in a document being sent to the Religious Education Council's review of the RE Curriculum. SACRE was also represented at a day conference on the Future of Religious Education at Worcester University.

## 8. 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

### **These are Provisional Figures**

**Entry level Certificate** in Religious Studies offers candidates not yet ready for the GCSE - an opportunity to focus on religious and moral issues, which relate to their own lives, and to meet the statutory requirements for Religious Studies.

11 students were entered from two centres for Band C

**81.8 % achieved Level 3**  
**18.2 % achieved Level 2**

Last year 13 candidates were entered on this band from 2 centres

**53.8 % achieved Level 3**  
**30.8 % achieved Level 2**  
**15.4 % achieved Level 1**

### **GCSE Full Course**

Centres entered candidates at this level

SACRE noted that the decrease in the number of candidates continued this year, to 1949 compared to 2324 pupils in the previous year. 29 schools entered candidates at this level. Nationally there was an increase sitting at this level – 263,988 compared to 239,123 last year. SACRE notes that there is a need to improve grades from D to C level.

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

### Summary of GCSE Results 2009- 2013

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

	<b>A*-C</b>	<b>A*-G</b>
<b>2009</b>	69.3	98.5
<b>2010</b>	64.8	98.1
<b>2011</b>	61.2	97.4
<b>2012</b>	76.1	98.9
<b>2013</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>98.1</b>

### National results

<b>2009</b>	73.4	98.5
<b>2010</b>	73.1	98.6
<b>2011</b>	73.3	98.4
<b>2012</b>	73.7	98.5
<b>2013</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>97.6</b>

### **GCSE Short Course**

Our entries for the short course showed a decrease this year to 2194 from our highest entry of 2746 in the previous year in 24 of the County's schools. Nationally there was a decrease in entries at the Short Course. SACRE was pleased to note the improved results by candidates in the County.

### Summary of GCSE Short Course Results 2008- 2012

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

	<b>A*-C</b>	<b>A*-G</b>
<b>2009</b>	42.8	94.9
<b>2010</b>	47.3	95.8
<b>2011</b>	43.1	93.8
<b>2012</b>	33.3	89.6
<b>2013</b>	<b>43.8</b>	<b>91.7</b>

### National results

<b>2009</b>	54.3	96.5
<b>2010</b>	54.6	96.1
<b>2011</b>	51.8	94.9
<b>2012</b>	53.8	95.5
<b>2013</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>96.1</b>

OCR was for the most popular examination board across the County's schools followed by Edexcel

## **A/S**

36 candidates were entered from 4 centres compared to 45 entries last year

### Summary of A/S Results 2009 - 2013

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

	<b>A-C</b>	<b>A-E</b>
<b>2009</b>	54.0	91.0
<b>2010</b>	62	90.7
<b>2011</b>	47.4	88.5
<b>2012</b>	47	88.8
<b>2013</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>81.5</b>

### National Results

<b>2009</b>	67.9	92.6
<b>2010</b>	67.6	92.5
<b>2011</b>	67.0	92.0
<b>2012</b>	67.2	92.5
<b>2013</b>	<b>61.7</b>	<b>91.0</b>

**SACRE was pleased to note the improvement in grades A-C in the County.**

## **A Level**

The numbers entered at this level decreased from 155 to 146 which reflects the national decline in those sitting the subject at this level. 16 centres entered candidates at this level.

### Summary of A Level Results 2009- 2013

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

	<b>A*-C</b>	<b>A*-E</b>
<b>2009</b>	74.2	98.9
<b>2010</b>	74.1	99
<b>2011</b>	76.2	97.6
<b>2012</b>	72.9	100.0
<b>2013</b>	<b>82.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### National Results

<b>2009</b>	80.9	98.6
<b>2010</b>	79.3	100
<b>2011</b>	81.2	100
<b>2012</b>	80.3	98.6
<b>2013</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>98.9</b>

SACRE were pleased to see an improvement in attainment at A\*-C and all candidates maintained a 100% pass rate, which was above the national results.

## **9. Areas for further improvement**

### **Targets for further improvement:**

1. To develop further links with HE institutions in order to consider ways of enhancing exam performance of students.
2. To explore and report on how SACRE may best offer advice and support the delivery of RE & collective worship in all schools/academies.
3. To make contact with academies/free schools to offer expertise and raise awareness at Networks.
4. To review and develop a Revised Agreed Syllabus to reflect recent developments in the National Curriculum so that students in the authority have a relevant and meaningful experience in their spiritual development.

## **10. Support for schools in bringing about further improvement**

1. To support the continued development of networks for teachers/coordinators/lead teachers' of RE in schools/academies
2. To promote the new Agreed Syllabus as a means of making RE more effective
3. To offer training materials and events to support the Revised Agreed Syllabus

## **11. 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:

Rev Ken Johnson  
Secretary of SACRE  
Nottinghamshire County Council  
Children and Young People's Services  
Lawn View House  
Sutton-in-Ashfield  
Notts. NG17 5GA

## **12. SACRE Members 2012-2013**

### **Membership of Nottinghamshire SACRE**

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

Six Elected County Council Representatives

#### **(Group A) Until June 2013**

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

Five representatives of the Church of England

#### **(Group B)**

Mrs A Lumb  
Mr D Maddison  
Mr J Heard  
Mrs T Goldsmith  
Mrs E Youngman

Eight representatives of teachers in Nottinghamshire

#### **(Group C)**

Mrs Lee Probert	(NUT)
Mr M Follen	(NAHT)
Mr M Wilson	(NASUWT)
Mrs K Strachen	(Secondary RE teacher)
Mr I Jowett	(ATL)
Mrs G Brockway	(Secondary Teacher)
Mr D Corbett	(Primary Teacher) until March 2013
Mr R Linford	(Primary Teacher) from June 2013
Mr D Cokeham	(ASCL)

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



**(Group D)**

Mrs G Pettifor	Assemblies of God	
Mrs H Wyton	Baptist	
Mr S Gunpatrao	Hindu	
Mrs Naomi Posner	Jewish	
Rev Terry Nowell	Methodist until March 2013	
Mr H Muntazir	(Muslim)	
Mr M Groves	(Roman Catholic)	
Mrs K Pietryka	(Roman Catholic)	
Mr S Singh Nijran	(Sikh)	
Dr G Jennings	(United Reformed Church)	
Mr A Whitehouse	(Salvation Army)	
Mrs M Gotheridge	(Buddhist) from January 2013	
Mrs P Ling	Religious Society of Friends	
	Afro-Caribbean United Council of Churches	(Awaiting nomination)

**Co-Options**

Mr A Summerfield	British Humanist Association representative until June 2013
Mr G Nix	Bahai's from June 2012