

BARNSELY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CONSTITUTION

1 Status

1.1 Under Section 390 of the Education Act 1996, the LA has a duty to constitute a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). The Constitution may be amended at the discretion of the Local Authority.

2 The function of SACRE

2.1 A SACRE's main function is 'to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus'.

(Education Act 1996, section 391)

2.2 A SACRE must:

- ❖ consider 'applications for a determination of cases in which the requirement for Christian worship is not to apply'.
(refer Appendix 1)
- ❖ consider the agreed syllabus and if deemed necessary require the authority to carry out a review.
(refer Appendix 2)
- ❖ publish an annual report on its work
(refer Appendix 3)

2.3 The broad role of a SACRE is to support the effective provision of RE and collective worship in schools. Each LA should work with its SACRE to review the existing provision of RE and consider with the SACRE whether any changes need to be made in the agreed syllabus or in the support offered to schools. Similarly it should work with its SACRE to monitor the provision of daily collective worship and to consider any action which might be taken to improve such provision.

2.4 'An LA may decide on matters to refer to its SACRE, including in particular methods of training, choice of teaching material and provision of teacher training.'

Section 391 (1)(a), Education Act 1996, DCSF - Religious education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010

3 Membership

3.1 The Council shall consist of members, appointed by the Authority to represent the following groups:

3.2 Such Christian denominations and other religions and religious denominations as, in the opinion of the Authority, reflect the principal religious traditions of the area (Committee A - up to 10 representatives).

3.3 The Church of England (Committee B - up to five representatives).

3.4 Such teachers' associations as in the opinion of the Authority ought to be represented (Committee C - up to five representatives).

3.5 The Local Authority (Committee D - up to five representatives).

3.6 The Standing Advisory Council may co-opt members on terms to be decided by the Council. Co-opted members will have no voting rights.

3.7 A member of the SACRE may be removed from membership by the Authority if that person is considered to no longer be representative of the group they are nominated to represent.

3.8 A member of the SACRE may resign from office at any time.

3.9 Members may be changed by the Authority nominating an alternative representative or by the represented body nominating an alternative representative for the approval of the Authority.

3.10 The composition of the SACRE will be reviewed regularly.

4 Attendance

4.1 If a member is unable to attend a meeting, apologies should be sent in advance to the Clerk to SACRE. The reason for absence should be stated. A decision regarding the acceptance or otherwise of the apology will be agreed at the meeting of SACRE and the outcome will be minuted.

4.2 If a member does not attend, or have any apologies accepted by the SACRE, for the period of one year they may be informed that their membership has ceased.

5 Chair

5.1 The Chair of SACRE and a Vice Chair shall be appointed by the Standing Advisory Council. Nominations will be requested prior to the annual election for these posts..

6 Voting

6.1 Barnsley SACRE has a distinctive ethos of co-operation and support, which underpins all aspects of its work and decision making. Where voting is required, the legal requirements as set out below will be followed.

6.2 In Business meetings voting follows the usual procedure of one vote per full member. However, on any question to be decided by the SACRE in an Agreed Syllabus Conference (usually held every five years), only the representative groups ie the LA, the teacher associations, the Church of England and the other faiths and denominations specified in Section 3 above, shall vote and each group shall have a single vote.

6.3 On the question of whether to require the Authority to review the local agreed syllabus only the three non-LA groups shall have a vote and a majority vote shall carry the decision.

7 Meetings

7.1 The Standing Advisory Council is required to meet at least once per term. In Barnsley a Business meeting will be held each term and a regular programme of SACRE Development Meetings will take place. Any additional meetings may be held at the request of the LA.

7.2 Meetings shall be called by the Executive Director for Children, Young People and Families and/or Chief Executive of the Authority giving at least seven day's notice.

7.3 The Executive Director for Children, Young People and Families or representative shall be entitled to attend any meeting.

7.4 The quorum for any meeting shall be one quarter of the total membership.

7.5 The proceedings of the Standing Advisory Council are not invalidated on the grounds of a vacancy in the membership or on the ground that a representative member has ceased to be representative or to represent the denomination or association in question.

7.6 In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair from a meeting the Council shall elect a Chair from its number to Chair that single meeting.

Appendix 1

In accordance with section 394 of the Education Act 1996, SACRE shall receive applications from Headteachers of any community school maintained by the Authority, to consider whether the requirements imposed by paragraph 3 (2) of schedule 20 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 apply in the case of the school or in the case of any class or description of pupils at the school. The application shall be made in writing to the Chair of SACRE.

In its consideration the SACRE shall have regard to any circumstances relating to the family background of the pupils at the school, of the particular class or description in question, which are relevant for determining the character of collective worship appropriate in their case.

SACRE's decision shall be given in writing to the Headteacher.

Any determination shall be reviewed by SACRE:

- ❖ at any time on the application of the Headteacher.
- ❖ in any event not later than five years beginning with the date on which the determination first took effect or (when it has been reviewed under this paragraph) beginning with the effective date of the review.

Appendix 2

SACRE may by a majority vote of the representative groups other than the group representing the Authority, require the Authority to review the agreed syllabus for the time adopted by the Authority in accordance with Schedule 31 of the Education Act 1996.

Appendix 3

SACRE shall prepare an annual report in accordance with section 391 (6) of the Education Act 1996 which shall in particular:

- (a) specify the matters in respect of which SACRE has given advice to the Authority
- (b) broadly describe the nature of the advice given
- (c) where any such matter was not referred to SACRE by the Authority give the Council's reasons for giving advice on that matter