

Public Document Pack



Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: Wednesday, 11 March 2020

Time: 5.15 pm

Place: Baitul Hafeez Mosque, 308 Sneinton Dale, Nottingham NG3 7DN

Please Note:

The Agreed Syllabus Conference will start at 4.30pm, followed by the SACRE meeting at either the rising of the Conference or at 5.15pm, whichever is the later.

Governance Officer: Catherine Ziane-Pryor **Direct Dial:** 0115 876 4298

Local Authority Officer for SACRE: Heidi Shewell-Cooper **Phone:** 0793 067 0537
Email: Heidi.Shewell-Cooper@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

- 1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING**
- 2 WELCOME FROM OUR HOST, DR IRFAN MALIK TO BAITUL HAFEEZ MOSQUE, NOTTINGHAM**
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Verbal update by Chair of the Relationships and Sex Education Engagement Group
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- 10 DETERMINATIONS** 37 - 42
- 11 FUTURE MEETING DATE**
To provisionally agree that the SACRE next meet on 11 November 2020 at 4.30pm at a venue to be confirmed.
- 12 KEY MESSAGES AND ITEMS OF INTEREST**
The opportunity for members of SACRE to inform or update the Council on related matters or points of concern.
- 13 THE AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE; CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL** 43 - 44
Report of the Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference
- 14 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC / PERSONS NOT MEMBERS OR OFFICERS OF SACRE**
To consider excluding the public from the meeting during consideration of the remaining item in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, under Schedule 12A, Part 1, Paragraph 3, with regard to commercial sensitivity, on the basis that, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining an exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.
- 15 THE AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE; CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL** 45 - 126
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Parking & Travel Directions from Our Host:

Baitul Hafeez Mosque, 308 Sneinton Dale, NG3 7DN

As the place can be a little tricky to find, it is best to park behind Bakersfield Community Centre and walk up the hill on the private road, the Mosque is then on your left.

It is well served by public transport routes to Sneinton from the City.

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 Headteachers 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.

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NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES of the meeting held at St Stephen's C of E Primary Academy - Sneinton on 27 November 2019 from 4.33 pm - 5.51 pm

ATTENDANCE (✓ indicates present)

Christian & other religions of Nottingham (Group A) - 13

✓	Bishop James Stapleton	African Caribbean Churches
	No representative	Baptist
✓	Krishna Dasi	Hindu
	Chris Richards	Humanism
	Mr M Muntazir	Islam
	Norman Randall	Jewish
	John Heard	Methodist
	Caroline Mackeith	Quaker
	No representative	Roman Catholic
✓	Martin Bennett	Salvation Army
	Rav Kalsi	Sikh
	No representative	United Reformed Church
	No representative	Other

Church of England (Group B) - 6

	Alison Rowe	Bluecoat (Wollaton)
	Debs Hunt	Crossteach
✓	Jill Edmonds	South Wilford
✓	Jane Lewis	Southwell & Nottingham
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	

Teachers, including at least 1 primary (Group C) - 6

	Kirsty Lacey	Bluecoat Academy (both)
	Yasmin Khalique	Middleton Primary
	Ralph Surman	National Education Union
	David Wand	UNISON
	Caroline White	Victoria Academy
	Vacancy	

City Councillors (Group D) - 6

✓	Neghat Khan	Chair
✓	David Mellen	
✓	Angela Kandola	
	AJ Matsiko	
	Cheryl Barnard	
	Pavlos Kotsonis	

Also present

- Sarah Peek - Specialist Leader in Religious Education, Sneinton Primary School
John Dexter - Education Director, Nottingham City Council
Heidi Shewell-Cooper - Lead Officer for SACRE, Nottingham City Council
Catherine Ziane-Pryor - Governance Officer, Nottingham City Council

25 INQUORATE MEETING

With the absence of so many members (mainly due to illness) a quorum of the required balance of members in attendance was not achieved. However, the meeting continued on an informal basis.

a APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Debs Hunt
Yasmin Khalique
Caroline White
Alison Rowe
Chris Richards
Norman Randall
Naomi Posner
Caroline MacKeith
David Wand
Rav Kalsi
AJ Matsiko

b PRESENTATION FROM SARAH PEEK, SPECIALIST LEADER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT SNEINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sarah Peek, Specialist Leader for Religious Education at Sneinton Primary School, delivered a presentation on how she had engaged children at the school in RE. Last Christmas she had organised for the school's classroom televisions to be 'hacked into' with a secret service style message of how to find clues to fulfil their 'secret mission' of finding specific people who would provide a gift. This led each class (with guidance) to different external community venues, where the community figures were appropriately dressed as the 3 Kings, King Herod, shepherds, and angels were waiting for the children with a story and a gift. The children and volunteers thoroughly enjoyed the event

RE work is recorded for each year group in a scrap book which includes photos, written work and a record of cards made, books written, drawings and art work, and photos of the dressing up to re-create biblical and other religious scenes. Nature walks can also include a religious and environmental element with consideration of man-made and natural materials?

Children are encouraged to think broadly and independently, for example by completing the sentence 'If I ruled the world.....', being objective by working with the 'god is a woman' worship song, and celebrating all forms of prayer with a 'world map of prayers'.

For the Easter story each year, pupils are surprised by classroom transformations which told a different part of the Easter story in each year classroom.

Themed days have also proved popular and there is collective worship every day with all members of staff attending and different guest speakers from different religious venues and places of worship.

There isn't much in the way of RE resources available to schools who can't access Church of England (CoE) resources, so the Nottingham Schools Trust (NST) has been a very helpful route for sharing information, ideas and work streams.

Questions from members of the Advisory Council were responded to as follows:

- (1) Although a CoE School, religious teaching is proportionately 75% Christian and 25% other faith, so is inclusive in teaching about other faiths and religious topics in RE lessons. The main emphasis is on promoting strong Christian ethics;
- (2) The opportunity for teachers to contribute to setting the Agreed Syllabus would be welcomed. This is seen as a valuable element which can support the learning of all faiths and the contribution of teachers will ensure that it is a document that teachers can be confident applying;
- (3) Bought-in RE resources are limited and can be very rigid so a robust Agreed Syllabus would be very valuable.

AGREED to thank Sarah Peek for her presentation and her interesting, inspirational and creative work.

c DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

d MINUTES AND INFORMAL MEETING NOTES

As the meeting was inquorate, the minutes could not be confirmed as a true record but were noted.

e APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

As the meeting was informal, it was not possible to appoint a Vice-Chair. With Bishop James Stapleton (Group A representative) having operated as Vice Chair for several years, it was suggested that a member from Group B should be considered for the appointment.

AGREED for Heidi Shewell-Copper to invite expressions of interest for the role of Vice-Chair from members of Group B (Church of England Representatives).

f MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Norman Randall and substitute member Naomi Posner are welcomed as a representatives of the Jewish faith.

Although there is currently no vacancy on the Advisory Council within the relevant group, Dr Irfan Malik from Baitul Hafeez Mosque, Ahmadiyya Muslim community would like to attend future meetings. This was welcomed by those present.

AGREED

- (1) **that due to the difficulties achieving the required balanced quorum, where members are unable to attend on an ongoing basis, Lead Officer Heidi Shewell-Cooper to ask if they are able to nominate an alternative member or reconsider the commitment;**
- (2) **for Sarah Peek to be invited to join the Advisory Council as a member of Group C (Teachers).**

g CHAIR'S ACTIONS; LETTER TO HEAD TEACHERS, SEPTEMBER 2019

The Chair, Councillor Neghat Khan, presented the letter which has been sent to all Head Teachers across the City, emphasising the requirement within the new inspection framework for all schools, maintained and Academies, to provide religious education and age-appropriate relationship and sex education to their pupils, and outlining the inspection framework guidelines.

The letter invites Head Teachers to contribute to the established Primary Network and to indicate the need and support for establishing a Secondary School Religious Education Network, where support in complying with the requirements is available.

To date no direct responses have been received but it is important that schools are aware of SACRE and the support available.

Members in attendance welcomed and commended the letter.

h CONSTITUTION

Governance Officer Catherine Ziane-Pryor presented the refreshed constitution which requires adoption at a quorate meeting.

In response to the on-going pressures of member availability resulting in inquorate meetings, a discussion took place as to how business could be formally considered via alternative routes, such as approvals by email or video conferencing, and also reconfiguration of the required quorum.

AGREED for Lead Officer Heidi Shewell-Cooper to examine the legislation by which SACREs were established alongside the operating guidelines, and report the findings with possible new operating formats initially to the Chair.

**i RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION ENGAGEMENT GROUP :
UPDATE FROM 15 OCTOBER 2019 MEETING**

Councillor David Mellen, Chair of the Relationship and Sex Education Engagement Group (E&SEEG), introduced the proposed Terms of Reference for the group, which is established in response to community concerns following the Central Government revisions to the inspection framework for maintained schools, but also with the aim to support schools in delivering the required elements.

It is noted that there have been nationally reported protests outside some schools in Birmingham against the teaching of relationship and sex education in schools. However, the information on which many of the protestors were basing their action was incorrect and had been fuelled by misguided and misleading social media posts.

There had been a similar protest planned outside Fernwood School so Councillors, teachers and community faith leaders met to discuss the facts of what was required to be taught and dispel the myths. It was, in the main, agreed that protests outside of schools were not appropriate and as a result, there was a one-day, low-level presence of peaceful protestors outside the school.

Further to that initial meeting, the 'Relationship and Sex Education Engagement Group' was formed and its terms of reference drawn up as a sub-group operating within the remit of SACRE, which are presented to the meeting today.

There is already a good level of community cohesion within the City and whilst the new teaching requirements vary very little from the original, it is important that all faith and world view leaders within the City are engaged regarding the content of the relationship and sex education curriculum. There is no intention to take away family responsibilities or to erode the nuclear family.

Councillor Neghat Khan has worked hard within communities to dispel myths and concerns and ensure that parents and communities are correctly informed of the topics to be covered and how lessons are proposed to be structured.

Some schools already outlined to parents the topics which will be covered and how they will be presented. However, teachers cannot account for the questions and discussions raised by pupils.

AGREED

- (1) **to note the Terms of Reference of the Relationships and Sex Education Engagement Group 2019/20;**
- (2) **for the Terms of Reference to be reviewed in the Autumn of 2020.**

j AGREED SYLLABUS REVISION; UPDATE AND APPROVAL REQUEST TO PROGRESS

Further to the arrangements agreed at the last joint City and County SACRE, the notes of the first Joint Project meeting which was held on 7 October 2019, were presented.

AGREED

- (1) **to support the process to date;**
- (2) **for the invitation to participate in the future meetings to be specifically extended to teacher representatives;**
- (3) **for the date of 11 March 2020, to be confirmed for the Agreed Syllabus Conference to enable the Agreed Syllabus to be adopted in line with the agreed schedule. This will take place immediately before the SACRE meeting.**

k SECONDARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OUTCOMES FROM SUMMER 2019

John Dexter, Education Director, Nottingham City Council, delivered a brief verbal update on secondary religious education (RE) outcomes from the summer of 2019.

The following points were highlighted and responses given to questions:

- (a) Last academic year, 2,720 pupils were at the end of Key Stage 4, and 923 took GCSEs in religious education;
- (b) 4 city schools enter all pupils to sit for GCSEs, one school enters almost all pupils, and seven schools don't teach RE at GCSE level;
- (c) Uptake of RE at qualification level has reduced, possibly partly due to the reduced availability of the half GCSE system (two subjects with half a GCSE credit each) which many schools no longer credit. Latest figures suggest 251,140 pupils took GCSE in 2019, a decline of 9,160 from the previous year;
- (d) In addition there had been issues within the City with recruiting RE teachers;
- (e) Teaching of religious education is not always currently mentioned in Ofsted reports. In light of the new inspection framework this point will be raised by the Director when meeting the new East Midlands Ofsted Lead Officer. He will share the SACRE view that welcomes at least an acknowledgement of RE teaching in Ofsted reports.

Members of the Advisory Council requested attainment levels of RE at GCSE level are included in future updates, if possible.

AGREED

- (1) to note the update and thank John Dexter for his attendance;**
- (2) for John Dexter, on behalf of the Chair, to query with the Regional Ofsted Officer, how schools which do not comply to the statutory requirement of providing religious education, can be graded as outstanding.**

I ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

Lead Officer, Heidi Shewell-Cooper, presented the Annual Report for the academic year 2018/19 which outlines the activity of the Advisory Council.

The Annual Report will be submitted to the National SACRE and also shared with National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE).

AGREED to note the Annual Report and for the Lead Officer to request that a link to its publication within this agenda, is included on the Schools website to help raise the profile of SACRE.

m NATRE/NASACRE UPDATES

Heidi Shewell-Copper, Lead Officer, presented the update on the National Association Standing Council Advisory Council on Religious Education (NASACRE).

In addition to the information provided, Heidi informed the Advisory Council that NATRE Primary 1000 scheme is offering a very good deal on membership to Primary Schools at one third of the normal cost.

<https://www.natre.org.uk/membership/primary-RE-1000/>

So far, nine City Schools have accepted the offer which enables them to access support for RE teaching, including resource funding.

There is also the opportunity for schools to apply to be formally recognised as an 'inclusive school' and enter the 2020 'inclusivity award' with a deadline for applications of February 2020. This is run by the Accord Coalition – more information here <http://accordcoalition.org.uk/inclusivity-award-2020/>

Heidi Shewell-Cooper will ensure that information on the NATRE membership offer and benefits is highlighted to all City Primary Schools, in addition to providing the links and information above.

AGREED to note the updates and for members to encourage any Primary Schools which have not yet joined NATRE, to do so.

n **NEXT MEETING**

AGREED to next meet on Wednesday 11 March 2020 at 4pm at a venue to be confirmed.

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NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES of the meeting held at National Holocaust Centre and Museum, Acre Edge Road, Laxton, Nottinghamshire, NG22 0PA on 13 June 2019 18:00-19:59

GROUP A – Representatives of religious / faith denominations (13)

Absent	Bishop James Stapleton	African Caribbean Churches
	No representative	Assemblies of God
	No representative	Baptist
Present	Krishna Dasi	Hindu
Present	Chris Richards	Humanist
Present	Hafiz M Muntazir	Islam
	No representative	Jewish
Apologies	John Heard	Methodist
Present	Caroline Mackeith	Quaker
	No representative	Roman Catholic
Apologies	Martin Bennett	Salvation Army
Apologies	Rav Kalsi	Sikhism
	No representative	United Reformed Church

GROUP B - Church of England representatives (6)

Present	Jill Edmonds	South Wilford
Present	Debs Hunt	Crossteach Education Charity
Present	Jane Lewis	Southwell & Nottingham Diocese
Apologies	Alison Rowe	Bluecoat Wollaton
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	

GROUP C - Teacher representatives (6)

Apologies	Yasmin Khaliq	Middleton Primary
Apologies	Kirsty Lacey	Bluecoat Academy
Apologies	Ralph Surman	National Education Union
Apologies	David Wand	UNISON
Apologies	Caroline White	Victoria Academy
	Vacancy	

GROUP D - City Councillor representatives (6)

Present	David Mellen (Chair)
Apologies	Patience Ifediora
Present	Neghat Khan

Also present

Heidi Shewell-Cooper - Lead Officer for City SACRE
 Catherine Ziane-Pryor - Governance Officer (Nottm City Council)
 Members of the County SACRE and support officers were also in attendance.

24 INQUORATE MEETING

Although a joint meeting of the City and County SACRE, the City SACRE did not achieve the required balance of members in attendance to constitute its quorum. However, the meeting continued on an informal basis.

a **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Reverend Ken Johnson, Secretary to the Nottinghamshire SACRE, welcomed everybody to the joint meeting of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham SACRE at the National Holocaust Centre and Museum.

Everyone in attendance was requested to introduce themselves and state in which capacity they were attending the meeting.

b **PRESENTATION BY THE NATIONAL HOLOCAUST CENTRE ABOUT THEIR WORK WITH SCHOOLS**

Sophie Farrell from the National Holocaust Centre and Museum (NHC&M) provided a verbal overview of education and learning provision, including the exhibition's workshops and primary and secondary school educational visits provided by the NHC&M, the details of which are provided on the website: <https://www.holocaust.org.uk/>

In addition to public access to exhibitions and holocaust research material, the Centre is proactive in providing training and information to help broaden society's understanding of known and subconscious destructive effect of prejudice and intolerance in the wider human context, with the evidence of the holocaust providing the basis on a very personal level.

In addition to public and educational access to the Centre, (approximately 24,000 students per year) collaborative outreach classroom learning is also offered and currently provided in Leeds and London whereby young people not only learn about the history of the holocaust, but also what it is like to be a refugee, interact with relevant objects of the time and hear survivor testimony. Geographical expansion of outreach sessions continues to be developed with the 'journey' and encourages consideration and exploration of topical issue of hate crime.

The centre proactively works with schools, educational facilities and organisations to tailor courses and presentation to meet the needs of that establishment.

The next conference will be held on 24 July 2019 and links to information will be circulated via respective SACRE lead officers.

c **WAYS OF WORKING TOGETHER**

City Councillor David Mellen, introduced the item, noting that the City and County SACRE had last jointly met 8 years ago to consider the syllabus, as required by legislation, and now has the opportunity to consider the broader potential of further collaborative approaches, including where, how often and when the groups meet.

Those in attendance were requested to form small groups of mixed city and county members, and within 10 minutes were tasked to discuss ideas which could be proposed for working together.

The responses included:

- (a) It needs to be more widely promoted that the SACRE exists and that faiths are coming together with a mutual benefit of promoting tolerance and understanding around the religious education syllabus and interaction;

- (b) Where there are hard to fill religious representative vacancies within one group but not the other, representation could be encouraged to be interchangeable to ensure that religious representation is maintained;
- (c) Children should be encouraged to form their own SACRE group, gather in a school environment with a programme of activities, share knowledge and build empathy. Images of multi-faith children working together are powerful and promotes broader tolerance;
- (d) The City Council has a Primary Parliament and there are youth councils which could gather to discuss, consider and advise on aspects of religious education, possibly by encouraging faith councils with members from local schools;
- (e) Coming together and discussing alternative ways to get the message out that religious education and multi-faith communication is vital;
- (f) Tools such as generic risk assessment forms/guidance which would help remove barriers for groups, including teachers and children, coming together, could increase the opportunity for groups to gather at religious facilities;
- (g) There is some amazing high quality religious education activity already taking place but it needs to be shared to ensure the broadest benefit.

AGREED for these ideas and suggestions are to be further discussed within respective SACRE.

d **PLANS TO DETERMINE AN AGREED SYLLABUS 2020-2025**

Reverend Ken Johnson, Secretary to the Nottinghamshire County SACRE, delivered a presentation on the potential collaborative option for the City and County SACRE to work together to determine an agreed RE Syllabus. The presentation is circulated with the initial publication of the minutes.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) Consultant in Religious Education, Lat Blaylock, has considered the current syllabus (which has to be reviewed every 5 years) and determined that whilst overall sound, there are 6 areas which need 'light touch' revision. These include:
 - (i) updating outcomes and assessments,
 - (ii) inclusion of the latest OFSTED requirements,
 - (iii) responding to the CoRE report's call for RE entitlements and a national plan,
 - (iv) including the new requirements at GCSE RS,
 - (v) a clearer and broader approach to planning,
 - (vi) recognition of Humanists and updating how the syllabus deals with non-religious world views;
- (b) It is suggested that the City and County work together to form a statutorily required 'Agreed Syllabus Conference' (ASC) potentially consisting of teachers and faith representatives, possibly to work with a consultant, to produce and recommend an agreed RE syllabus to each LA, having considered the points identified in the presentation;
- (c) A budget is required for the work, especially if a consultant is to be engaged, and it is suggested that it is sourced equally from each Local Authority (LA) and not the SACRE. A budget will need to be confirmed by September 2019;

- (d) The work needs to be completed by June 2020, with a proposed launch date of up to early July 2020 for implementation during the September 2020 term;
- (e) The anticipated cost of a consultant is within the region of £7.5k with additional funds required for teacher time cover, meeting venue and expense, production costs and a launch event (which may be self-financing).

Following the presentation, County Councillor Boyd Elliot, addressed the meeting stating that a decision on the way forward was not required today but that the options available raised several questions.

City and County SACRE members in attendance provided the following contribution, with responses to questions provided Ken Johnson:

- (f) The syllabus is well developed with regard to faith information and topics but further first-hand input from different faiths, including examples, could influence the end result, form which schools decide how to approach and adapt as appropriate to their areas;
- (g) Suggestions of how pupil consideration and discussion of how common themes are found in different faiths could be presented as stand-alone teaching examples;
- (h) The proposal of the City and County SACREs working together is welcomed and should be recommended to the respective LAs, but it is up to them as to how it should proceed, ensuring that any changes fit with the requirements of the ASC;
- (i) Although there are other consultants who could be engaged, the consultant named in the presentation, Lat Blaylock, is very experienced and respected and has successfully undertaken similar work for other SACREs. Other consultants could be considered;
- (j) It would be good to have a range of different faith group representatives on the ASCs but this may need to be on a voluntary basis due to the financial impact on schools of needing to find cover for teachers, and potentially the cost of a consultant;
- (k) The ASC meeting commitment is likely to be 3 non-consecutive days, potentially in October, January and April, but this could be less and may be flexible;
- (l) As OFSTED is emphasising the importance of school based subjects, it may be beneficial for schools if the syllabus includes a focus on reading and literature;
- (m) At the NSACRE AGM, the suggestion was made that SACREs write to schools to explain how OFSTED is changing, and ask how the SACREs can help schools meet the statutory requirements. A template letter was suggested which may be helpful;
- (n) Savings could be made by only producing an electronic copy of the end product and not circulating hard copy which incurs print and postage costs. Many teachers and schools would prefer an electronic copy which could be stamped/licensed so it is not easily shared with other schools without it being obvious that it is licensed;
- (o) NSACRE had asked whether the agreed syllabus should be the property of those who paid for it, or should it be available to everyone? The general feeling is that it belongs to those who paid for it;
- (p) The agreed syllabus could offer supplements of additional religious material for specific religions;

- (q) The syllabus needs to be tweaked, but its profile needs to be raised.

e **SEPARATE CITY AND COUNTY SACRE MEETINGS**

The City SACRE members gathered to discuss the proposals regarding how an agreed syllabus could be achieved and made the following points:

- (a) The potential cost of the proposed process is significantly higher than the cost 4 years ago, but does not provide as much;
- (b) With the financial restraints of LAs, there needs to be a realistic approach with minimal spend;
- (c) Members of the County SACRE had said that they had financially broken even due to the success of the launch event, resulting in a nil cost;
- (d) There may be other routes to achieve the agreed syllabus at a much lesser financial cost. These need to be considered, especially as it was said that only minor tweaks are required;
- (e) The Local Authority could be approached for funding for this proposed route, and if refused, then SACRE could look at other options as it has been stated that the current syllabus is of good quality;
- (f) City SACRE could buy-in to the County SACRE ASC or another SACREs' ASC;
- (g) Different models and costings need to be considered before any decisions are made, including clarification of the exact cost of the proposed city/county model.

Heidi Shewell-Cooper, Lead Officer for City SACRE, requested nominations of members to sit on a committee (which needs to be convened before the end of the current term) to consider the way forward to determine an agreed syllabus, including the formation of an ASC.

The following members expressed interest:

Debs Hunt Chris Richards Councillor Neghat Khan

Jane Lewis Jill Edmonds Krishna Dasi

On behalf of the Nottingham City SACRE, Heidi Shewell-Cooper presented Councillor David Mellen with a card and gift in recognition of his dedication to the group during his time as Chair. Members of the group warmly welcomed Councillor Mellen's intention to remain on the SACRE but to relinquish the Chair.

AGREED for Heidi Shewell-Cooper to contact volunteers with availability to meet.

f **RECONVENE JOINT SACRE MEETING, SUMMARISE AND CLOSE**

AGREED for each SACRE to determine how they wish to proceed in convening a ASC and pursuing an agreed syllabus, with liaison between lead officers Heidi Shewell-Cooper and ken Johnson where necessary.

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NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES of the meeting held at the Nottingham Liberal Synagogue, Sherwood, NG5 4BP, on 22 November 2018 from 4.30 pm - 6.10 pm

GROUP A – Representatives of religious / faith denominations (13)

Present	Bishop James Stapleton	African Caribbean Churches
-	No representative	Assemblies of God
-	No representative	Baptist
Apologies	Krishna Dasi	Hindu
Present	Chris Richards	Humanist
Present	Hafiz M Muntazir	Islam
-	No representative	Jewish
Present	John Heard	Methodist
Present	Caroline Mackeith	Quaker
Absent	Eddy Walton	Roman Catholic
Absent	Martin Bennett	Salvation Army
Present	Rav Kalsi	Sikhism
-	No representative	United Reformed Church

GROUP B - Church of England representatives (6)

Present	Jill Edmonds	South Wilford
Apologies	Debs Hunt	Crossteach Education Charity
Absent	Jane Lewis	Southwell & Nottingham Diocese
Absent	Alison Rowe	Bluecoat Wollaton
-	Vacancy	
-	Vacancy	

GROUP C - Teacher representatives (6)

Apologies	Yasmin Khaliq	Middleton Primary
Absent	Kirsty Lacey	Bluecoat Academy
Absent	Ralph Surman	National Education Union
Present	David Wand	UNISON
Absent	Caroline White	Victoria Academy
-	Vacancy	

GROUP D - City Councillor representatives (6)

Present	David Mellen (Chair)
Absent	Ilyas Aziz
Apologies	Mohammed Ibrahim
Apologies	Patience Ifediora
Apologies	Neghat Khan
Apologies	Marcia Watson

Also present

Mark Leavesley	-	Governance Officer (Nottm City Council)
Heidi Shewell-Cooper	-	Lead Officer for SACRE
John Dexter	-	Director of Education (Nottm City Council)
Ahmed Peerbhai	-	Observer (Green Academy Trust)

10 WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Councillor Mellen, welcomed attendees to the meeting and informed them that due to requirements of section 9 of the Constitution, the meeting is inquorate, meaning that no decisions can be taken, although the meeting can continue on an informal basis.

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Group A: Krishna Dasi (Hindu)

Group B: Debs Hunt (Crossteach)

Group C: Yasmin Khaliq (Middleton Primary)

Group D: Councillors Ibrahim, Ifediora, Khan and Watson

12 INTRODUCTION TO THE SYNAGOGUE

Rabbi Tanya Sakhnovich introduced herself and informed members of the history of the Nottingham Liberal Synagogue (NLS) and Judaism in general. The main points were as follows:

- a) she was born in Minsk, Belarus, moved to London in 2004 and then became the full-time Rabbi at NLS in 2009;
- b) the NLS (formerly Nottingham Progressive Jewish Congregation) was founded in 1965, moving into the current building in 1972;
- c) NLS practices liberal, not orthodox, Judaism, meaning women play an equal part, hence her being the Rabbi;
- d) May 2019 will see the 4th anniversary of the 'Salaam Shalom Kitchen', a partnership between NLS and Muslim charity Himmah, and which provides a hot meal and company every Wednesday for those suffering food poverty, asylum seekers, refugees, those with mental health issues and the elderly and isolated;
- e) the 'kitchen' recently won the 'Liberal Judaism' Mitzvah Day 365 award;
- f) NLS works with the local community, on issues such as domestic violence, across all faiths, not just Jewish;
- g) NLS has 5 Torah (Holy Book) - the Austerlitz Scroll, the Kamenice Scroll, the Swiss Scroll, the Derby Scroll and the Small Scroll;
- h) during summer 2018, a trip to the Czech Republic was undertaken by the Rabbi and 36 young people from the community, including visits to Slavkov (formerly Austerlitz) and Kamenice nad Lipou to visit the sites of temples previously holding the Torah.

Those present thanked Rabbi Sakhnovich for her informative introduction to NLS and Judaism.

13 MINUTES / MATTERS ARISING

Those present noted the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2018 and that there were no matters arising.

14 CORRESPONDENCE TO / FROM MEMBERS

Heidi Shewell-Cooper reported that a letter had been sent to Reverend Andy Morris (Bulwell - CofE representative) in respect of attendance, to which no response had been received (see 'Membership update', minute 20 below).

15 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT SECONDARY LEVEL

John Dexter, Director of Education, Nottingham City Council, informed members of the current position in respect of religious education at secondary level. The main points were as follows:

- a) last year, of approximately 2,500 pupils, 843 (34%) took RE as a GCSE subject;
- b) currently there are only 4 schools (Bluecoat Aspley & Wollaton, Emmanuel and Trinity) teaching the full GCSE KS4 RE curriculum and entering a majority of their year 11 pupils in exams;
- c) the majority of schools only have 10-15 pupils taking RE at exam level;
- d) 8 schools do not teach RE at all;
- e) one of the main factors for the reduction in numbers is that RE is no longer a mandatory subject (as parents can withdraw their child from lessons) and, as a result, most RE teachers only have one class per week and are teaching other subjects the majority of the time.

During discussion, the following comments were made:

- f) RE should be considered a platform for children to discuss ethical / moral issues, not just for religious discussion;
- g) the community should be 'educated' to show that RE is also about community cohesion etc, not just about 'becoming a priest or a vicar';
- h) changing the name from RE to something encompassing may help to get youngsters engaged with the subject.

Those present thanked Mr Dexter for the informative presentation and noted the content.

16 PRIMARY RE NETWORK - UPDATE

Heidi Shewell-Cooper provided an update on the most recent Primary Subject Leader Network, held on 05 November 2018 at the RS Resource Centre, The Vine, Hyson Green.

12 teachers from across the City took part in activities related to the offer from the RS Centre, as well as having input from Jane Lewis, RE Advisor, Southwell and Nottingham Anglican Diocese. This group is supported by the Nottingham Schools Trust, but is open to any primary maintained school or academy in the City. It will meet once per term and future sessions will include assessment and progression, as well as curriculum planning.

Those present noted the update.

17 UNDERGROUND STORY

John Heard, Methodist representative, informed the SACRE of 'Underground Story', and stated the following:

- a) it is a new translation of the New Testament, undertaken over the last four years by a group of scholars from Durham, Cambridge and Oxford Universities, aimed at 9-13 year-olds;
- b) it is accurate to the original text, but in a language today's young people will more readily understand;
- c) the scholars are seeking input from teachers and students and comments should be forwarded to the writer at brian.d.brown@durham.ac.uk;
- d) the scholars are also looking for 600 schools to pilot the 'Story' and any schools interested should contact Mr Heard at jdheard@gmail.com.

Those present noted the information and contact details for the author.

18 COMMISSION ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT

Heidi Shewell-Cooper reported that the Commission on Religious Education final report 'Religion and World Views: The Way Forward - A national plan for RE' was attached to the agenda for information and, although 'final', it is a live document.

Those present noted the report and suggested that Ms Shewell-Cooper considers inviting the universities in Nottingham to attend future meetings.

19 CONSTITUTION / TERMS OF REFERENCE

Mark Leavesley, SACRE Clerk, presented a revised SACRE Constitution, which updated that created in 2007, bringing it in line with current requirements, and also reflecting changes in the religious make-up of Nottingham.

Those present noted the revised Constitution.

20 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Heidi Shewell-Cooper reported the following:

- a) in light of there being no response to her letter (see minute 14 above), as per section 4.7 of the Constitution, Reverend Morris has ceased to hold office and is no longer considered a representative on SACRE;

- b) representatives Reverend Annabel Copeland (Bluecoat Academy - CofE) and Asima Qureshi (Dunkirk Academy - Teacher) have both resigned from SACRE.

Those present noted the amendments to the membership.

21 SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

Rav Kalsi, Sikh representative, presented the SACRE Annual Report 2017-18, which detailed work undertaken during 2017/18 and plans for SACRE going forward.

Those present noted the Annual Report.

22 NASACRE / NATRE UPDATES

Those present noted the update from Heidi Shewell-Cooper.

23 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Those present requested that Heidi Shewell-Cooper, in consultation with the Chair, considers organising dates / venues for meetings to be held during the municipal year 2019/20, and inform representatives accordingly.

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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES of the meeting held at Bluecoat Academy (Aspley) on 14 June 2018
from 4.30 pm - 5.58 pm

GROUP A – Representatives of religious / faith denominations (13)

Absent	Bishop James Stapleton	African Caribbean Churches
	No representative	Assemblies of God
	No representative	Baptist
Present	Krishna Dasi	Hindu
Present	Chris Richards	Humanist
Present	Hafiz M Muntazir	Islam
	No representative	Jewish
Present	John Heard	Methodist
Present	Caroline Mackeith	Quaker
Absent	Eddy Walton	Roman Catholic
Apologies	Martin Bennett	Salvation Army
Apologies	Rav Kalsi	Sikhism
	No representative	United Reformed Church

GROUP B - Church of England representatives (6)

Present	Reverend Annabel Copeland	Bluecoat Aspley
Present	Alison Rowe	Bluecoat Wollaton
Absent	Reverend Andy Morris	Bulwell
Present	Debs Hunt	Crossteach Education Charity
Present	Jill Edmonds	South Wilford
Present	Jane Lewis	Southwell & Nottingham Diocese

GROUP C - Teacher representatives (6)

Present	Kirsty Lacey	Bluecoat Academy
Present	Asima Qureshi	Dunkirk Academy
Present	Yasmin Khalique	Middleton Primary
Absent	Ralph Surman	National Education Union
Apologies	David Wand	UNISON
Apologies	Caroline White	Victoria Academy

GROUP D - City Councillor representatives (6)

Present	David Mellen (Chair)	
Apologies	Jackie Morris	
Absent	Mohammed Ibrahim	
Present	Patience Ifediora	
Present	Neghat Khan	(as substitute)
Present	Marcia Watson	(as substitute)
Apologies	Sam Webster	

Also present

Mark Leavesley	-	Governance Officer (Nottm City Council)
Heidi Shewell-Cooper	-	LA Officer for SACRE
Helen Baird	-	Observer (Middleton Primary)
Robina Din	-	Observer (Kairimia Institute)

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Councillor David Mellen, welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Helen Baird	–	Middleton Primary (Group C)
Martin Bennett)	Salvation Army (Group A)
Julie Obermeyer)	
Rav Kalsi	–	Sikh representative (Group A)
David Wand	–	UNISON (Group C)
Councillor Morris)	Nottingham City Council representative (Group D)
Councillor Webster)	
Caroline White	–	Victoria Academy (Group C)

3 CHAPLAINCY, COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT BLUECOAT ACADEMY, ASPLEY

Kirsty Lacey, representative from Bluecoat Academy, gave a presentation on Chaplaincy, collective worship and religious education at Bluecoat Academy, highlighting the following points:

- (a) pupils at Bluecoat Academy are mainly Christian, but many other faiths are also represented, such as Hinduism and Islam;
- (b) every year 7 pupil was presented with a Bible on Founders' Day;
- (c) the Academy holds a 'Believe Day' where pupils' individual beliefs are shared and celebrated;
- (d) student-led worship is held weekly;
- (e) a multi-faith Holy Communion is held;
- (f) the end of term service is held at St Margaret's church in Aspley and Saint Mary's church in Wollaton;
- (g) each week, two acts of worship are observed within year groups. This 'Believe Time' can take the form of prayer or reflection;
- (h) local Christian youth workers mentor all students, and a Iman visits every Friday for mentoring;
- (i) the religious studies team covers Church of England, Islam, and Atheism. GCSE and A Level Religious Education include theology and feminism, and involve trips to Lourdes and Jerusalem;
- (j) an event called 'Bluecoat Big Questions' involves discussions between pupils and invited guests;
- (k) a good translation of the Koran is available in class;
- (l) there are minimal issues concerning parents objecting to the content of religious education.

4 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising

(a) Determination requests

There were no determination requests.

(b) Annual Report

Rav Kalsi, representative of Sikhism, will prepare the Annual Report and present it to the next meeting of Nottingham SACRE.

5 RESOURCES (UNIVERSITY OF CARDIFF)

Heidi Shewell-Cooper, Local Authority Officer for SACRE, presented the Cardiff University booklet - Diversity of Religion and Belief, a guidance and resource pack for primary schools in England and Wales (a copy of which is appended to these minutes).

6 NASACRE BRIEFING (SUMMER TERM)

The NASACRE 'RE - Practice, Policy and Powerful Knowledge - A conference for professionals in religious education' event will be held over Saturday / Sunday, 13 / 14 October 2018 in Crewe. Visit <http://www.nasacre.org.uk/sacre-news-and-events> for further information.

7 FEEDBACK FROM THE RE NETWORK EVENT MARCH 2018/NATRE MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT

Jane Lewis, of the Southwell and Nottingham Diocese, informed SACRE that twelve representatives attended the City Primary RE Event, which was led by Fiona Moss of RE Today. Discussions are ongoing regarding organising further RE events, including one on 19 July from 4pm to 5pm.

A questionnaire for RE Leaders and faith settings is appended to these minutes for feedback.

Actions

- (i) Debs Hunt offered to support website development with guidance for places of worship regarding welcoming school visits;**
- (ii) Robina Din offered to link with the inter-faith council re developing the resource for schools in accessing Places of Worship.**

8 MEMBERSHIP AND 2018/19

The next meeting of Nottingham SACRE will be on Thursday 15 November 2018 (4.00pm for a 4.30pm start) at:

Nottingham Liberal Synagogue
Lloyd Street
Sherwood
NG5 4BP

<https://www.nottinghamliberalsynagogue.com>

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 1) Members wished to extend their thanks to the staff at Bluecoat Academy for use of the school as a meeting venue, and for their informative presentation.
- 2) Members would like to hear how schools are implementing the new syllabus, and to hear from RE Teachers on challenges.

Nottingham City Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)



11 March 2020

Title of paper:	SACRE Constitution ; Proposed Changes
Report author(s) and contact details:	Heidi Shewell-Cooper, LA Officer for SACRE Heidi.shewell-cooper@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Catherine Pryor, Governance Officer
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):	
<p>The Constitution of SACRE was revised and updated in 2018/19, but has not yet been approved as subsequent meetings have not been quorate. It is proposed to make two amendments to the previously circulated version of the Constitution, attached.</p>	
Recommendation(s):	
1	The Chair recommends that the SACRE meetings will be quorate with one member per required Group, not two. (Proceedings, P15)
2	The Chair recommends that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association be added as an additional group under GROUP A (Christian and other religious faiths)

1 Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 A reduction in the minimum attendance per group for a meeting to be quorate would enable the efficient management of SACRE business.
- 1.2 The inclusion of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association reflects the engagement of this faith group in Nottingham City and their willingness to be actively engaged in SACRE business. They already attend meetings of the Relationship and Sex Education Group and provide school visits to the Mosque.

2 Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

- 2.1 There are no financial implications of the proposed changes

3 Legal and Procurement colleague comments (including risk management issues, and legal, Crime and Disorder Act and procurement implications)

- 3.1 There are no legal or procurement issues for the proposed changes. SACREs have the ability to reflect the local community in the representatives of Group A.

4 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 4.1 The Constitution of SACRE has been compiled with regard to the Statutory legislation and guidance in establishing SACRE. All Local Authorities are required by chapter 3 (paragraphs 375-399) of the Education Act 1996 to constitute a SACRE. These arrangements set out the framework within which the SACRE may function, and the content reflects, and is required, by the Act. The constitution also reflects the requirements of Circular 1194 for the SACRE to broadly represent the proportionate strength of local religious groups, in terms of equality impact and proportionate representation.

5 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 5.1 Nottingham City SACRE Constitution and legal documentation referenced above.

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

1 Introduction

The Local Authority is required by chapter 3 (paragraphs 375-399) of the Education Act 1996 to constitute a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). These arrangements set out the framework within which the SACRE may function, and the content reflects and, in most cases, is required, by the 1996 Act. The constitution also reflects the requirements of Circular 1194 for the SACRE to broadly represent the proportionate strength of local religious groups.

2 Functions of the SACRE

The SACRE has a range of advisory and executive functions as follows:

2.1 Advisory Functions

- 2.1.1 To advise the Executive Board upon such matters connected with religious worship in City Schools as the Executive Board may refer to the SACRE or as the SACRE itself may think fit.
- 2.1.2 To advise the Executive Board upon such matters connected with the religious education to be given, in accordance with an 'Agreed Syllabus' that the Executive Board may refer to the SACRE, or as the SACRE itself may think fit, including methods of teaching, the choice of the materials and the provision of training for teachers.

2.2 Executive Functions

- 2.2.1 To consider and determine, in accordance with chapter 3 of the Education Act 1996, applications from City Schools in relation to the requirement of Christian collective worship to apply at that school.
- 2.2.2 To consider whether or not to require a review of any 'Agreed Syllabus' being adopted by the Executive Board.
- 2.2.3 To publish an annual report on its work, especially where advice has been given to the Local Authority (including reasons for that advice).

3 Membership of the SACRE

The SACRE shall include representative members as detailed in section 4 below, and may also include co-opted members (see section 4.8).

4 Representative Members

- 4.1 The number of representative members in Groups A, B and C in 4.3 below shall be determined from time to time by the Director of Children's Service, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Schools, and the individual appointments shall be made by the SACRE after taking all reasonable steps to

assure itself that the individual is representative of the denomination or association concerned.

4.2 The number of representative members in Group D in 4.3 below shall be determined from time to time in line with Nottingham City Council's normal appointment procedure (other than the 'Chair' requirement in 5.1 below).

4.3 membership of SACRE consists of the four groups of representative members ('representative groups') as follows:

GROUP A (13) - Christian (but not Church of England) and other faiths as reflect the principal religious traditions in Nottingham:

Afro-Caribbean United Council of Churches	1 member
Hindu	1 member
Jewish	1 member
Methodist	1 member
Islam	1 member
Quaker	1 member
Roman Catholic	1 member
Salvation Army	1 member
Sikh	1 member
United Reformed Church	1 member
Humanism	1 member
Baptist Church	1 member
Other	1 member

GROUP B (6) - Church of England.

GROUP C (6) - Teachers, including two teachers of religious education, at least one being a primary school teacher.

GROUP D (6) - Elected members of Nottingham City Council.

4.4 No representative group shall be entitled to co-opt additional members, but the whole SACRE can.

4.5 The representative members shall hold office for a period of four years from appointment.

4.6 An individual representative member may be removed from membership by the SACRE if in its opinion (s)he ceases to be an appropriate representative.

4.7 Any individual representative member who has failed to attend meetings of the SACRE for a continuous period of 24 months, beginning with the date of a meeting shall, on expiry of that period, be deemed to be no longer representative and will cease to hold office forthwith, but may be re-appointed.

4.8 Co-opted Members

4.8.1 There shall be no more than two co-opted members of the SACRE.

4.8.2 Co-opted members shall be appointed only by members of the SACRE who have not themselves been co-opted (the representative groups).

4.8.3 Co-opted members shall hold office on such terms as may be removed at any time by the representative members, and hold office at the pleasure of, and may be removed at any time by, the representative groups.

4.8.4 Co-opted members shall not be entitled to vote.

4.9 Substitute Members

In order to promote elective representation at meetings, a named substitute member may attend meetings in place of a representative member of the SACRE in accordance with the following provisions:

- a) a substitute member may only attend a meeting in place of a relevant representative member;
- b) the substitute must be notified to the Lead Officer for the SACRE at least 1 hour prior to the published commencement time of the meeting;
- c) a named substitute shall have the same voting rights as the representative member in whose place (s)he is attending.

4.10 Resignation

Any representative or co-opted member of the SACRE may at any time resign his/her office.

5 Chair and Vice Chair of the SACRE

5.1 The Chair of the SACRE shall be the Portfolio Holder for Early Years, Education and Employment, .

5.2 The Vice-Chair shall be elected every two years by the SACRE from among the representative members of groups A, B and C in paragraph 4.3 above.

5.2.1 The office of Vice-Chair shall rotate between the representative groups as follows:

- Group A in the first year;
- Group B in the second year;
- Group C in the third year;
- then alphabetically in subsequent years.

5.2.2 A person nominated for Vice-Chair shall be a representative member of the SACRE but need not be a member of the nominating representative group.

5.2.3 If at any particular time, the relevant representative group is unable or unwilling to nominate a person as Vice-Chair of the SACRE, the representative group shall lose the right of nomination and it shall be

passed in accordance with these rotation arrangements.

5.2.4 If a casual vacancy arises in the office of the Vice-Chair, the representative group which nominated the Vice-Chair shall be entitled to nominate a person in his/her place for the remainder of that year.

6 Voting

6.1 Any questions to be decided by the SACRE shall require a majority of votes cast by those present and entitled to vote.

6.2 The Chair presiding at a meeting of the SACRE shall have a second or casting vote, but only in relation to questions concerning co-opted members.

6.3 Only the representative groups shall be entitled to vote on any question and each such group shall have a single vote.

7 Validity of Proceedings

7.1 The validity of the proceedings of the SACRE shall not be affected:

- a) by any vacancy in the office of a representative;
- b) on the grounds that a member of the SACRE appointed to represent any denomination or association does not at the time of the proceedings represent the denomination or association in question;
- c) by reason of an individual not having received notice of a meeting or an agenda.

7.2 The validity of the proceedings of the SACRE shall not be affected by the failure of any representative group to agree on how its vote should be cast on any particular issue before the SACRE.

8 Minutes

8.1 Minutes shall be kept of all meetings of the SACRE.

9 Proceedings

9.1 No issue shall be discussed at a meeting of the SACRE unless notice of the intention to discuss that issue is given in the agenda for the meeting.

9.2 The quorum for a meeting of the SACRE shall be six named members (consisting two members each from three different representative groups).

9.3 If within a period of fifteen minutes after the published start time of a meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting shall not be held. However, those present may continue with an informal meeting, but no decisions can be taken.

9.4 If during the course of a meeting, a quorum is no longer present, the meeting shall be terminated at the point it becomes inquorate. However, those present

may continue with an informal meeting, but no decisions can be taken.

- 9.5 A meeting of the SACRE shall be convened by the Lead Officer for SACRE after consultation with the Chair, but the Lead Officer for SACRE shall comply with any direction given by the SACRE at a previous meeting, or with any direction (which is not inconsistent with a direction of the SACRE) given by the Chair, or in his/her absence, the Vice-Chair of the SACRE.
- 9.6 A meeting of the SACRE may be called in writing, specifying the business to be transacted, by any three representative groups and the Lead Officer for SACRE shall proceed to convene such a meeting.
- 9.7 Every member (including every named substitute) of the SACRE shall be given, not less than five clear working days before the date of the meeting, written notice of the meeting, provided that where the Chair, or in his/her absence, the Vice-Chair, so directs on the grounds that there are matters demanding urgent consideration, it shall be sufficient if the written notice convening a meeting is given within such shorter period as (s)he specifies.
- 9.8 Notice of a meeting may be given to members by sending an email..

10 Approval and amendments of arrangements

- 10.1 These arrangements were approved by the SACRE at its meeting held on **27 November 2019**.
- 10.2 These arrangements may not be amended so as to make them inconsistent with provisions of the Education Act 1996.
- 10.3 To the extent that these arrangements may be amended, those arrangements which relate to SACRE may only be amended by a decision of the SACRE.

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Nottingham City Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

11 March 2020

Determinations

Information about Religious education and collective worship can be found in SECTION 3 of the SACRE Handbook, p10-12, attached.

SACRE was contacted last term by an external enquirer about the process by which determinations were agreed, and how guidance was shared with schools. There have not been any applications for a determination by schools in recent history, therefore all community schools in the city should be offering collective worship within the broad traditions of Christian belief as required by law.

A 'determination' only affects the character of collective worship. It does not affect the requirement for all pupils (apart from those withdrawn by their parents/carers) to take part in an act of collective worship on each school day

Guidance on determinations applies to both but academies have to apply to DfE academies division EFSA for a determination.

All other maintained community schools apply to local SACRE using whatever process the SACRE sets out.

Proposal; SACRE - to agree the process by which schools bring a 'determination' to SACRE and how this information is communicated to schools

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SECTION 3

Religious education and collective worship

What is a locally agreed syllabus?

The locally agreed syllabus is the statutory document for RE in the local authority. It sets out what should be taught to pupils in all key stages and the standards expected of them at the end of each key stage. It is produced by an agreed syllabus conference (ASC).

The agreed syllabus has to be reviewed every five years. If, at some other time, a majority of the groups of the SACRE asks the LA in writing to reconsider its agreed syllabus, it must convene a conference for that purpose. *Education Act 1996, Chapter III*

What is the Agreed Syllabus Conference?

An agreed syllabus conference (ASC) is a statutory body brought together in order to produce an agreed syllabus for RE. It is a separate legal entity from a SACRE. An ASC:

- has the same committee structure as the SACRE;
- can be made up of SACRE members but need not be so. There is no provision for co-opted members.

In some LAs, the Chair of the ASC is appointed by the local authority whilst in others, the ASC chooses its own Chair. The LA's responsibility to convene the ASC includes the duty to provide funds and support for its work.

RE and collective worship in school

Type of school	Religious education	Collective worship
Community schools	is taught according to the local authority's agreed syllabus and comes within SACRE's remit.	follows the 1996 Education Act and is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.
Voluntary controlled (VC) schools	is taught according to the local authority's agreed syllabus and comes within SACRE's remit. ²	reflects the Christian character of the school.
Voluntary aided (VA) schools	is determined by the governors in accordance with the trust deed and reflects the religious character of the school. ¹	reflects the Christian character of the school.
Foundation schools without a religious character	is taught according to the local authority's agreed syllabus.	follows the 1996 Education Act and is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.
Foundation schools with a religious character	is taught according to the local authority's agreed syllabus. ²	reflects the Christian character of the school.
Trust schools	is taught according to the local authority's agreed syllabus.	follows the 1996 Education Act and is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.
Academies	must be part of the curriculum, but is taught according to the school's finding agreement.	must be offered to every pupil every day, but provision is determined by the schools funding agreement.

What should I know about religious education?

Religious education is a statutory element of the school curriculum although it is not part of the national curriculum; it is therefore part of every pupil's entitlement.

Agreed syllabus RE does not seek to nurture religious faith, but 'provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human'.

What should I know about collective worship?

The schools where collective worship comes within the remit of the SACRE are required to provide a daily act of collective worship the majority of which would be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. This means that it 'reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination'. It does not mean it has to be exclusively Christian. It must, however, be educational and appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils. When done well, collective worship provides an excellent opportunity for schools to contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and to the ethos of the school community.

Education Act 1996, Chapter III

In relation to collective worship, SACREs should :

- receive inspection reports, noting any references to the quality of collective worship in the context of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- monitor the quality of provision where possible and share good practice;
- offer advice to head teachers and governing bodies, including where there may be difficulties.

Many SACREs produce their own statements and advice on collective worship. The SACRE may also be involved in providing training to teachers, head teachers and governors or other people who are involved in leading collective worship in school as visitors.

What should I know about determinations?

Schools apply for a determination if they feel that the proportion of collective worship which reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief as required by law is not appropriate for their pupils. That does not mean they do not have to offer collective worship at all.

The determination procedure allows this requirement to be lifted in respect of some or all of the pupils in a school.

They are called determinations because SACRE 'determines' whether the case being made in an application to modify the law for all or a group of pupils in a school is appropriate.

Applications for determinations are made to the SACRE by the head teacher of any community school after consultation with the school's governing body.

Determinations are only possible for schools that do not have a religious character. Many SACREs have an agreed process to enable such an application to take place.

The SACRE should review each determination every five years.

Parents' rights

Parents have the right, on conscience grounds, to withdraw their children, in any school, from RE and collective worship. Sixth form students may withdraw themselves from collective worship.

Parents also have certain rights with regard to the provision of RE in different categories of school. (However, these rights are rarely exercised.)

- In these schools^{1*}, parents can opt for their children to receive Agreed Syllabus RE.
- In these schools^{2*}, parents can opt for their children to receive RE in accordance with the religious character of the school.

In community schools and foundation schools without a religious character, where parents ask to withdraw their child from religious education alternative RE provision for that child can be made elsewhere by the parents.

The school continues to have responsibility for ensuring any pupil withdrawn from RE is supervised and safe.

(*See RE and collective worship in school table, page 9)

Religious teaching from within the faith community

SACRE members should be aware that some pupils will be formally receiving teaching about their own religion from their parents or through attendance at classes at or sponsored by their place of worship. The purpose of this teaching will differ from that of the religious education delivered in their schools, and the approach to learning may differ quite significantly from that in school.

There is a clear distinction between this religious nurture, which is the responsibility of the family and community, and religious education, by nature an open and explorative activity, appropriate in schools. It is important that the home and community background of the pupils is recognised and respected in school, but also that the educational approach is understood to promote reflection on faith and belief stances. SACREs might consider how they will support schools and communities in understanding each other's different roles and ensuring that any potential tension is creative rather than threatening.

Nottingham City Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)



11 March 2020

Title of paper:	The Agreed Syllabus Conference; Consideration for approval The Agreed Syllabus for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire; Religious Education for All 2020
Report author(s) and contact details:	Heidi Shewell-Cooper, LA Officer for SACRE Heidi.shewell-cooper@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Catherine Pryor, Governance officer
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users): SACRE is a separate Statutory Body to the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). Members of Nottingham City SACRE have worked with County colleagues to develop a draft Syllabus 2020-2025. SACRE will need to consider the views of the ASC in determining its recommendation to the Local Authority concerning the Agreed Syllabus.	
Exempt Information The Appendix to this report is exempt from publication under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 because it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the authority holding that information) and, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. It is not in the public interest to disclose this information because of the information is of a commercial sensitive nature in so far as there are potential opportunities to generate income.	
Recommendation(s):	
1	That SACRE consider the recommendations of the Agreed Syllabus Conference in determining the Religious Education Syllabus for Nottingham 2020-2025 and subject to the outcome of that consideration, make recommendations to Nottingham City Council.

1 Reasons for recommendations

An agreed syllabus conference (ASC) is a statutory body brought together in order to produce an agreed syllabus for RE. It is a separate legal body from a SACRE. Every LA is required to establish & support an occasional body called an agreed syllabus conference ASC which must:

- produce and recommend to the LA an agreed syllabus for RE;
- meet in public;
- unanimously recommend a syllabus for adoption by the LA;
- include on any sub-committee at least one member of each of its constituent committees.

An ASC has the same group structure as the SACRE but these are called committees; It

- is made up of representatives from the same interest groups as the SACRE, who may or may not be the same people;
- has no provision for co-opted members;
- may be chaired by an appointee of the local authority or may be permitted to choose its own Chair
- must specify what will be taught through the agreed syllabus;
- may not specify the amount of curriculum time that must be allocated to RE, but may provide an estimate of how much time their syllabus would require to help schools to plan their timetable.

2 Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

2.1 SACRE has previously committed funds to working with Nottinghamshire SACRE in the co-creation of the revised Syllabus. There are further decisions to be made on the production of the final format of the documentation, these will be part of the ASC considerations and shared with SACRE.

3 Legal and Procurement colleague comments (including risk management issues, and legal, Crime and Disorder Act and procurement implications)

3.1 There are no legal or procurement issues related to the recommendation at this stage.

4 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

4.1 The Constitution of SACRE has been compiled with regard to the Statutory legislation and guidance in establishing SACRE. All Local Authorities are required by chapter 3 (paragraphs 375-399) of the Education Act 1996 to constitute a SACRE. These arrangements set out the framework within which the SACRE may function, and the content reflects, and is required, by the Act. The constitution also reflects the requirements of Circular 1194 for the SACRE to broadly represent the proportionate strength of local religious groups, in terms of equality impact and proportionate representation. SACRE

5 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

5.1 None, the proposed Syllabus is currently in draft form.
The Agreed Syllabus for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire; Religious Education for All 2020

Document is Restricted

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