

Code of conduct

General principles

Nottinghamshire SACRE encourages all its members to:

- remember that the central aim for the SACRE is to improve the quality of provision in RE and collective worship for all pupils in Nottinghamshire
- take a full and active part in the work of SACRE and review its activity for the benefit of the whole community
- attend all SACRE meetings and, if unavailable, ensure that a substitute (from the appropriate body, denomination or association and identified to the SACRE Secretary) is notified to attend and provided with all relevant information about the meeting in advance
- express views and opinions openly, honestly, and sensitively, always recognising others may have views different to one's own
- always assume that other members of SACRE are honourable and concerned with the best interests of SACRE
- listen with respect to the views of other members and where a situation of disagreement occurs, disagree respectfully
- seek reasoned consensus where views diverge and never disrespect the views of other SACRE members or seek to convert them to a different belief stance
- actively consult with, and report back to, the membership body which they represent so that debate is fully informed
- actively challenge and resist stereotyping

Visiting schools on behalf of SACRE

From time to time, SACRE members may have the opportunity to make visits schools organised by or on behalf of SACRE.

Members should remember that it is a privilege to visit a school. They are there as invited guests, not to make judgements about the school or to “inspect” RE and collective worship.

Members should:

- only visit a school as a SACRE representative when invited to do so
- inform the Secretary of SACRE and the SACRE's RE Professional of any invitation received and visits made
- ensure that you do not say or do anything, which could be viewed as denigrating any religion or ethical belief system
- avoid being critical of others or imposing their own views
- remember that any confidential information disclosed should not be passed on but, along with any possible concerns or confusions about what may have been seen, should be discussed with the LA Officer and RE Professional before being shared with SACRE, if appropriate.

Visiting schools as a representative of a faith community.

Some faith community representatives who serve on SACRE may be more regular visitors to schools and be invited to support RE and/or collective worship.

Visitors should expect to be well-supported by the class teacher who should always be present, taking an active role in leading the lesson and ensuring visitors are well-briefed before a visit. Responsibility for the curriculum and collective worship lies with the school as does responsibility for the pupils, including their protection, health and safety.

SACRE members visiting a school to share their beliefs, values and experiences should:

- have a clear, mutually agreed understanding of the purpose of the visit before it takes place
- be aware of the school's aims, ethos, and policies in RE and collective worship
- be aware of, and abide by, the school's Safeguarding guidelines and good practice
- seek to use engaging approaches appropriate to the class and communicate at an appropriate level for the pupils involved
- treat all pupils equally regardless of faith, world view, ethnic group or gender
- help pupils to understand that they are representing their particular faith view and their own personal interpretation of it and therefore that others, including others from the same faith, may not always interpret ideas in the same way
- appreciate that they are not there to convert or proselytise
- encourage respect for others, including people who have different views
- value and encourage the sharing of views and opinions and listening thoughtfully to those of others, acknowledging that disagreement is acceptable but that imposing our views on others or denigrating others is unacceptable
- remember that any confidential information disclosed should not be passed on but, along with any possible concerns or confusions about what may have been seen, should be discussed with the LA Officer and RE Professional before being shared with SACRE, if appropriate.

Sometimes, experienced visitors are asked to take responsibility for a significant part or even a whole lesson. (N.B. Class teachers are still needed to remain present and retain overall responsibility for the pupils.) In this situation, Members should expect to liaise with the class teacher in order to develop an understanding of:

- where the lesson will fit into the unit of work from the Agreed Syllabus
- the ability range and related prior knowledge and experience of the pupils
- the specific learning objectives for the session
- a variety of teaching and learning methods and approaches suitable for the class
- any school policies and practices relevant to the activities
- specific arrangements for children with SEND

Code of conduct based on guidance from