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Nottingham City Council

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Minutes of the meeting held at Nottingham Liberal Synagogue on 19 October 2023
from 4.34 pm - 5.48 pm

ATTENDANCE (✓ indicates present)

GROUP A - Representatives of Christian denominations and other religions/faith		
	Martin Bennett	Salvation Army
	Mark Bennett	Methodist Church
	Moira Dales	Roman Catholic
	Krishna Dasi	Director of Hinduism Education Services
	Chris Richards	Humanist
	Deb Martin	Quaker
	Hafiz M Muntazir	Islam
	Bishop James Stapleton	African Caribbean Churches
	Pvail Singh	Sikhism
✓	Norman Randall	Jewish
	Ioakeim Oureilidis	Greek Orthodox
	Dr Ifran Malik	Ahmadiyya Muslim Association
GROUP B - Church of England representatives (6)		
	Andrea Burrows	Lowdham Primary
	Allison Milbank	University of Nottingham - Theology & Religious Studies
✓	Anne Lumb	Southwell and Nottingham Diocese
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
GROUP C - Teacher representatives (6)		
✓	Sarah Peek	St Stephen's Primary
	Louise Regan	National Education Union
	Jonathan Rodriguez	Bluecoat Aspley
	David Wand	UNISON
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
GROUP D - Elected City Council representatives		
✓	Councillor Cheryl Barnard	Bulwell Forest Ward
✓	Councillor David Mellen	Dales Ward
	Councillor Angela Kandola	Berridge Ward
	Councillor Neghat Khan	Dales Ward
	<i>Cllr Farzana Mahmood</i>	<i>to be formally confirmed</i>
	<i>Cllr Sajid Mohammed</i>	<i>to be formally confirmed</i>

Others in Attendance

Heidi Shewell-Cooper
Nick Lee

- SACRE Lead Officer
- Director of Education

7 Welcome

Councillor Cheryl Barnard, Chair of SACRE, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Nottingham Liberal Synagogue for hosting the meeting.

A minutes silence was held in memory of those who have died in the recent Hamas attacks.

8 Apologies for Absence

Martin Bennett
Leanne Harwood
Samia Iqbal
Councillor Angela Kandola
Councillor Farzana Mahmood
Deb Martin
David Wand

9 Declarations of Interest

None.

10 An introduction to Nottingham Liberal Synagogue

Norman Randell from the Nottingham Liberal Synagogue thanked everyone for attending the meeting and welcomed everyone to the Nottingham Liberal Synagogue, and provided the following information:

- (a) It is a very concerning time for the Jewish and Muslim community.
 - (b) The Synagogue has been in the building for 50 years and is in the process of buying the freehold from Nottingham City Council.
 - (c) It is a multi-use space, with plenty of storage to keep sacred items safe during events. The word Synagogue comes from a Greek word for gathering, so it is a place for prayer, a place for learning and a place for meeting
 - (d) In the Ark (the ornate cabinet) are the holiest of things – the Scrolls of Torah, and the first 5 books of Moses. It isn't referred to as the Old Testament, because in Judaism there is no New Testament, it is just the Bible.
- (a) Above the Ark is a lamp (Ner Tamid) which is always lit as it is an expression of eternal nature of the devine as God is with us all the time. The Hebrew writing is right to left and says 'Know before whom you are standing'. The other Hebrew writing is the first 10 of 613 commandments in the Torah.
 - (b) On the raised dais there is a readers desk.

- (g) The community loves modern art and it is celebrated and displayed throughout the Synagogue, including the stained glass window.
- (h) The bookcase contains prayer books and bibles.
- (i) The Star of David is a repeated symbol throughout the Synagogue, which comprises two interlocking stars which represents the link between people and the divine. In Hebrew it is called Magen David, which translates to the Shield of David.

11 Member Introductions

There was a 10 minute interval for members to speak to another member that they didn't know to introduce themselves and explain their role.

12 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2023 were confirmed as a true record.

13 Updates

a Membership

Councillor Cheryl Barnard, Chair of SACRE, and Heidi Shewell-Cooper, SACRE Lead Officer, presented a report detailing the changes to membership, progress made in appointing new members, changes in group category representation and confirmation of the current membership.

Resolved that

- (1) M Qasim Hussain, Ezekiel Alewale formally join Group A.**
- (2) Andrea Burrows formally join Group B.**
- (3) Ioakeim Oureilidis is formally co-opted into Group A.**
- (4) Kirsty Lacey and Sarah Peek move from Group C to Group B, if they and their nominating body, Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, Church of England, are in agreement.**
- (5) All seven nominations for Group C listed in the report are accepted into Group C, with a combination of full and co-opted positions, to be agreed.**

b NASACRE and RE Today

Councillor Cheryl Barnard, Chair of SACRE, and Heidi Shewell-Cooper, SACRE Lead Officer, informed members of the following:

- (a) The membership of NASACRE has been renewed since the last meeting, and will become a professional member of RE Today.

- (b) There is an invite to attend the NASACRE East Midlands Regional event online on Tuesday 14 November 2023 from 6.30pm until 8pm. The event is being chaired by a NASACRE Executive Member, Claire Clinton. It will cover SACREs local context, concerns and successes, national developments and opportunities and will enable attendees to represent their SACREs perspectives and views at a national level.
- (c) It would be useful for everyone to look at what training is coming up on the NASACRE website and attend where possible to build on knowledge. Feedback on training sessions attended can be given at the next meeting.

c Links with Nottinghamshire SACRE

Heidi Shewell-Cooper, SACRE Lead Officer, informed members of the following:

- (a) A meeting has been held with the Lead Officer for Nottinghamshire SACRE to discuss the work being undertaken and membership.
- (b) It is intended to have a joint Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire SACRE meeting in the next academic year.
- (c) It is important to create opportunities for joint working on the syllabus to create consistency in religious education across the county.

14 Religious Education

a The National Picture

Dr Anne Lumb, Schools Adviser, Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, delivered a presentation on National RE Developments, copies of which were circulated with the agenda.

Members noted the presentation.

b The Local Picture

Nick Lee, Director of Education, Nottingham City Council, delivered a presentation on Key Stage 4 and 5 Religious Studies in Nottingham Schools and Colleges, a copy of which is attached to the minutes.

Members noted the presentation.

15 Summary of Actions

Actions include:

- (a) For contact to be made with members that haven't attended or responded for a while.
- (b) Group D members to be confirmed by Nottingham City Council.

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- (c) To arrange for a joint Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire SACRE meeting to be held in the next academic year.
- (d) To revise the Constitution.

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Key Stage 4 and 5

Religious Studies in Nottingham Schools and Colleges



2021/22 Academic Year Nottingham GCSE Entry Data

- 12 of 18 state funded schools, with Year 11 cohorts, entered pupils to sit Religious Studies GCSE.
- 5 of the 12 schools had Religious Studies GCSE as a compulsory examination subject (4 Faith Schools, 1 Non-Faith)
- In total 968 pupils from state funded schools in the city sat Religious Studies GCSE
- 817 of the total were pupils who attended the five schools with Religious Studies as a core examination subject
- 4 independent schools in the city entered pupils for the GCSE exam – totalling 109 pupils



State Funded School	No. Of Pupils Entered for RS GCSE 2021/22	Trust
Bluecoat Aspley	174	Archway Learning Trust
Bluecoat Wollaton	132	Archway Learning Trust
Djanogly City Academy	28	Djanogly Learning Trust
Ellis Guilford	22	Creative Education Trust
Farnborough	19	Spencer Academy Trust
Fernwood	159	Fernwood (Single Academy Trust)
Nottingham Academy	24	Greenwood Academies Trust
Nottingham Emmanuel	161	Archway Learning Trust
Nottingham Free School	29	NOVA
Park Vale	12	Redhill Academy Trust
Trinity	191	Our Lady of Lourdes
The Wells Academy	17	Greenwood Academies Trust



Independent Schools	No. Of Pupils Entered for RS GCSE 2021/22
Hollygirt	9
Jamiah Al Huddah	15
Nottingham Girls' High School	29
Nottingham High School	56



“A” Level Entry 2021/22

School/College	No. of Pupils Entered for RS A Level
Bilborough College	42
Bluecoat 6 th Form	9
Nottingham Academy	6
Nottingham Emmanuel	12
Nottingham Girls High School	8
Nottingham High School	21
Trinity	17



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