

NEWHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND CONSTITUTION

1) Objectives

Under the 1988 Education Reform act every Local Education Authority (LEA) is required to set up a SACRE. The remit is to advise the LEA 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 – 6 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.