

Making your SACRE work for you

22nd May 2019

1. Bringing diversity into your SACRE

- What voices does SACRE need to be added in?
- Do you have a clear identity?
- How do you hear from schools?
- How do you hear from pupils?
- What are your aims?

Terms of Reference: NEWHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND CONSTITUTION

1. **Objectives**

Under the 1988 Education Reform act every Local Authority (LA) is required to set up a SACRE. The remit is to advise the LA upon matters connected with the religious instruction to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus and in particular, as to methods of teaching, the choice of books and the provision of lectures for teachers.

2. **Composition**

The SACRE is made up of four panels:

- LA Panel – 6 representatives appointed to represent the LA.
- Church of England Panel – 6 representatives of the Church of England (the established church).
- Other Faiths' Panel – up to 15 representatives of local faith representatives apart from the Church of England, and representatives of other religions in the area. These must not include interdenominational groups. At present the following groups are represented – Muslim; Sikh; Hindu; Free Church, Pagan, Buddhist; Jewish; Humanist
- Teachers' Panel – up to 8 representatives from Newham schools.

3. **Terms of office**

The LA representatives are appointed on an annual basis and they are eligible for re-appointment. Other Panels are appointed for terms of office as agreed by the nominating authority.

4. **Termination of membership**

Where a member has not attended two consecutive meetings his/her membership will be terminated unless his/her absence has been condoned.

5. **Resignations**

A member may resign their office at any time by giving notice in writing to the Clerk. Alternatively their nominating authority may change their representative at any time.

6. **Frequency of meetings**

Meetings will be held at least once a term and the venue will rotate between Newham Town Hall, a school and a religious meeting place.

7. **Voting**

Each Panel has one vote.

8. **Quorum**

At least one member from each Panel.

9. **Chair and Deputy Chair**

The Chair and Deputy Chair will be elected by members of the SACRE at their first meeting of the Municipal Year and hold office until the first meeting of the following Municipal Year. The retiring members will be eligible for re-election.

10. **Attendance of the public**

All meetings are open to the public under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1974.

The aims of the group are:

- 1.1 To advise the local authority (LA) 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 LA 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 LA in reviewing provision for religious education and collective worship in community 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 LEA to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to institute a formal review.
- 1.7 To sponsor or support any activity or project which it deems to be consistent with the other terms of reference listed above.
- 1.8 To strive, in its own working and style, to be a model of co-operation between people of varying religious, political and educational backgrounds.
- 1.9 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.
- 1.10 To send its annual report to the DFE and NASACRE by 30th December each year as well as to local schools and other persons and organisations as it sees fit.

2. What can you do as a SACRE without any money or very little? Some ideas...

- NASACRE support on-line – SACRE self-assessment template is useful doc;
- Having an action plan linked to your review; traffic light it as your year goes through (you can see's Newham's on NASACRE website in Annual reports);
- In every meeting have discussion times on RE or CW so that every member feels they can contribute – then they are more likely to turn up;
- In Newham we have 30 mins before SACRE meeting for refreshments and a catch-up time with colleagues to build up the SACRE team feel;
- Train members up – use NASACRE training materials which are excellent and free to use on-line. There is a useful letter for new members, a handbook that we send out;
- Listen to your RE teachers on SACRE about what you can do to support good RE and CW;
- Visit schools to see good RE and acts of collective worship, write to schools and thank them for letting you visit after a visit – leaving a positive experience for all involved;
- Write to schools to congratulate them on GCSE and A'Level exam success;
- Write to schools and congratulate them when they get REQM result;
- Write to schools and offer advice if they need it on religious issues;
- Celebrate REQM; Spirited arts; Spirited poetry competitions – share information about these with schools, get information into the heads newsletters, governors newsletters;
- Train up SACRE members to understand the law around withdrawal and how to help schools deal with withdrawal requests;
- Offer SACRE expertise into schools to support issues around parental requests for withdrawal from RE or CW;
- Look at promoting good RE news stories in your borough – LA newsletters; Governors newsletters and local newspapers;
- Have sub-groups in SACRE who are interested in giving time to write a piece of advice that could go into schools, so not everyone in SACRE has to be part of all that you do; and
- Hold a competition: For example, we hold a Visit a place of worship competition annually.

3. How to find resources and funding to do the work as a SACRE you want to?

- Within the LA bid for money for projects around raising achievement; agreed syllabus development; collective worship advice; best practice examples; SOW for RE;
- Look at local or national grant funders for projects you want to run. E.g. Westhill; Culham St Gabriel's but there are many others with a remit for supporting good RE or CW;
- Providing training for faith leaders – link to LA community forums for funding; and
- Put on RE conferences that provide high quality RE and provide schools with impact evidence for Ofsted.