

# The Nottinghamshire Religious Studies Resource Centre

## Future of the RS Resource Centre

The Religious Studies Resource Centre, which serves schools & communities in Nottinghamshire & beyond, is seeking ways to sustain its work which provides day & half-day *Faith Experience* sessions as well as a loan scheme for educational resources supporting RE.

The centre is not looking for financial assistance but needs further “person-resources” to allow us to continue to offer our services. There is a good level of demand for our *Faith Experiences*, but we are currently only about to offer about one of these a week. With additional volunteers – people with experience in education with the ability to run these day or half day events – more could be offered. All travelling expenses & a sessional honorarium are available.

## What we are and what we do

The RS Resource Centre - a unique multi-faith amenity based in rented accommodation at The Vine Community Centre in Hyson Green. The Centre has the largest collection of Faith resources in Nottinghamshire & serves the whole of the city & county by making these available on loan to schools & interested communities. This includes religious artefacts, books, & posters along with DVDs and CDs.

Through its Centre Manager, Rev. Ken Johnson, the centre also offers day or half-day *Faith Experiences* to schools. In these rich learning opportunities, a room in the school is prepared as a worship space for a faith community chosen by the school so that the pupils can have an authentic experience of the atmosphere of worship for a Buddhist, a Christian, a Jew, a Hindu, a Muslim or a Sikh person and family. The use of authentic artefacts, most of which pupils are encouraged to handle, as well as drama, video & audio recordings, explanation & information posters, the day supports work being done in RE lessons & helps the young people develop a deeper understanding of the faith being studied. Each year we have worked with between 1,500 – 3,000 young people in (predominately primary) schools in Nottingham & Nottinghamshire.

## History of the RS Resource Centre

In 1994, following discussions across City/County, Nottingham Bluecoat School agreed to host a small library of RE resources to be made available to schools, to assist in the delivery of RE & in line with the Agreed Syllabus. We have worked with the Nottingham Inter Faith Council & with funding from the Community Development Fund, made films about places of worship in the locality representing the six major world religions.

The Centre moved to The Vine Community Centre in 2012 & now operate under the guidance of the RS Centre Manager & a small management team. It is a member of the Federation of RE Centres across the country.

## Aims of the RS Resource Centre

We aim to be a key contributor to increasing awareness & understanding of the beliefs & practices of different faiths by providing quality educational support to schools & so help improve community cohesion.

We have also given talks about the work of the RS Resource Centre to churches, Nottingham Rotary as well as Wolverhampton University, along with teacher groups as we try to encourage the wider community by promoting better knowledge and understanding of all faiths.

**Our website** <https://rsresources.org.uk/> hosts a film about the work on the home page

*Ken Johnson, RS Resource Centre Manager*

*June 2024*

