

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

Annual Report  
2011/2012

# Nottinghamshire SACRE

## Chairman's introduction

This year SACRE has met with full agendas of areas for discussion, which has not only involved institutions of higher education but has also encompassed the many developing facets of education in the past year.

Part of this was our conference for SACRE members with an executive officer of NASACRE looking at involving Academies and Free Schools with the development of Religious Education. Our Conference also attracted more Secondary teachers and met in another institution of Further Education that of St John's College.

It is encouraging to see that teachers welcome the support given through the training opportunities arranged by SACRE for professional development and that teachers are looking forward to the development of teacher networks in this crucial area of spiritual development.

SACRE membership has also grown over the year with new representation from member groups and also the involvement of AST's bringing their work to the fore of SACRE. Again we have met in different locations during the year which has included the Progressive Synagogue and an Academy in Mansfield as we come to terms with national and local developments affecting the education of young people in our region.

Once again, on behalf of the Children and Young People's services, I am indebted to the work of SACRE members who give of their time freely to this important aspect of education.

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 Committee.
- 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 2011-2012.

Main issues discussed at the meetings:

### November 2011

- Members received a presentation from Professor Bell of Nottingham University Theology Department about the degree courses offered and their concerns about undergraduates.
- There was a presentation from the Bahá'í community who wished to be represented on SACRE.
- The five year development plan for SACRE was discussed.
- This meeting was not quorate so no decisions were made.

### February 2012

- SACRE met at the Progressive Synagogue in Sherwood and received a presentation from Rabbi Tanya Sakhnovich and received refreshments connected with the festival of trees.
- Membership changes were discussed.
- ASTs were to be invited to join meetings.
- The draft Annual Report was discussed and amended.
- SACRE was interested in establishing networks for RE teachers in the future.

### February Conference of SACRE members

For the first time, SACRE held a half day conference for its members entitled: "SACREs and the future".

This came out of discussions from various meetings about the position of SACRE in the light of the development of Academies and changes in Government policies.

The City of Nottingham SACRE was invited to attend this conference which was led by Rev Michael Metcalf, a member of the executive of NASACRE. This conference also involved representatives of Academies.



This conference helped to give direction to SACRE as it moves forward and there have been meetings since with Academies to support their development of Religious Education.

### **June 2012**

- Met at The Queen Elizabeth Academy in Mansfield and received a presentation about RE in the Academy from Stephanie Smart and a student Tariq Duru.
- Members had the role of an AST outlined by Rachel Halfpenny.
- Teacher networks were to be run in the next academic year.
- The Bahá'í were co-opted onto the SACRE for a period of two years.
- The SACRE conference held in February had been found to be useful and valuable by members of SACRE (outline below).
- Members decided that the constitution was in need of review at the next meeting.
- Feedback was given from the NASACRE AGM and also the SACRE RE conference for teachers held at St John's College.
- Feedback was also received from the Post 16 Revision Day at St John's College and SACRE agreed to support the development of such conferences in the future.
- The draft Collective Worship document from NASACRE was received as being useful for schools and also SACRE.

## **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 2011-2012:**

- Better RE with the Agreed Syllabus. Creative planning, community cohesions and respect, raising achievement.  
This course was aimed at Primary teachers and held in March and was well supported.
- Secondary RE Assessment at KS3 was planned for February but unfortunately was cancelled as there was insufficient take up for the course.



## 5. SACRE RE conference

This year the conference was held at St John's College in Bramcote.

The theme of the conference was:  
"Better RE: pupils developing ideas and values".

The aim of the conference was to see how practical inspiration for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through RE could be developed. SACRE wanted to respond to the fact that HMI and OFSTED are emphasising spiritual and moral development more in schools. The conference was planned to offer busy teachers lots of ready to use activities in making RE more focused on the values pupils develop and the ideas they have.



Our providers were:

Lat Blaylock and Stephen Pett from RE Today  
Emma McVittie, RE teacher trainer, who worked with us last year  
and we welcomed Lisa Kassapian, an RE consultant, Breathe RE

SACRE was pleased to see 54 delegates, with a larger than normal representation from secondary institutions.

After a keynote speech, 'RE: full of ideas for SMSC – a practical and inspiring view of RE's role today and tomorrow' delegates attended two seminars and the plenary.

Overall evaluations of the conference were once again extremely positive as can be seen in the following comments:

- Timings – Having power points available for downloading, excellent speakers – well presented talks, good resources and networking with other schools.
- Clear guidance on developing SMSC and great ideas. Also good input on assessment and quality of learning intentions.
- Meeting more RE teachers and seeing many resources in action.
- Lots of ideas to take back and try out and realising that RE can be more active not just writing!
- All the ideas for improving RE in school.
- The quality of the sessions.
- Having time to reflect. Getting lots of ideas to use in school. Thought provoking plenary and info.
- Fantastic ideas and ways to apply them. Greater understanding of SMSC and what it is.
- Hands on, practical ideas that I can take back to school.



- Sharing experiences.
- Ideas for my spiritual development and reflective RE.
- Some really concrete ideas to take back to school.
- Range of workshops and speakers. Liked the fast pace of the seminars. Nice to meet others and see that it is the same elsewhere.



As usual SACRE was grateful for suggestions to improve conferences in the future and has taken note of some of the requests made for training opportunities for the next academic year.

## 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 based on provisional data.

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

13 students were entered from two centres for Band C

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

Last year 43 candidates were entered on this band from 5 centres

63.2 % achieved level 3  
 15.8 % achieved level 2  
 15.8 % achieved level 1  
 5.3 % ungraded





## GCSE Full Course

27 Centres entered candidates at this level

SACRE noted that there was a slight decrease in candidates this year, to 2,324 compared to 2,384 pupils in the previous year. Nationally there was an increase of 7.7% in the numbers sitting at this level. SACRE was pleased with the improvement in standards of attainment across the County compared to the National results.

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

### Summary of GCSE Results 2008- 2012

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

	A*-C	A*-G
<b>2008</b>	63.8	98.3
<b>2009</b>	69.3	98.5
<b>2010</b>	64.8	98.1
<b>2011</b>	61.2	97.4
<b>2012</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>98.9</b>

### National results

<b>2008</b>	72.5	98.5
<b>2009</b>	73.4	98.5
<b>2010</b>	73.1	98.6
<b>2011</b>	73.3	98.4
<b>2012</b>	<b>73.7</b>	<b>98.5</b>

## GCSE Short Course

Our entries for the short course showed an increase to 2,746 from 2,683 in the previous year in 30 of the County's schools. Nationally there was a decrease in entries at the Short Course.

### 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>2008</b>	41.6	95.2
<b>2009</b>	42.8	94.9
<b>2010</b>	47.3	95.8
<b>2011</b>	43.1	93.8
<b>2012</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>89.6</b>

### **National results**

	<b>A*-C</b>	<b>A*-G</b>
<b>2008</b>	53.7	96.1
<b>2009</b>	54.3	96.5
<b>2010</b>	54.6	96.1
<b>2011</b>	51.8	94.9
<b>2012</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>95.5</b>

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

### **AS**

45 candidates were entered from 4 centres compared to 78 entries last year.

### **Summary of AS Results 2008 - 2012**

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

	<b>A-C</b>	<b>A-E</b>
<b>2008</b>	56.2	98.3
<b>2009</b>	54.0	91.0
<b>2010</b>	62	90.7
<b>2011</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>88.5</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>88.8</b>

### **National Results**

<b>2008</b>	69.1	93.3
<b>2009</b>	67.9	92.6
<b>2010</b>	67.6	92.5
<b>2011</b>	67.0	92.0
<b>2012</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>92.5</b>



## A Level

The numbers entered at this level decreased from 206 to 155 whereas nationally there was an increase in entries.

### Summary of A Level Results 2008- 2012

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

	A*-C	A*-E
<b>2008</b>	71.7	100.0
<b>2009</b>	74.2	98.9
<b>2010</b>	74.1	99.0
<b>2011</b>	76.2	97.6
<b>2012</b>	<b>72.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### National Results

<b>2008</b>	80.9	98.6
<b>2009</b>	80.9	98.6
<b>2010</b>	79.3	100.0
<b>2011</b>	81.2	100.0
<b>2012</b>	<b>80.3</b>	<b>98.6</b>

SACRE noted that these results indicate that there have been some signs of improvement within the County schools at A-E, that all who entered achieved a pass, however, there is scope for development at Grades A\*-C.

### Post 16 Revision Day

In response to these outcomes, SACRE has worked alongside St John's College in Bramcote in facilitating a revision day for post 16 students at both AS and A level. This event was held at the College in March and students from the City, County and neighbouring institutions gathered for a day of revision on philosophy and ethical areas.

SACRE is looking forward to working 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.



## Faith Experiences in County Schools

SACRE is pleased to report that during the academic year county schools continued to avail themselves of holding a Faith Experience within their schools provided from the RS Resource Centre based at Bluecoat Academy with the help of the Nottingham Inter Faith Council.

Over 1,300 young people from 18 county schools participated in these experiences and learned from experiencing a world faith within their school.



Some of the teachers' evaluations after the experiences were:

“It will help me to show the children different aspects of the faith in future.”

“Very valuable experience that I could not have provided myself. Excellent”

“Very good experience for the children to see artefacts for themselves.”

“A fantastic opportunity to go further”

“Good how they were asked to observe, suggest, think and ask questions.”

“This will give me a better understanding of the Jewish faith and the artefacts in a synagogue, so I will be able to explain / teach this better.”

“An excellent and invaluable experience for children to better understand, appreciate, grow and respect the ethnically diverse society in which we live and in a sustained way.”

Through the visit of Faith Experiences to county schools, it has been discovered that there is a positive interest by young people in religion and that their understanding and knowledge is a credit to the work being undertaken by many teachers in the LA who are often surprised and pleased with the involvement of their young people in sharing and learning through this different form of engagement.



## 7. Areas for further improvement

### Targets for further improvement

1. To hold another event to secure 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 advise 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 make contact with faith representative members of SACRE to encourage participation.

## 8. 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.

## 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:

Rev Ken Johnson  
Secretary of SACRE  
Nottinghamshire County Council  
Children, Families and Cultural Services Dept  
Lawn View House  
40 Station Road  
Sutton-in-Ashfield  
Notts  
NG17 5GA



## 10. SACRE members 2011-2012

### ***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 Stella Stella  
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  
Mrs C Bywater  
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
Ms S Smart	ATL until August 2012
Mrs G Brockway	Secondary Teacher
Mr D Corbett	Primary Teacher
1 vacancy	



**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	
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 Julia Kurcin	Buddhist until January	
Mrs P Ling	Religious Society of Friends	
Afro-Caribbean	United Council of Churches	(Awaiting nomination)

**Co-Options**

Mr A Summerfield	British Humanist Association
Mr G Nix	Bahá'í (from June 2012)

