



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

Annual Report 2018/19

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Nottingham City SACRE

Chair's Introduction

As outgoing 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 2018/19.

After 12 years this marks my final oversight as Chair and I am grateful for the support of our



members in contributing to debate about important issues that impact understanding and cohesion across the city. Councillor Khan succeeds me in leading SACRE though I remain as a member and look forward to its continued development and the on-going active engagement of members.

Throughout the year we have met in various locations across the city which offers us insight and different perspectives which help shape our reflections. This year this included an informative session at Nottingham Liberal Synagogue as well as reconnecting with colleagues from the County SACRE at a joint session at the National Holocaust Centre which members found valuable and insightful. Significantly the Primary RE Subject Leaders network is now securely established in the City, and SACRE's Constitution has been revised this year too.

I am pleased to commend this report and work of Nottingham City SACRE.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Mellen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Councillor David Mellen
Chair of Nottingham City SACRE
September 2019

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, membership and papers 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 2018, Nottingham City's SACRE met at the **Nottingham Liberal Synagogue** in Sherwood, Nottingham. <https://www.nottinghamliberalsynagogue.com/>.

Rabbi Tanya Sakhnovich provided a comprehensive and informative input about the history of the Nottingham Liberal Synagogue (NLS) and Judaism in general. The NLS (formerly Nottingham Progressive Jewish Congregation) was founded in 1965, moving into the current building in 1972. As well as providing religious instruction, services and cultural events the Synagogue, a member of Nottingham Citizens, has a strong social justice element to their congregation. For example May 2019 will be 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. This won the 'Liberal Judaism' Mitzvah Day 365 award.

NLS practices liberal, not orthodox, Judaism, meaning women play an equal part in the life and leadership of the Synagogue. They have 5 Torah (Holy Book) - the Austerlitz Scroll, the Kamenice Scroll, the Swiss Scroll, the Derby Scroll and the Small Scroll. In 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 and Lipou to visit the sites of temples previously holding the Torah. There is a regular calendar of school visits to the Synagogue.

At the same meeting members had an update from Mr John Dexter Director of Education at Nottingham City Council about the current overview of RE provision at secondary level and

some of the reasons behind the decline in uptake in the city which mirrors data trends nationally.

In June 2019, Nottingham City SACRE met with County colleagues for the first time since 2012 when a joint meeting was kindly hosted by the National Holocaust Centre and Museum

<https://www.holocaust.org.uk/>

This was an opportunity to hear about the programme and opportunity on offer to schools and young people through the centre. 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 main item of discussion was to begin consideration of how both SACREs will approach the review of the Agreed Syllabus which was facilitated by a presentation from Rev Ken Johnson, this will be an on-going piece of work 2019/20.

Nottingham City Primary RE sessions 2018/19

Autumn Term; Hosted by Rev Ken Johnson at the RS Centre, The Vine, Bobbersmill to share the experiences and resources on offer. This included a session to support subject leaders in their role and Jane Lewis provided practical input sharing ideas for Key Stage 1 & 2.

“Great practical ideas, use of artefacts and opportunities for faith experiences, really useful”

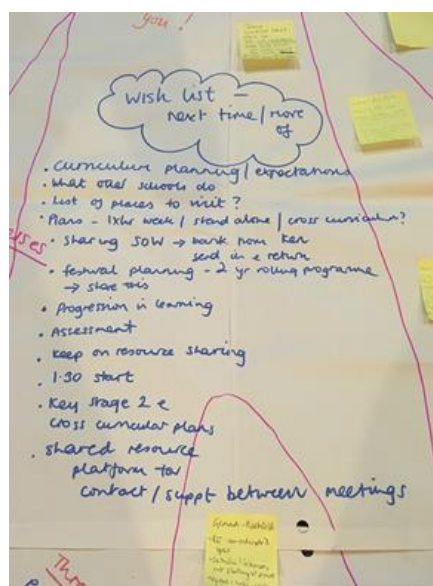
Spring & Summer Term; The Subject Leader network is now led by Sarah Peek, Specialist Leader in Education (SLE) for RE at Sneinton Church of England Primary School.

Sessions covered

- *How to plan for progression, illustrated through application of a major festival (Christmas). Shared scoping for progression across key world faith festivals*
- *Spotlight on Easter; planning and resources to take away*
- *Developing a bank of contacts and feedback re places of worship for school visits*
- *Shared planning to build a series of lessons related to Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Christianity, according to a standard format with key enquiry questions and approaches*

Planning ahead

Nottingham City’s SACRE remains part of the National Association of SACRE’s (NASACRE) and continues to benefit from our membership of NATRE which supports our RE network. The key piece of work for the next period will be developing the Agreed Syllabus, 2020-2025.



Our website page for Nottingham Schools has been launched here; <http://www.nottinghamschools.org.uk/leadership-and-management-support/partnerships/standing-advisory-council-for-religious-education/>

SACRE Budget

SACRE has a budget. This has been allocated for co-ordination and clerking of meetings. For 2019/20 this budget will include the costs of revising the Agreed Syllabus, approx. £5,000.

SACRE Members 2018/19

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

| | | |
|----|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Bishop James Stapleton | African Caribbean Churches |
| 2 | No representative | Baptist |
| 3 | Krishna Dasi | Hindu |
| 4 | Chris Richards | Humanism |
| 5 | Mr M Muntazir | Islam |
| 6 | No representative | Jewish |
| 7 | John Heard | Methodist |
| 8 | Caroline Mackeith | Quaker |
| 9 | No representative | Roman Catholic |
| 10 | Martin Bennett | Salvation Army |
| 11 | Rav Kalsi | Sikh |
| 12 | No representative | United Reformed Church |
| 13 | Vacancy | Other |

Church of England (Group B) – 6

| | | |
|---|--------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Alison Rowe | Bluecoat (Wollaton) |
| 2 | Debs Hunt | Crossteach |
| 3 | Jill Edmonds | South Wilford |
| 4 | Jane Lewis | Southwell & Nottingham |
| 5 | Vacancy | |
| 6 | Vacancy | |

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

| | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Kirsty Lacey | Bluecoat Academy (both) |
| 2 | Yasmin Khalique | Middleton Primary |
| 3 | Ralph Surman | National Education Union |
| 4 | David Wand | UNISON |
| 5 | Caroline White | Victoria Academy |
| 6 | Vacancy | |

City Councillors (Group D) – 6

| | | |
|---|-----------------|-------|
| 1 | Neghat Khan | Chair |
| 2 | David Mellen | |
| 3 | Angela Kandola | |
| 4 | AJ Matsiko | |
| 5 | Cheryl Barnard | |
| 6 | Pavlos Kotsonis | |