



Nottingham City Council
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
(SACRE)

Annual Report 2017/18

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Nottingham City SACRE

Chair's Introduction

As Chair of Nottingham City SACRE I am pleased to introduce this Annual Report which outlines the work and impact of SACRE in Nottingham City during 2017/18. During the course of the year, members have been engaged in looking at a wide range of interesting issues and how they impact across the city.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members for their active engagement over the past year. Nottingham City SACRE is well supported by its constituent members who have worked together for the benefit of children and young people across the city. Throughout the year, we have reflected on the excellent resources which assist our young people in the classroom and their communities. Children in our city are exposed to diverse cultures in the classroom and learn to understand different points of view which enrich our educational experience.

Throughout the year we have met in various locations across the city which offers us insight and different perspectives which help shape our reflections. I would like to thank partners for their contributions and I am pleased to commend this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Mellen'.

Councillor David Mellen
Chair of Nottingham City SACRE

What is SACRE

SACRE is the 'Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education'. Since 1944 every Local Authority is required by law to have a SACRE. Its role was further strengthened in the Education Reform Act of 1988 and most recently in 1996.

The responsibilities of SACRE are:

- to provide advice to the Local Authority (LA) on all aspects of its provision for RE in its schools (this does not include Voluntary Aided Schools);
- to decide whether the LA's Agreed Syllabus for RE needs to be reviewed and if so, to ensure that this is completed;
- to provide advice to the LA on Collective Worship in its schools (this does not include Voluntary Aided or Voluntary Controlled Schools);
- to consider any requests from Head teachers to hold Collective Worship that is not of a broadly Christian character;
- to advise on matters relating to training for teachers in RE and Collective Worship;
- to publish an Annual Report of its work.

Meetings of SACRE

Nottingham City's SACRE meets at least twice a year, once in a place of worship and once in a school to widen participation and representation. SACRE meetings are open to the public who may attend as observers and minutes are published on Nottingham City Council's website which can be found via the following link:

<http://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=934>

In November 2017, Nottingham City's SACRE met at the Pilgrim Church on Queen's Walk in the Meadows, Nottingham. This was a fitting setting to discuss 'social justice, the common good and community cohesion'. Clive Foster, a senior minister at the Pilgrim Church in Nottingham introduced the discussion highlighting the significance of community values, touching on the importance of good education and on-going study and a collective demonstration of 'neighbourliness' in the wider community.

In November 2017, SACRE also discussed social justice and community cohesion with Nottingham Citizens, who are a non-partisan alliance of 36 institutions, including faith groups and charities. SACRE welcomed reports of collaborative work with local schools enabling children to make a positive contribution in their communities. Nottingham Citizens are also working with local schools to tackle hate crime and will be bringing schools together to share essential data.

In September 2017, the Commission on Religious Education published their report with the intention of creating an opportunity for as many people and organisations as possible to engage with the Commission about developing RE in schools in England. RE remains a vital academic subject for education in the 21st century, giving children and young people the knowledge, understanding and motivation they need to understand important aspects to RE studies. At the November meeting, SACRE considered and commented on the report and encouraged other networks to respond with their thoughts to the Commission.

In June 2018, SACRE considered a presentation on chaplaincy, collective worship and religious education at Bluecoat Academy in Nottingham. SACRE received information about the faith representation at the Academy and the broad spectrum covered on the RE syllabus. Finally, it was pleasing to hear of the cohesive and collaborative environment at Bluecoat Academy.

This year we have also become a member of the NATRE and with a view to actively participating throughout 2018/19. In addition to this, we have been instrumental in setting up a Primary RE teachers' network in collaboration with NATRE and Nottingham Schools Trust. Nottingham City SACRE has also been supported by Jane Lewis (RE Advisor) from Southwell and Nottingham Diocese.

Gallery of Nottingham City SACRE sessions



Planning ahead

Looking to the future, Nottingham City's SACRE may look to develop greater links with partners and other bodies whilst engaging proactively with the National Association of SACRE's (NASACRE). This year we have also become a member of the NATRE and with a view to actively participating throughout 2018/19. In addition to this, we have been instrumental in setting up a Primary RE teachers' network in collaboration with NATRE and Nottingham Schools Trust.

Nottingham City Council operates an effective Overview and Scrutiny function and in the future, a closer working relationship with the Council's Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee will provide a wider platform to consider SACRE's work programme and annual report. To enable wider participating, Nottingham City SACRE is also working on developing its own website which will be launched during 2018/19/

SACRE Budget

SACRE has a small budget. This has been allocated for clerking meetings and coordinating SACRE's diverse work programme.

SACRE Members

Councillor Ilyas Aziz
Martin Bennett
Reverend Annabel Copeland
Krishna Dasi
Jill Edmonds
John Heard
Debs Hunt
Councillor Mohammed Ibrahim
Councillor Patience Uloma Ifediora
Rav Kalsi
Yasmin Khalique
Councillor Neghat Khan
Kirstie Lacey
Jane Lewis
Caroline MacKeith
Councillor David Mellen (Chair)
Reverend Andy Morris
Hafiz M Mutazir
Asima Qureshi
Chris Richards
Alison Rowe
Bishop James Stapleton
Ralph Surman
David Wand
Councillor Marcia Watson
Caroline White