

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1. Terms of Reference

- 1.1 To advise the Local Authority upon such matters connected with collective worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus (including methods of teaching, choice of teaching material and the provision of training for teachers) as the Local Authority may refer to SACRE or as SACRE may see fit.
- 1.2 To advise on the effective and creative implementation of the collective worship requirements of the Education Act 1996 and to consider requests by schools for determinations.
- 1.3 To encourage the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus and in this regard to monitor the production of teaching resources and support material.
- 1.4 To support the Local Authority in reviewing provision for religious education and collective worship in county schools within the Borough.
- 1.5 To disseminate an understanding of the educational role of religious education and collective worship and to encourage the active involvement of local religious groups and organisations.
- 1.6 To keep under review the effectiveness and appropriateness of the Agreed Syllabus until such time (and no later than five years after the publication of the last agreed syllabus) it decides to require the Local Authority to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to institute a formal review.
- 1.7 To publish an annual report on its work specifying any matters on which it has advised the Local Authority, broadly describing the nature of that advice, and setting out the reasons for offering advice on any matters which were not referred to it in the first place by the Local Authority.
- 1.8 To send its annual report to the Qualifications and Curriculum by 30 December each year as well as to local schools and other persons and organisations as it sees fit.

2. **Membership of SACRE**

2.1 SACRE shall comprise four committees, whose members are appointed by the Local Authority, as follows:

Committee A Christian denominations and other religious and religious denominations representative of the local community

7 members:

- 1 Free Church Christian member nominated by the Free Church Federal Council;
- 1 Roman Catholic member nominated by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brentwood;
- 1 Jewish member nominated by the Board of Deputies of British Jews;
- 1 Muslim member nominated by the Muslim Teachers' Association;
- 1 Sikh member nominated by the Committee of the local Gurdwara;
- 1 Hindu member

- 1 Pentecostal member

Committee B The Church of England

- 3 members nominated by the Diocese of Chelmsford

Committee C Teachers' Associations

- 3 members nominated by the Professional Associations Group representing as far as is practicable, primary, secondary and special schools.

Committee D The Local Education Authority

- 3 members nominated by Council

2.2 Members of Committees A, B C and D are appointed for a period of four years, but shall thereafter be eligible for renomination by their nominating bodies.

2.3 Any member of SACRE may at any time resign his/her office and a replacement be sought from the relevant nominating body.

2.4 SACRE shall have the right to co-opt additional non-voting members who shall remain co-opted for as long as SACRE deems necessary or until such time as the co-opted member resigns.

Roles within SACRE

- 2.5 In accordance with Circular 1/95, Section 115 and as approved by the Local Authority, SACRE shall appoint a Chair of from amongst its members.
- 2.6 Each of the Committees A, B, C and D on SACRE shall elect a chair to hold office for one year. The chairs of these committees shall act as vice-chairs of SACRE and will meet with the Chair of SACRE and the Director or his representative to form a SACRE agenda-planning group.
- 2.7 The Clerk to SACRE shall be the Director of Education or his representative.

Decision-making

- 2.8 Voting at SACRE shall be on the basis of one vote per Committee and formal resolutions to the Local Authority shall be passed only if all four Committees are in agreement. Within each Committee, voting shall be by simple majority.

Attendance at Meetings

- 2.9 The membership of any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without good cause shall lapse and a replacement or reinstatement be sought from the relevant nominating body.
- 2.10 SACRE meetings are to be considered quorate if one-third of members of SACRE are in attendance, rounded up to the nearest whole number, with at least one member from each of Committees A,B,C and D.
- 2.11 Meetings of SACRE and its sub-groups shall be open to the public except under those circumstances where matters under discussion are considered by SACRE to be confidential.

Frequency of Meetings

- 2.12 There will normally be 3 SACRE meetings held each academic year. They will be convened by the Local Authority and serviced and advised by the Director of Education or his representative.