



Ealing SACRE

www.egfl.org.uk/religion



A short guide for new members

WELCOME TO EALING SACRE

This leaflet is intended to give you some background information about the role of SACREs, how Ealing's SACRE works and contact details. If you have any other questions or do not understand anything in the leaflet please ask other members at the next meeting or contact the chairs or officers listed on page 6.

PURPOSE OF SACRES

(Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education)

Since the Education Act of 1988, every local authority (LA) is required to set up a SACRE, the main purposes of which are:

- to monitor the implementation of the agreed syllabus for religious education in schools and to review the syllabus every five years—or more frequently if necessary.
- to advise the LA on the implementation of the statutory requirement that each school provides a daily act of collective worship.
- to consider applications from schools that wish to take advantage of the provisions of the 1988 Act and opt for a determination which allows for collective worship that is other than mainly or wholly Christian in character.

SACREs may also discuss other relevant issues concerning the religious and spiritual development of children in school, and communicate its views to the cabinet, the portfolio holder children's services and the director schools service.

COMPOSITION OF SACRES

As the local authority responsible for forming Ealing's SACRE, Ealing Council invites appropriate bodies to send representatives to take part at meetings.

SACREs are composed of four committees, which represent belief, community and educational interests as following:

1. *Church of England committee*

2. *Other traditions committee*

This committee is composed of representatives of traditions other than the Church of England, and the council tries to ensure that representation on this committee truly reflects the local community. At present this committee also includes Humanist members.

3. *Teachers' committee*

This committee is drawn from members of teachers unions recognised by Ealing Council, which tries to ensure that all points of view are represented.

4. Local authority committee

A committee composed of members of the council who represent the local authority (LA) according to the political balance at the time.

SACREs may also co-opt representatives of other communities on a non-voting basis, for example foundation schools.

AIMS OF EALING'S SACRE

How children and adults see each other's religious and belief traditions is a sensitive issue, one that reflects the health of a multi-cultural and multi-belief society. This is especially important in such a diverse borough as Ealing, and on the whole our schools have a good reputation as regards creating the kind of environment where students feel comfortable sharing their experiences.

Religious education is a subject particularly suited to encouraging tolerance and the broadening of horizons, and it is our hope that the work of Ealing's SACRE is helpful and supportive of schools in this regard.

"Success through diversity" is at the core of the council's vision. Since September 2007, schools have been under a duty to promote community cohesion, with a particular focus on achieving cohesion "across different cultures, ethnic, religious or non-religious and socio-economic groups. In line with this, Ealing SACRE has prepared guidance ("Reflection") to help schools develop policies that encourage the participation of *all* pupils and staff; by referring to 'reflection' rather than 'worship' it is not our intention to secularise the experience, but rather to make it fully inclusive.

MEETINGS OF SACRE

1. How often are meetings held?

Meetings of the Ealing's SACRE are held three times a year, one in each school term.

2. Where are meetings held?

Meetings are usually held at Ealing Town Hall.

3. How will I know when and where the next meeting is?

Members are informed of the dates of meetings for the coming year in April/May. However, you will be reminded of the date of the next meeting at the end of the previous meeting. In addition, the agenda, which is sent out one week before the next meeting, will confirm where and when the meeting will be held, and what items are to be discussed.

4. What if I cannot attend a meeting?

If you cannot attend a meeting, please let SACRE's clerk (Paula Portas, 020 8825 8476, portasp@ealing.gov.uk) know as soon as possible. She can then give your apologies for absence to the meeting.

Your community/organisation can also provide for occasions when you cannot attend by naming another person as your substitute.

You are asked to try to regularly attend meetings so that they are quorate. Non-quorate meetings prevent SACRE fulfilling its purpose and achieving its aims because it cannot make any decisions.

If you do not attend three consecutive meetings your membership will end. The democratic services officer will write to you after two absences to remind you that if you miss another meeting your membership will end.

5. What happens at a meeting?

Meetings start at 7.00pm, with coffee, tea and biscuits available from 6.30. You are asked to arrive in good time so that you and the other members of the committee have the opportunity to fully discuss the items on the agenda.

Each of the constituent committees may have a pre-meeting before the main meeting to consider the items on the agenda. These may be held from 6.30pm on the night of the main meeting or at another time whichever is more convenient for members of that committee.

6. How will I know what will be discussed at the meeting and how can I contribute?

All members are encouraged to contribute. However monitoring RE provision in schools, and considering applications for determinations usually means that there is considerable business to get through. The chair and a pre-arranged agenda provide the necessary order to ensure that everyone on the committee—approximately 40 members—has an opportunity to contribute. The committees work well together, as ensuring quality religious education in Ealing's schools is our prime aim, rather than propagating religious or political differences.

The chair of SACRE and the SACRE consultant, supported by the clerk, prepare the agenda. The information given on the agenda and any reports attached to it are intended to help you prepare for the meeting so that you can participate fully in the discussions. If you have an item or an issue that you feel ought to be considered by SACRE, please contact one of these people and ask for it to be included.

7. How are decisions made?

Items on the agenda are usually discussed until mutual agreement is reached. However, if mutual agreement cannot be reached—or when there is an issue to be voted on—each of the four committees has one vote, which is decided in committee by majority.

8. How are the chairs of the committees selected?

The local authority is responsible for appointing the chair for full SACRE, and the four committees elect the vice-chair. Each of the four committees elects its own chair, who acts as the main spokesperson for that committee.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR EALING'S SACRE

Chair of SACRE:	Councillor Anthony Kelly Tel: (020) 8825 5173 Email: Anthony.kelly@ealing.gov.uk
Vice-Chair of SACRE:	Elizabeth Day Tel: Email: eaday@oldfield.ealing.sch.uk
Clerk:	Ms Paula Portas Tel: (020) 8825 8476 Email: portasp@ealing.gov.uk
SACRE consultant:	Tel: Email:
<i>Chairs of the four committees:</i>	
Church of England committee:	vacant Tel: Email:
LA committee:	Councillor Anthony Kelly (Contact details as above.)
Other traditions committee:	Ms Kath Richardson Tel: 07905 353496 Email: kath@brentfordcommunity.org.uk
Teachers' committee:	Ms Helen O'Neill Tel: (020) 8767 6009 Email: oneill.dairymeadow.ealing@lgfl.net

For more information about
SACRE and religious education
 in Ealing visit our website:

The screenshot shows the Ealing Grid for Learning (EGL) website. The header features the EGL logo, a search bar, and a navigation menu with categories like Topics, Facilities, Finance and data, Human resources, School effectiveness, and Services for children. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home » School effectiveness » Teaching and learning » Curriculum » Curriculum subjects » Religious education.

Religious education

We recognise that the very best RE enables students to explore our shared human values, to reflect on what it means to live 'a good life', and to develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of everyone within their community. Sowing the seeds of the future embodies the principles of inclusion and fairness, and will ensure that all young people in Ealing are able to share and develop their own thoughts about what it means to live an examined life, giving them the tools they need to move confidently as adults into an increasingly diverse and secular society. -Sara Passmore, Head of education and promotion, British Humanist Association

Sowing the seeds of the future

The new Ealing agreed syllabus was ratified by Cabinet on 22 July 2014 for use in Ealing schools.

Ealing SACRE annual report 2013-14

Report of the activities of Ealing SACRE during the last academic year.

Farmington Fellowships

Information regarding fellowships for RE teachers, academic year 2015-16

Any feedback, suggestions or comments regarding the content of the RE webpages please contact: nleonard@ealing.gov.uk

Popular pages

- Early years foundation stage
- Career development for support staff
- Teacher standards
- Religious education
- Curriculum subjects

Services for schools

- Computing and ICT SLA 2015/16
- Continuing professional development (CPD) and training programme 2015/16
- Ealing education centre (EEC) training

<https://www.egfl.org.uk/religion>