

London Borough Redbridge Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) Constitution and Terms of Reference

Introduction

1. In accordance with the Education Act 1996, Circular 1/94, Religious Education and Collective Worship and Religious Education in English Schools: Non-Statutory Guidance 2010, the Local Authority (LA), has a duty to set up a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).
2. It is required by law that Religious Education is taught in schools to children up to the age of 18 but it is not part of the National Curriculum. Instead RE is a local responsibility. SACRE oversees RE and Collective Worship on behalf of the LA.
3. SACRE will operate within the law and guidance in force issued by parliament, the courts and the DCSF. If there is any conflict of interest between this constitution and terms of reference and the law SACRE will comply with the law.

Function

4. The broad role of SACRE is to support the effective provision of RE and Collective Worship in schools.
5. The functions of SACRE are detailed in the s.391 Education Act (as amended). Other responsibilities are outlined in Religious Education in English Schools: Non-Statutory Guidance 2010, SACRE and Self Evaluation: A guide OFSTED 2005 and Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Terms of Reference

6. To advise the local authority (LA) upon such matters connected with collective worship in maintained schools without a religious character and the religious education to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus (inducting methods of teaching, choice of teaching material and the provision of training for teachers) as the LEA may refer to SACRE or as SACRE may see fit.
7. 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.

8. To encourage the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus and in this regard to monitor the production of teaching resources and support material.
9. To support the LA in reviewing provision for religious education and collective worship in maintained schools without a religious character within the Borough.
10. 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.
11. 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 LA to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to institute a formal review.
12. To sponsor or support any activity or project which it deems to be consistent with the other terms of reference listed above.
13. To strive, in its own working and style, to be a model of co-operation between people of varying religious, political and educational backgrounds.
14. To publish an annual report on its work specifying any matters on which it has advised the LA, 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 LA.
15. To send its annual report to the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency by 30th December each year as well as to local schools and other persons and organisations as it sees fit.
16. SACRE is encouraged to develop its own working role with inter-religious bodies to enhance the important contribution that the study of religion and belief can make to community cohesion and the combating of religious prejudice and discrimination.

CONSTITUTION

Membership of SACRE

17. Redbridge SACRE will be represented by members who can fully support the effective provision for RE and Collective Worship in schools. All members shall be delegates who are interested in education in general and religious education in particular.

18. SACRE shall comprise four committees, whose members are appointed by the LEA, as follows:

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

Up to 10 members:

1. Free Church Christian member(s) nominated by the Free Church Borough Deans;
2. Roman Catholic member(s) nominated by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brentwood;
3. Jewish member(s) nominated by the Board of Deputies of British Jews;
4. Muslim member(s) nominated by the Muslim Teachers' Association;
5. Sikh member(s) nominated by the management committee of Singh Sabha London East;
6. Hindu member(s) nominated by the management committee of Ilford Vishwa Hindu Parishad;
7. Buddhist member(s) nominated by Redbridge Faith Forum;
8. Member(s) of a non-Christian religious group not represented above nominated by the Redbridge Faith Forum.

Committee B The Church of England members nominated by the Diocese of Chelmsford

Committee C Teachers Associations

Up to 5 members nominated by Redbridge Teachers' Consultative Committee representing as far as is practicable, infant, junior, primary, secondary and special schools.

Committee D The Local Authority

Up to 5 members nominated by the Local Authority.

19. Members of Committees A, B and C are appointed for a period of four years, but shall thereafter be eligible for re-nomination by their nominating bodies. Members of Committee D are appointed for a period of up to four years, ceasing to hold office when local elections take place. They may be eligible for re-nomination by the Local Authority.

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

21. SACRE shall have the right to co-opt additional 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

22. The chair and vice chair of SACRE will be appointed by the membership of SACRE at the summer term meeting or any meeting during the year when the position is vacant.

23. The chair and vice chair, where possible will represent different committees of SACRE

24. In normal circumstances the Vice Chair will become Chair after the end of their two year term as Vice Chair

25. Each of the committees A, Band C on SACRE shall elect a chair to hold office for one year.

26. SACRE meetings will be convened and serviced by the LA through the Clerk to SACRE. SACRE will be advised by the Chief Education Officer, or his representative and the LA'S RE Adviser.

Decision-making

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

Attendance at Meetings

28. The membership of any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings shall lapse and a replacement or reinstatement be sought from the relevant nominating body.

29. Substitute members may be nominated to attend in the place of members of Committee D so long as they are named persons in the event of a member being unable to attend. If the substitute attends a meeting in place of the usual member and that member arrives after the meeting has begun, the substitute should continue to sit for the remainder of the meeting. Such substitutes would be free to vote in accordance with their own views.