

Warrington Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Constitution

1. Purposes

- 1.1 The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) was established in accordance with the Education Reform Act of 1996.
- 1.2 The principal purpose (S11 of the 1988 Act) is "to advise the Authority upon such matters connected with Collective Worship in Authority Schools and the Religious Education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the Authority may refer to the Council or as the Council may see fit".

2. Membership Structure

In accordance with statutory requirements of the 1988 Education Act the SACRE is to comprise of four committees representing respectively;

- A. Such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the authority, will appropriately reflect principal religious institutions in the area; Minority faith members to be nominated by the Council of Faiths.
- B. The Church of England
- C. Such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the authority, ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area;
- D. The Local Authority;

A SACRE may also include co-opted members

3. Terms of Office

- 3.1 Members of SACRE shall serve from the date of their appointment for a period of three years. They shall be eligible for re-appointment.
- 3.2 A person who fills a casual vacancy shall serve for only the remaining period of office of the person who has been replaced.
- 3.3 Attendance of members should be noted at every meeting. If members miss more than three consecutive meetings, without submitting acceptable apologies, they will be deemed to have resigned. SACRE will seek to find alternate representation.
- 3.4 The SACRE may co-opt up to five members in any one year. Co-opted members may have their membership renewed annually.
- 3.5 A member of the SACRE appointed by the nominating body may be removed from membership by that nominating body if in the opinion of the nominating body he/she ceases to be representative of the denomination or association which he/she was appointed to represent.
- 3.6 Any member of the SACRE may at any time resign his/her office by notifying the Clerk in writing who shall bring the vacancy to the notice of the nominating body.

4. Duties and Powers

- 4.1 The SACRE shall advise the authority on such matters concerned with Collective Worship in Authority schools and the Religious Education to be given with an agreed syllabus as the Authority may refer to it or as it may see fit.
- 4.2 The SACRE is not confined to advising on matters referred to it by the Authority. It may offer advice on any matter relating to its functions as it sees fit.
- 4.3 The SACRE shall, in particular, advise on methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers.
- 4.4 The SACRE shall, on application made by a headteacher from any Community School after consultation with the governing body, consider whether it is appropriate for the requirement for Collective Worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature, not to apply for some or all of the pupils in that school. The SACRE shall arrive at its decision and communicate it to the headteacher in accordance with the provisions of Section 394 or the Education Act of 1996.

- 4.5 SACRE may require a review of the Agreed Syllabus adopted by the Authority.
- 4.6 The SACRE shall, each year, publish a report on its proceedings and those of its representative committee. The report shall specify any matters on which the SACRE has given advice to the Authority and the reasons for offering the advice.

5. Procedure and Voting Arrangements

- 5.1 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected from amongst the membership of the SACRE at the first meeting in each Academic Year with all members attending the meeting being entitled to vote.
- 5.2 On any other question to be decided by the SACRE each of the four representative committee shall be entitled to vote and each group shall have a single vote. Each group will decide within itself how to cast its vote. The Chairman does not have a casting vote.
- 5.3 The SACRE shall regulate its own proceedings and may establish working parties on particular issues. Such working parties may include co-opted and non-voting members who are not members of the SACRE.
- 5.4 The SACRE shall determine the frequency of its own meetings so long as it meets no fewer than three occasions in any academic year.
- 5.5 Additional meetings may be called by the Chairman, or in the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, as necessary, or on the request of 3 members representing different committee.
- 5.6 A quorum for a meeting of SACRE is one quarter of the members, provided that each committee has a representative present.
- 5.7 Meetings will be held in public.
- 5.8 Ten working days' notice of meetings will normally be given. Any member of SACRE may request that an item is included on the Agenda.
- 5.9 The Local Authority shall appoint the Co-ordinator and the Clerk to SACRE.
- 5.10 The Clerk should take notes of each SACRE meeting and is responsible for their typing and distribution.

- 5.11 The Strategic Director of Children's Services or his/her representative shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the SACRE and of any committees it may establish and to speak but not to vote.
- 5.12 The costs of operating the SACRE shall be met by the grant as agreed in the Council's Annual Budget. The SACRE may request further funding to help in its work, for example the cost for the Annual Conference, as and when necessary.
- 5.13 The Constitution to be reviewed as and when necessary.