

# Nottingham City Council

## Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of the meeting held at Gurdwara Sahib Miri Piri House on 11 July 2024  
from 4.38 pm - 5.59 pm

✓ indicates present

	<b>GROUP A - Representatives of Christian denominations and other religions/faith</b>	
	Martin Bennett	Salvation Army
	Moira Dales	Roman Catholic
	Krishna Dasi	Director of Hinduism Education Services
	Chris Richards	Humanist
✓	Deb Martin	Quaker
	M Qasim Hussain	Islam
	Ezekiel Alewale	Majority Black Led Churches
✓	Pvail Singh	Sikhism
✓	Norman Randall	Jewish
	Dr Ifran Malik	Ahmadiyya Muslim Association
✓	Rev Anna Ratcliffe	Baptist Church
✓	Fr Julian Lowe	Orthodox Church
	<b>GROUP B - Church of England representatives (6)</b>	
	Andrea Burrows	Lowdham Primary
	Allison Milbank	University of Nottingham - Theology & Religious Studies
	Anne Lumb	Southwell and Nottingham Diocese
	Kirsty Lacey	Bluecoat Aspley Academy (Secondary)
	Sarah Peek	St Stephen's Primary
	Emmanuel Ofori	Governor, Berridge Primary and Bluecoat Aspley (Secondary)
	<b>GROUP C - Teacher representatives (6)</b>	
	Louise Regan	National Education Union
✓	Nazia Iqbal	Chair of Governors, Middleton Primary
	Fiona Maciel	Governor, Carrington Primary
	Leanne Harwood	Governor, Dovecote Primary
✓	Samia Ishaque	Governor, Middleton Primary
✓	Ambreen Razak	Chair of Governors, Snape Wood Primary
	Claire Al-Hussaini	Leader of SEND/Safeguarding, Djanogly City Academy
	<b>GROUP D - Elected City Council representatives</b>	
✓	Councillor Cheryl Barnard	Bulwell Forest Ward
✓	Councillor David Mellen	Dales Ward
✓	Councillor Angela Kandola	Berridge Ward
	Councillor Neghat Khan	Dales Ward
	Councillor Sajid Mohammed	Mapperley Ward
✓	Councillor Farzana Mahmood	Radford Ward

**Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:**

Rev Ken Johnson - Religious Studies Resource Centre  
Nick Lee - Director of Education Services  
Heidi Shewell-Cooper - SACRE Lead Officer  
Phil Wye - Governance Officer

**26 Apologies for absence**

Martin Bennett  
Andrea Burrows  
Leanne Harwood  
Councillor Neghat Khan – other Council business  
Kirsty Lacey  
Anne Lumb  
Fiona Maciel  
Irfan Malik  
Emmanuel Ofori  
Sarah Peek  
Chris Richards  
Councillor Sajid Mohammed - unwell  
Louise Regan

**27 Welcome and Introduction to the Gurdwara**

Pvail Singh gave an introduction to the Gurdwara and the Sikh Community in Nottingham, including the Sikh Community Youth Services, Guru Nanak's Mission, and the Baisakhi parade which marks the beginning of the Sikh year and parades throughout Nottingham visiting all of the Gurdwaras.

Guru Nanak's Mission provides free food to the homeless, rough sleepers, vulnerable and those struggling in Nottingham.

**28 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**29 Minutes**

The minutes were agreed for accuracy. They could not be confirmed as the meeting was inquorate.

**30 Matters arising**

- (a) members committed to reach out to their relevant contacts and encourage them to get accredited and listed with the RE Hubs project;
- (b) the Chair wrote to David Wand to formally thank him for his years contributing to SACRE;

(c) Heidi Shewell-Cooper proposed the following dates for 2024-25:

- Autumn: Thursday 26 September
- Spring: Thursday 27 February: joint meeting with Nottinghamshire SACRE at Central Library, Nottingham
- Summer: Thursday 17 July

(d) venues are required for the Autumn and Summer meetings, and Middleton Primary will be explored for Autumn.

### **31 SACRE self-evaluation exercise**

Members split into small groups to discuss ways that the SACRE could improve its working and impact. Statements were provided and each group chose its priorities with the following priorities being selected:

that the SACRE

- advises its LA on RE CW and the promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and social cohesion;
- is representative of the variety of beliefs within the local community;
- is proactive, not passive;
- has a committed membership;
- works to develop strong partnership between SACRE members in order to model the cohesion they believe that should develop in their community;
- is well attended by committee members and consistently quorate
- encourages and values the contribution of all its members and ensures they all know that they are appreciated.

Following the discussion it was suggested that a project be identified for next year, such as a children's art exhibition. This could be supported by Challenge, Nottingham.

The membership of the SACRE will be reviewed soon as 2 members have recently resigned. To avoid meetings being inquorate, a substitute system is already encouraged.

#### **Resolved to**

- (1) identify a project for that SACRE to undertake next year such as a children's art exhibition;**
- (2) contact SACRE members who have missed several meetings to ascertain their intention re future attendance and participation to ensure that the meeting is quorate in future;**
- (3) write to the government as a SACRE to suggest that it review the rules regarding SACRE membership and the fact that CofE members must be in attendance for a meeting to be quorate.**

### **32 Constitution**

Heidi Shewell-Cooper advised the Committee that the Constitution has been reviewed drawing on national guidance and the County Council's constitution. Suggestions have included expanding Group A and a rotating Vice-Chair role.

It was noted that 'Greek Orthodox' should be revised to 'Orthodox Church'.

As the meeting was inquorate it could not vote on approving the constitution.

**Resolved for Committee Members to provide feedback on the Constitution to Heidi Shewell-Cooper within the next 2 weeks**

### **33 The future of the Religious Studies Resource Centre: Ken Johnson**

Rev Ken Johnson, former head of RE at Bluecoat School and member of the County Council SACRE, explained that the Religious Studies Resource Centre, which serves schools & communities in Nottinghamshire and beyond, is seeking ways to sustain its work providing day and half-day Faith Experience sessions as well as a loan scheme for educational resources supporting RE.

The centre is seeking volunteers to allow it to continue to offer its services. There is a good level of demand for Faith Experiences, but currently only about one can be offered a week. With additional volunteers, with experience in education and with the ability to run these day or half day events, more could be offered. All travelling expenses and a sessional honorarium are available. The centre will close if it is unable to source volunteers.

**Resolved to circulate information on the role to all SACRE members**

### **34 LA Officer's update**

The following updates were provided by Heidi Shewell-Cooper:

- (a) Fr Julian Lowe has been appointed as a new SACRE members representing the Orthodox Church;
- (b) the SACRE's RE Monitoring Group met in May 2024 to discuss how the SACRE is meeting its statutory functions and has made the following recommendations:
  - that SACRE request funding from the LA SACRE budget 2024/5 to cover the cost of 20 days per year (supply teacher rate), approximately £10K for an appropriately qualified person to develop a baseline audit of religious education in the city, a gaps analysis and resultant work plan. This is additional to the cost of SACRE co-ordination;
  - that the Monitoring sub-group meet once per term to support this development;
  - that the LA Officer identifies any new resources/opportunities from SACRE members to support professional development.

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- (c) NASACRE is working with a number of other organisations to secure the continuation of Inter Faith Week (IFW) in 2024, following the closure of the Inter Faith Network (IFN).

**Resolved**

- (1) to endorse the recommendations of the RE Monitoring Group, and the Director of Education Services to respond to the request for funding;**
- (2) for the Chair will write to the new Secretary of State for Education and local MPs to promote high quality religious education.**

**35 Date and venue of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 26 September, provisionally at Middleton Primary School.