



Ealing SACRE

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Constitution

Composition of SACRE

Vision and values

Code of conduct

1. *Role and functions*

- i) To advise the authority upon matters connected with reflection in its schools.
- ii) To advise the authority upon the religious education to be given in its schools in accordance with an agreed syllabus. In particular it can offer advice on methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers.
- iii) To determine and review the cases where, on application from a head teacher, the requirement for reflection in a school to be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character” is not to apply.
- iv) To decide whether the authority’s agreed syllabus should be reviewed (the local authority committee of the SACRE cannot ask for such a revision).
- v) To write an annual report on its work which will
 - (a) specify any matters in respect of which the 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 the SACRE by the authority, give the SACRE’s reasons for offering advice on that matter.

Copies of the report must be sent to schools, NASACRE and local teacher training institutions.

For (i) and (ii) the authority may refer matters to the SACRE or the SACRE may decide its own areas of work.

- vi) At the discretion of the authority the SACRE may
 - (a) monitor RE provision to inform their advice and reporting;
 - (b) be involved in the complaints procedure.

2. *Officers*

- i) The chief executive of the London Borough of Ealing or her/his representative shall be clerk to the SACRE.

- ii) The executive director for children and adults of the London Borough of Ealing or her/his representative shall attend and may participate in discussions of the SACRE as professional adviser.

3. *Membership*

In accordance with the provisions of the Education Act 1996 (Section 390(4)):

- i) the SACRE is to comprise four groups representing respectively:
 - (a) such Christian denominations and other religions, denominations of such religions and non-religious beliefs as, in the opinion of the authority, will appropriately reflect the principal traditions in the area;
 - (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.
- ii) the authority has to take all reasonable steps to assure itself that the persons appointed under (i) are representative of the denominations or associations in question;
- iii) in accordance with section 390 (6) of the Education Act 1996 the authority must ensure that the number of representative members appointed to any subgroup of the group referred to in 3 i) (a) above (other religions and denominations of religions) shall, so far as consistent with the efficient discharge of the group's functions, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in the area;
- iii) the authority may remove a member of the SACRE if in the opinion of the authority that member ceases to be representative of the denomination or association which he/she was appointed to represent;
- iv) any member may resign at any time.

4. *Term of officers of members*

The first members shall hold office until the first ordinary meeting of the cabinet held after the next election of the whole council. Thereafter the term of office shall

be for the period between elections of the whole council and until the first meeting of the cabinet held after the elections.

5. *Cessation of membership*

Where a nominated representative fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the SACRE and is not represented at any of these meetings by a named deputy s/he, shall cease to be a member of the SACRE and the nominating body shall be invited to nominate another representative provided that:

- (a) the clerk to the SACRE has advised the member in writing of the provision of this clause, copied to the chair of the group to which the member belongs, within a fortnight of the second missed meeting and at least a fortnight before the third missed meeting.
- (b) SACRE does not decide to disapply this rule for reasons of extenuating circumstances.

6. *Vacancies*

- i) A member appointed to fill a vacancy shall hold office only for the unexpired term of office of the member in whose place he/she is appointed.
- ii) Any vacancy occurring within three months of the expiration of the term of office of a member need not be filled.

7. *Deputies*

- i) Each nominating body having not more than five representatives (including vacancies) on the SACRE may nominate one named deputy.
- ii) Nominating bodies having six or more representatives (including vacancies) may appoint two named deputies.
- iii) Only named deputies may attend or vote in place of a member.

8. *Chair and vice-chair*

- i) The chair shall be appointed by the council.
- ii) The vice-chair shall be elected by the SACRE, except in the case of a tied vote when the council would be asked to decide which of the nominees should be vice-chair.

9. *Voting*

- i) On any question to be decided by the SACRE only the representative groups on the SACRE shall be entitled to vote and each group shall have a single vote. Decisions made within each group require a majority vote as do decisions made by the SACRE.
- ii) Each representative group has a single vote on the question of whether to require a review of the authority's agreed syllabus except the authority group [see 1 (iv)].

10. *Co-options*

The SACRE may co-opt members on the nomination of any of the groups. Such co-opted members may participate fully in the discussions of the SACRE but may not vote.

11. *Quorum*

A quorum shall consist of at least one third of the whole number of the SACRE (excluding vacancies), and will include representatives from three out of the four groups as follows:

- i. Group A: two representatives (one Christian and one non-Christian)
- ii. Group B: one representative
- iii. Group C: one representative
- iv. Group D: one representative

12. *Frequency of meetings*

The SACRE shall normally meet at least once in every school term. The four groups may meet beforehand if they wish.

13. *Notice of meetings*

At least seven clear days before each meeting of the SACRE the clerk shall send notices to every member setting out the business to be transacted. Items for the agenda may be submitted by any of the four groups, and such items should be sent to the clerk and at the same time to the executive director for children and adults not less than 14 days before a meeting.

14. *Meetings of four groups*

Each of the committees of the SACRE may hold its own meetings, and shall make its own arrangements to appoint a chair and vice-chair.

15. *Sub-committees*

The SACRE may constitute sub-committees to deal with particular matters as and when it sees fit. Seven clear days notice of meetings of any such sub-committees should be given to the members thereof.

16. *Minutes*

Minutes of each meeting shall be sent by the clerk to each member as soon as practicable after a meeting. The minutes shall be confirmed and signed at the next meeting.

17. *Submission of minutes to the cabinet*

The clerk shall submit the minutes of SACRE meetings to the cabinet for information.

18. *Availability of papers to the public*

- i) All papers of the SACRE shall be available to the public, except in relation to any information defined as confidential in regulation 9 of the Religious Education (Meetings of Local Conferences and Councils) Regulations 1994.
- ii) All meetings of the SACRE and of any sub-committee of the SACRE, including the four groups which constitute the SACRE, shall be open to the public, except that the public may be excluded from any meeting during an item of business whenever it is likely that, if members of the public were present, confidential information as defined in regulation 9 of the Religious Education (Meetings of Local Conferences and Councils) Regulations 1994 would be disclosed.

Approved by education committee 18th April 1989. Amended by education committee 3rd July 1990, 31st January 1995, 30th October 1996, 1st July 1998, cabinet 6th March 2001. Amended by SACRE 26 September 2011.

Composition of Ealing SACRE

A	Group representing religious denominations other than the Church of England	
	Christian	4
	African Caribbean Church (1)	
	Free Church Federal Council (1)	
	Roman Catholic (1)	
	United Reform Church (1)	
	Baha'i	1
	Buddhist	1
	Hindu	2
	Humanist	2
	British Humanist Association (1)	
	West London Humanists and Secularists (1)	
	Islam	4
	"Discover Islam" (1)	
	Sunni (2)	
	Shi'a (currently vacant)	
	Jewish	2
	Orthodox Jewish (1)	
	Liberal Jewish (1)	1
	Ravidassia and Sikh	4
	Ramgharia Sabha (2)	2
	Sikh Missionary Society (currently vacant)	1
	Sri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha (1)	1
		20
B	Church of England Group	6
C	Teachers' Associations' Group	
	Association of Teachers and Lecturers	1
	National Association of Headteachers	2
	National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers	2
	National Association of Teachers	5
D	Local authority group	8
	Foundation Schools	
	Total membership	40

Approved by Education Committee 22nd November 1988. Amended by Council 7th March 1989. Further amended by Education Committee 3rd July 1990, 31st January 1995, 30th October 1996, 1st July 1998. Amended 26 September 2011 by Ealing SACRE.

Vision and values

The members of Ealing SACRE seek to ensure that all pupils in our schools are encouraged to develop spiritually, academically, emotionally and morally in a way that enables them to understand themselves and others and to cope with the opportunities, challenges and responsibilities of living in a rapidly changing world.

Our vision is:

for schools to be able to:

- provide challenging, compelling and inclusive learning experiences through the RE curriculum;
- promote an ethos of aspiration through inspirational, meaningful and engaging assemblies and reflection; and
- contribute to cohesion by engaging the wider school community in an exploration of identity and belonging in the local, national and global context.

for the local authority to:

- place a high priority on the role of RE and reflection in schools;
- provide sufficient resources to support schools in the above;
- work in partnership with SACRE to build links between schools and local communities.

for SACRE members to:

- represent their constituents in the spirit of promoting educational RE and reflection that is also inclusive;
- represent fairly the views of their constituents as far as this is possible;
- work with other members of SACRE to model and promote respect for—and understanding of—different beliefs and lifestyles, and to acknowledge that humans seek meaning in a multitude of ways.

Education at its best is a process that engages the whole person. It is not just about the attainment of academic standards; it is also about achievement across a range of skills, as well as the development of ethical values. Religious education must be open to all pupils and so has to be taught in the context of this understanding. It cannot promote any particular religion or philosophy. Rather it must enable pupils to understand their own world-view—religious or non-religious—and to learn from the study of other perspectives.

In view of this, members of SACRE work together to promote the following aims:

- 1 The promotion of pupils' self-esteem.
- 2 The cultivation of understanding and tolerance in a diverse society.

- 3 The development of understanding of—and respect for—the influence of Christianity in British and European history, literature, law and institutions.
- 4 The facilitation of pupils' spiritual and moral development
- 5 To enable pupils to develop thinking skills, including critical and evaluative skills and the capacity for understanding situations from the perspective of others.

All representatives should:

- attend the meetings of SACRE and take part in the deliberations and work of SACRE;
- participate in and review the work of SACRE for the benefit of the whole community;
- actively challenge and resist stereotyping;
- assume at all times that other members of SACRE are honourable and concerned with the best interests of SACRE;
- state views and opinions honestly—and, where appropriate, forcefully—but at all times politely;
- respect the rights of other members to disagree with your point of view.

Faith/belief group representatives should:

- ensure that they are adequately qualified to represent their faith or belief community;
- be able to explain how they intend to inform and consult with their faith or belief community;
- feel a sense of responsibility not only to the children coming from their own faith or belief but also to all the children of Ealing;
- provide expertise—or assist in providing access to such expertise—in matters of fact, tradition, theology and practice relating to their own faith or belief for the benefit of the whole school population;
- represent to SACRE the interests and concerns of their own faith or belief community;
- endeavour to represent fairly the views and interests of the widest possible range of beliefs within their community (this is particularly relevant if they are the sole representative on SACRE for their particular belief);
- follow the guidelines for visits to schools (see below);
- recognise that stating a belief or religious tenet is not the same as advancing an argument for or against any proposal, although it may well be an overriding consideration;
- inform members of their belief community of the work of SACRE.

For school visits SACRE representatives should:

- only visit a school as a SACRE representative when invited;
- inform the clerk of SACRE of any invitation received and visits made;

- make absolutely clear that you are speaking from the perspective of the particular religion or belief system that you are representing, if that is the purpose of your visit;
- ensure that you do not say or do anything that could be viewed as denigrating any other religion or ethical belief system;
- at all times behave honourably in relation to your fellow SACRE members.

Teacher and teacher association representatives should:

- provide information and expertise in relation to teaching and the school environment;
- if appropriate provide information and expertise in relation to the teaching of religious education and the provision of reflection in schools;
- represent the interests and concerns of teachers, pupils and schools;
- consult with teaching colleagues and students;
- keep colleagues informed about the work of SACRE;
- ensure that the welfare and education of all the children in Ealing is SACRE's primary focus.

Local authority representatives should:

- represent the wider public interest;
- provide information and expertise to SACRE in their capacity as an elected member of Ealing Council;
- inform SACRE of concerns or issues known to the council relating to education and in particular the provision for SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development), teaching of religious education and the provision of reflection in schools;
- support the work of SACRE by representing its interests in Ealing Council;
- endeavour to ensure that SACRE is adequately funded and supported;
- ensure that legal requirements for the conduct of SACRE are observed, in particular in relation to the suitability and qualifications required to be a member of SACRE.