

**Standing Advisory Council
For Religious Education
Children and Young People's Services**

Annual Report
2014/2015

Nottinghamshire SACRE

Chair's introduction

During the past year our hardworking SACRE has made various recommendations to the Authority, continued to support teachers and young people in our places of learning concerning Religious Education.

SACRE advised the Authority to accept the New Agreed Syllabus "RE for All" which was the result of the hard work of our consultant from RE Today, along with our party of dedicated teachers and members of SACRE on the writing party. SACRE also advised the authority to hold a launch of the Agreed Syllabus inviting Gervase Phinn to be our key speaker. This event attracted the highest number of delegates, including teachers of RE, heads and governors. A report of Gervase's keynote speech was reproduced in RE Today.

Through the innovative work of SACRE, teachers in our places of learning have an Agreed Syllabus which will take us through the next five years in a positive and creative manner. We look forward to hearing how this develops in the classroom during the coming year.

SACRE recommended to the local Authority that a letter be made available for parents concerning the changes to our Agreed Syllabus and I thank the members of Kimberley School who assisted in composing this letter to prepare us for our new syllabus in September.

I was also very pleased to open our first ever young people's Day Conference. This was funded by a grant from the NASACRE/Westhill Trust, which enabled us to bring young people to the City Ground for a day considering the relevance of RE. This day involved the RE Ambassador from the Redhill Academy, the chaplain to the Nottingham Forest Football Club, a presenter from Radio Nottingham along with representatives from the RE Council and NASACRE Executive. It was also good to see the coverage of the event by the local media which gave a positive view of RE in the Schools in our Authority.

Once again, our Annual report covers the range of activities which SACRE has supported during the past academic year and I am grateful to the hard work of members of SACRE who give of their time freely for this important area of the Curriculum, along with all our teachers who do much to assist the development of Religious Education in our places of learning.

Councillor Liz Plant

Chair

Table of Contents

Page No

1.	What is SACRE? Functions Purpose Decision making	3/4
2.	Meetings	4/6
3.	Determinations	7
4.	Professional development opportunities	7/8
5.	Launch of the Agreed Syllabus	9
6.	Post 16 Revision Day	10
7.	NASACRE / WESTHILL CONFERENCE	10/11
8.	Faith Experiences in County Schools	12
9.	NASACRE Conference involvements	13
10.	Standards in RE in Nottinghamshire	13/15
11.	Areas for improvement / Support for schools	16
12.	Conclusion	16
13.	SACRE members	17/18

1. What is SACRE?

The 1988 Education Reform Act established the statutory requirement for all local authorities (LAs) to establish a permanent body called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). The Nottinghamshire SACRE is an independent body which advises the LA on matters concerned with the provision of Religious Education. Nottinghamshire SACRE comprises four groups:

Group A: Elected County Council Representatives

Group B: Church of England Representatives

Group C: Teacher Representatives

Group D: Representatives of Christian denominations and other religions reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area

Each group has equal status and voting rights.

Functions of SACRE

Executive functions:

- To consider and determine (in accordance with Section 12 of the 1988 Education Act) applications from county schools to be disapplied from the requirements concerning Collective Worship being broadly Christian.
- To consider whether or not to require a review of the Agreed Syllabus adopted by the Local Authority.
- To publish an annual report.

Advisory functions:

- To give advice on methods of teaching the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.
- To advise the LA on the provision of training for teachers.
- To monitor inspection reports and standards of achievement in Religious Education.
- To give advice on Collective Worship.

Purpose

Within its statutory responsibilities SACRE is concerned to support and enhance the provision of Religious Education within Nottinghamshire schools where the Agreed Syllabus is in use. SACRE seeks to encourage the provision of high-quality in-service training for those whose responsibility it is to deliver this aspect of the basic curriculum.

Decision making

This is determined by one block vote from each of the four groups listed in the membership above.

Co-opted members do not vote.

2. Meetings of SACRE

There were three meetings of SACRE in the academic year 2014-2015.

Main issues discussed at the meetings:

November 2014 we met in the Archbishops Palace at Southwell Minster

- Presentation by the Cathedral Education Officers of the work with children at Southwell Minster.
- Progress on the revision of the Constitution was discussed
- Our Draft Annual Report was presented for consideration by SACRE
- A discussion on the Support given by the Local Authority to the work of SACRE was held.
- Film of the Young People's Conference at the City ground supported by the NASACRE Westhill Award was shown and the event discussed
- There was discussion concerning the lifting of the profile of RE within the County

ASC - *the final meeting*

- *The final recommendation was presented with regard for the New Agreed Syllabus*
- *A draft printed copy of the Agreed Syllabus was seen and commented on*
- *Support for teachers on the Agreed Syllabus was outlined*
 - Launch Event 15/1/15*
 - Teacher Twilight meetings in schools and the Holocaust Centre*
 - Primary RE Teachers Network afternoon*
 - Discovering the Agreed Syllabus*
 - Diocesan School events*

February 2015

- SACRE met at the Pierrepont Gamston School to receive a presentation of the work within RE, Acts of Worship and spiritual development within the school.
- National Developments in RE were reported on to members of SACRE
- Further discussion followed on support from the Local Authority to SACRE

- There was discussion on encouraging Academies to follow the Agreed Syllabus and advising Governors, through Governor services of their role with regard to RE in places of learning.
- The evaluation of the Launch of the Agreed Syllabus event was shared with the largest number of delegates at an event being recorded with coverage from Radio Nottingham of the launch. Evaluations from teachers gave many suggestions for supportive CPD events for the next few years.
- There was a presentation from the Pagan Network which was growing in the County. SACRE members considered the presentation and voted to co-opt the representative onto SACRE for two years
- Some modifications were suggested and accepted to the constitution of SACRE, this was to go to the Authority for agreement.
- Consideration was given to local and national developments such as using social media for SACRE, applying for a year 6 award from NASACRE/Westhill. The possibility of assisting with a bid for celebrating the Pilgrim Fathers in Nottinghamshire in 2020.
- Aim Higher day conference by University of Nottingham to be in July this year.
- Acknowledgement from Secretary of State for education of our Annual report had been received
- Letter received from Lord Nash, to be responded to by the Secretary and Chair

June 2015

- This has become our annual venue for the meeting reflecting the working together of The Holocaust Centre and SACRE.
- In a presentation from the Director of the Centre, SACRE members heard how more County schools were visiting the facility. How the centre is planning to use modern technology to enhance its work in the future. The Centre was grateful for their involvement in working on the Agreed Syllabus.
- TTS gave a presentation on how it supports the work of RE teachers in schools and is based within the County. TTS hoped to be able to assist SACRE through courses in the future.
- SACRE had a presentation from Trent University concerning the input of RE into ITT. This raised many interesting questions to be borne in mind concerning the future of RE in schools and how SACRE link more with ITT.
- The possibility of developing a Face book account for SACRE was to be investigated.
- Due to feedback from the NASACRE AGM, SACRE decided to apply for a grant for year 5/6 conference a year earlier than originally planned, to be held at the Holocaust Centre on British Values.
- The Aim Higher day for July 2015 had not taken place. It was re-scheduled for March 2016 to include revision modules.

- A letter was to be available for schools to give to parents, this was agreed by SACRE. This would highlight the new syllabus and the benefits of the subject. SACRE was grateful to students from Kimberley School who had worked on the content. SACRE asked this to be sent to the Authority advising it to be made available for schools to utilise in September.
- There was discussion concerning the provision of RE within schools for governors
- The City Authority was considering buying into the Agreed syllabus
- Discussion on the funds of SACRE which was now more becoming self funded than it had been previous. The Development Plan of SACRE would highlight where funds were needed over the next five years as we head to the next review of the Agreed Syllabus.
- Constitution update - news was still awaited on this.
- The reply to our response to Lord Nash was thought to be rather bland. We would send something else with the next Annual Report.
- The document released by Charles Clark raised issues that we ought to come back to. Members were given details of where they could read this document.
- NASACRE's guidance on what an Annual Report should look like was considered, but members felt we should keep the report as it is and the secretary would try to include some of the suggestions.
- CPD evaluation was feedback to members along with Diocesan training feedback. Training had been received very positively by teachers and there was a feeling that the New Syllabus would lift the subject with pupils and amongst fellow teachers.
- Dates for the CPD events for the next academic year were shared and work on publishing them in schools would start next term
- We now have links with Lincolnshire RE Hub and there may be a NATRE group of RE teachers by the Diocese but would be open to all.

3. Determinations

There were no requests by schools in Nottinghamshire for a determination that the specific requirements regarding the character of collective worship, as set out in the Education Act 1996, should not apply to them.

4. Professional development opportunities

Courses offered for 2014-15

The Primary Network met twice during the academic year.

At the Autumn Session some 40 teachers came together to look at Special Needs and RE as the main focus after considering local and national developments in RE. Part of this was to look at OFSTED requirements and hear of progress with the Agreed Syllabus.



The session on teaching Children with Special Needs was led by a colleague from Fountaindale Special School who shared resources and approaches with colleagues.

Some of the comments received in evaluation reflected the value of the afternoon:-

- I feel like we are treading in the right direction and feel inspired by the future of RE.
- Lots of ideas for SEN and things which could be used for all
- Ideas for improving classroom environment for RE & other subjects
- Time to meet & talk with others
- Lots of ideas to instantly take away
- Add more sensory aspects to RE
- Help to keep up to date with Ofsted requirements
- Ideas to make RE more accessible

In response to our request concerning future training needs, we received requests for:-

- Guidance for the RE Coordinator on their role, especially for those newly appointed to this role.
- More network opportunities when can liaise/ seek guidance / consolidate
- Anything on new curriculum and its implications
- Assessing RE
- Cross curricula ideas to get over there is not enough time for RE in school

- Planning/ resourcing the New Agreed Syllabus
- More practical ways of inspiring pupils and staff in RE

At the second half day in May 55 teachers gathered at Rufford Mill. After considering local and national developments in RE, the main focus was the newly launched Agreed Syllabus. Delegates heard about the Holocaust Centre and what the Education team of Southwell Minster offers as well as TTS, a local business developing Resources for use in schools.

The session looked at the Agreed Syllabus and how schemes of work had been developed by members of the writing group. Time was then given for teachers to work in small groups planning a scheme of work which could be shared eventually.

Evaluation comments included:-

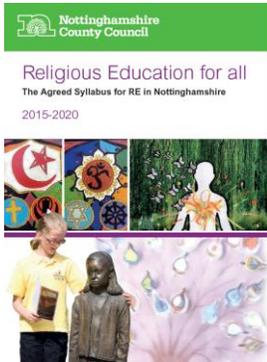
- That it was good to learn about local amenities related to RE
- We were given the chance to work and the time to share ideas with others
- We discovered how to use the Syllabus correctly, to make work interesting and fun for children, whilst meeting requirements with many ideas on how to adapt new curriculum to schools needs
- It gave us greater confidence to inspire others to make RE more interesting with greater enthusiasm, as well as helping to develop a lively, vibrant RE syllabus for our children.
- How to Increase creativity when planning and check we are using local resources / environment.
- Have a clearer understanding of Agreed Syllabus & how to implement it. Can plan better now for AS and feel more confident on writing a Scheme of Work

The request for further training needs resulted in some of the following observations;

- More of the same as networks are a good opportunity to talk to others about subject, these meetings need to be continued along with conferences
- 1 full day at the Holocaust Centre
- Assessment
- Shared practice opportunities along with an update on ideas and how it's going
- Ideas to teach certain objectives
- Practical ideas of application of AS
- Help to run a staff meeting on RE & AS
- RE coordinator information on role, British Values & SMSC
- Muslim/Jewish leader input as to what they can offer teachers.

5. Launch of the Agreed Syllabus Conference which replaced our normal RE Conference.

“RE for All”



SACRE advised the Authority to hold a special Launch day for the Agreed Syllabus; this advice was followed. The morning session was an introduction for teachers and coordinators of RE about the changes and development of the Agreed Syllabus. This session was led by Lat Blaylock, our consultant from RE Today.

The afternoon session was also open to head teachers as well as governors who have responsibility to see that RE is taught in their establishments. This became the largest gathering we had seen in the Authority as around 180 people came to the Bestwood Lodge Hotel for the launch. Our keynote speaker was Gervase Phinn in the afternoon and he was followed by Lat.

Evaluation comments from delegates were very positive, as can be seen from this summary:-

- The choice of speakers was inspiring and motivating. They created an atmosphere of enthusiasm and encouragement. A few delegates commented that they felt invigorated, refreshed and were once more engaging again with RE. They enjoyed the chance to meet and share with colleagues on a large scale. The AS was seen as a sound document, easy to get to grips with and was welcomed as a new springboard from which to re-launch RE in their schools. Reflective, creative and fun ideas were seen as being crucial in the new style RE.
- A couple of delegates commented on how it was a great launch, allowing them to see what was so important once again.
- Gervase was so passionate & engrossing, enthralling, amazing. He re-inspired me as to why I became a teacher - putting children first not endless assessment and reminded us of what is important in our schools today as well as re-affirmed our faith in teaching
- Lat was inspiring with his explanation of how to use syllabus with engaging and innovative ideas.
- The syllabus appears user friendly; a fantastic new Syllabus. We were shown fresh ideas to take RE forward & bring in line with rest of curriculum & not so easily overlooked.

There was a feeling by many delegates that the launch came at an apt time as schools were considering the curriculum for the next academic year. Many said that it would help them to raise the profile of RE as they develop and revise curriculum planning and policies. Many wanted their RE to become more creative, thoughtful, reflective and fun. They were planning to cascade the insights gleaned from the conference through a variety of staff meetings. Many felt inspired to go back and to push RE with a renewed enthusiasm. Our delegates also offered



many ideas for further training in order to develop support for the ongoing work connected the rolling out of the Agreed Syllabus.

Support Courses on the Agreed Syllabus

In order to support out teachers with rolling out of the Agreed Syllabus, SACRE offered various CPD events which ranged from twilights in schools and the Holocaust Centre as well as full day events with our consultant. The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Education Team also ran courses to support Church Schools as the Diocese adopted the Syllabus for use in its schools.

'Discovering the Agreed Syllabus' led by our consultant, Lat Blaylock was repeated in the Authority and well supported by teachers,

There were also Twilight meetings of teachers held at the Holocaust Centre and the King Edwin School as well as the second of the Primary Network sessions which focussed on the Syllabus.

SACRE was very encouraged by the attendance at the various CPD events and the positive comments received regarding the New Agreed Syllabus by teachers. Many comments were received through evaluations about how the syllabus and training offered was renewing and uplifting, encouraging teachers to bring about creative RE in their classrooms.

Post 16 Study Day

The day was planned by Nottingham University theology Department for the Summer Term but was postponed until March 2016 as schools could not make the summer date.

7 NASACRE / WESTHILL CONFERENCE

SACRE's bid for funding had been successful to enable the first ever young person's RE Conference to be held at the City Ground in November.



This day involved the RE Council RE Ambassadors from The Redhill Academy both in its planning and delivery. We were also joined by a member of the RE Council, the NASACRE Executive, the Chaplain of Nottingham Forest as well as Sarah Julian, a presenter from Radio Nottingham. Our chair of SACRE was present, opening the event welcoming the young people.

This conference was for years 8 & 9 to promote RE as an option subject and encourage young people to represent the subject in their own schools. The Conference was also aimed at promoting a celebration of diversity in our community whilst at the same time promoting religious education as academically rigorous and valuable for future careers. Five County Schools sent 10 young people to the day which also attracted the attention of the Local Media. ITV carried a report in the local news broadcast, along with three radio stations.

The reflections of the young people on the day were interesting reading and many of the schools went away to follow this day up in their own setting.

Our delegates said that they had enjoyed debating, discussing, meeting the radio presenter and talking with other students about the Big Issues as well as working on an advertising campaign for RE. They felt inspired to be more self confident and were empowered by “having teachers & people in positions of influence listening to our thoughts.” They also commented on thinking about how we can change the opinion of RE in our own school coupled with the talks from the ambassadors.

In response to being asked to produce action plans to carry this on in their own locality these were some of their plans.

The responses covered producing a presentation & deliver in-house assemblies in order to raise the profile of RE. Many of the schools wished to start a group at lunchtimes such as a RE Club – ‘Discover RE’; an Ethics/Philosophy club with a big question of the week to discuss

A couple of the schools wished to raise the awareness of RE in local Primary schools to show RE can be fun and enjoyable. Another group wanted to talk to their Governors and Headteacher about the place and role of RE

“Thanks for having us and giving us this opportunity” “It was brilliant! Thank You!” – was a common phrase from the young people.



Each school was given a copy of the film we had made for the conference, to assist them in their follow up work. One team has since assisted the SACRE in producing a letter for parents regarding the introduction of the Agreed Syllabus



8. Faith Experiences in County Schools

Fifteen schools have held faith experiences from the RS Resource Centre during the academic year, some of the schools have hosted more than one day. This is when the Centre brings a faith into the school and gives a teaching space a makeover to create what a place of worship- might look like in the faith chosen by the school. Over 1,700 young people in County Schools have benefited from these experiences.



Some of the teacher evaluations received for these:-

- Excellent learning experience where children are interested at all stages of the workshop. A fantastic insight into Judaism from very knowledgeable providers
- A fantastic experience, the children were hooked from the moment they walked through the door.
- Children learnt an unbelievable amount of knowledge and understanding! Very good questioning and explanations to engage and teach.
- A greater understanding of Christianity and an experience that they will remember – great resources! A sense of awe & wonder. Christianity brought to life with a sense of fun at a child friendly level.
- “A highly interactive, creative, informative and personal experience that has touched deeply all of those involved.
- “As ever, the children were captivated throughout and relished the multi-sensory approach to learning. Looking forward to next year already!
- “A valuable experience. Aroused curiosity as children asked questions & respected religion and culture.



Through the delivery of Faith Experiences and meeting young people, we again have discovered the continued interest and fascination of children to discover more about religions and different faiths.

Many children were able to demonstrate their learning and understanding in discussions.

Those who received experiences in previous years were able to relate to some of them when the different experiences visited their school. This showed a good retention of learning as well as a deepening awareness of concepts between different faiths.

9. SACRE National Conference involvements

Nottinghamshire SACRE was represented at the NASACRE AGM in Birmingham. SACRE has also been aware of discussions held at The Religious Education Council as well as NASACRE through various publications from these bodies.

10. Standards in RE in Nottinghamshire

As the nature of Ofsted inspection reports has altered it has become difficult to comment upon their findings with regard to RE and Collective Worship.

Examination performances *These are Provisional Figures*

National Figures are taken from the Joint Council for Qualifications Provisional Results

Our breakdown of results no longer indicates which examination boards are used by our schools

GCSE Full Course

SACRE was pleased to note that 35 Centres entered candidates at this level compared to 31 in the previous year and the number of candidates was slightly less than in the previous year - 2,308 compared to 2,402. Nationally there was another increase in the number of candidates at this level – 295,730 compared to 282,099 last year.

Summary of GCSE Results 2011- 2015

Percentage of pupils in Nottinghamshire attaining A*-C and A*-G grades in the full GCSE:

Nottinghamshire		Exam Year	National Results	
A*-C	A*-G		A*-C	A*-G
61.2	97.4	2011	73.3	98.4
76.1	98.9	2012	73.7	98.5
74.1	98.1	2013	79.2	97.6
66.0	96.9	2014	71.5	98.0
71.4	98.4	2015	72.2	98.3

SACRE was pleased to see an improvement within the County, getting closer to the National Figures

GCSE Short Course

In the light of changes nationally, the information we receive on qualifications comes from the Department for Education's secondary school performance tables. Under new rules introduced in 2014, qualifications which were smaller in size / value than a GCSE were no longer included in performance tables measures. As short courses are half the size of a full GCSE they are no longer counted. So we no longer receive information on GCSE short courses in our data feeds. This does not necessarily mean schools are not offering these qualifications but just they are not included in official school figures and therefore we do not have access to this data.

Nationally there was a continued decrease in entries at the Short Course from 123,393 to 91,476 which reflects the fact that Short course GCSE is no longer counted.

Summary of GCSE Short Course Results 2011- 2015

Percentage of pupils in Nottinghamshire attaining A*-C and A*-G grades for the last five years in the short GCSE:

Nottinghamshire		Exam Year	National Results	
A*-C	A*-G		A*-C	A*-G
43.1	93.8	2011	51.8	94.9
33.3	89.6	2012	53.8	95.5
43.8	91.7	2013	65.6	96.1
43.7	93.0	2014	56.8	95.8
		2015	57.5	96.3

A/S

AS Level results are for pupils at the end of key stage 5 (typically 18 year olds) and are based on those students who did not continue this qualification onto full A Level or are those who achieved a grade U at full A Level – they are not based on total AS Level entries.

90 candidates were entered from 9 centres compared to 69 entries from 3 centres in the previous year.

Summary of A/S Results 2011 - 2015

Percentage of pupils in Nottinghamshire attaining A-C and A-E grades for the last five years at A/S level:

Nottinghamshire		Exam Year	National Results	
A-C	A-E		A-C	A-E
47.4	88.5	2011	67.0	92.0
47.0	88.8	2012	67.2	92.5
52.7	81.5	2013	61.7	91.0
47.7	85.5	2014	67.3	92.2
47.7	84.4	2015	69.4	93.2

Nationally there was an increase in candidates this year from 38,927 to 40,067

SACRE was pleased to note the increased number of entries at this level, as well as more centres entering candidates. There is still an increase in results A-E as well as finding ways to support candidates to obtain higher A-C grades.

A Level

SACRE was pleased to note the increase in entries from 146 to 179 from 12 centres.

Nottinghamshire		Exam Year	National Results	
A-C	A-E		A-C	A-E
76.2	97.6	2011	81.2	100
72.9	100.0	2012	80.3	98.6
82.1	100.0	2013	87.5	98.9
76.6	100.0	2014	79.5	98.5
78.7	99.5	2015	80.1	98.6

Nationally there was an increase in the number of candidates from 24,213 to 25,773

SACRE saw an improvement in A*-C and that our students achieved better than the National Average for A-E

11. Areas for further improvement 2015-2016

Targets for further improvement:

1. To maintain our work with HE institutions in order to consider ways of enhancing exam performance of students
2. To explore and report on how SACRE may best advise and support the delivery of RE & collective worship in all schools/academies
3. To continue to support teachers in delivering the Agreed Syllabus in the County through a CPD programme.

Support for schools in bringing about further improvement

1. To support the continued development of networks for teachers/coordinators/lead teachers of RE in schools/academies
2. To continue promote the Agreed Syllabus as a means of making RE more effective and contributing to British Values
3. To support Governors in meeting their legal obligations

12. Conclusion

SACRE continues to develop its role in supporting schools and advising the Children and Young People's Committee on RE and Collective Worship and would welcome feedback and suggestions for its continuing work. If you have any comments on the work/role of SACRE or require any further information please contact:

Rev Ken Johnson
Secretary of SACRE
Children and Young People's Services
40 Lawn View House
Sutton-in-Ashfield
Notts
NG17 5GA

13. SACRE Members

2014 - 2015

Membership of Nottinghamshire SACRE

Under the chair of Councillor Liz Plant, SACRE membership comprises four groups:

Group A *Six Elected County Council Representatives*

Councillor Liz Plant (Chair of SACRE)
Councillor Kate Foale
Councillor John Allin
Councillor John Wilmott
Councillor Sybil Fielding
Councillor John Peck JP

Group B *Five representatives of the Church of England*

Dr Anne Lumb
Mrs Tania Goldsmith
Mr David Maddison (Vice Chair of SACRE)
Mr Craig Moxham
Mrs Elizabeth Youngman replaced by Kate Charlesworth from April 2015

(Group C *Eight representatives of teachers in Nottinghamshire*

Mrs Gail Brockway	(Secondary Teacher)
Mr Terry Allcott	(ASCL)
Mr Mike Follen	(NAHT)
Mrs Bethan Inglis	(Secondary RE teacher)
Mr Ian Jowett	(ATL)
Mr Richard Linford	(Primary Teacher)
Mr Andy Vickers	(NASUWT)
Mr Andrew Widdowson	(NUT)

Group D *Thirteen representatives of Christianity (other than Church of England) and other religious faiths representing the principal religious traditions of Nottinghamshire*

Mrs Gemma Pettifor	Assemblies of God	(Chair of ASC)
Mr Mike Arnold	Baptist	
Mrs Mel Gotheridge	Buddhist	
Mr Suresh Gunpatrao	Hindu	
Mrs Naomi Posner	Jewish	
Mr John Heard	Methodist	
Mr Ali Asif	Muslim	

Mrs Pippa Ling	Religious Society of Friends
Mr Michael Groves	Roman Catholic
Mrs Krys Pietryka	Roman Catholic
Mr Andrew Whitehouse	Salvation Army
Mr Santokh Singh Nijran	Sikh
Dr Graham Jennings	United Reformed Church

Afro-Caribbean United Council of Churches (Awaiting nomination)

Co-Options

Mr Godfrey Nix	Baha'i
Mr Ashley Mortimor	Pagan Network from February 2015