

**ISLE OF WIGHT STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION**

(‘SACRE’)

CONSTITUTION

**ISLE OF WIGHT STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ('SACRE')
CONSTITUTION**

1. COMPOSITION OF SACRE

1.1 SACRE shall consist of representative members being 18 in total appointed to four committees of the SACRE by Isle of Wight Council's Local Authority for Isle of Wight ('the LA') as follows:

1.1.1 Committee A (6 members in total)

The members of Committee A shall be representatives of such Christian and other religious denominations which reflect the principal traditions in the Isle of Wight not including the Church of England and shall consist of:

Two persons who are representative of the Roman Catholic Church, nominated by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
Three people who are representatives of the Free Churches nominated by Island Church Leaders' Forum
One person who is a representative of non-Christian faiths co-opted to SACRE

1.1.2 Committee B (4 members in total)

The members of Committee B shall be representative of the Church of England and shall consist of:

Four persons nominated by the Portsmouth Diocesan Board of Education

1.1.3 Committee C (4 members in total)

The members of Committee C shall be representatives of the Isle of Wight Teachers' Council and shall consist of:

One Headteacher nominated by Island Primary Heads' Committee
One teacher from each of the Primary, High and Special schools.

1.1.4 Committee D (4 members in total)

The members of Committee D shall be representative of the Director of Education and Community Development and shall consist of:

Two elected members appointed by the LA's Education Select Committee.

Two representatives nominated by the Director of Children's Services.

The four Committees A-D shall constitute the SACRE.

- 1.2 In appointing representatives to SACRE the LEA must take all reasonable steps to satisfy that the persons so appointed are representatives of the denominations or associations as required in this paragraph

2. CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVE

SACRE shall have the power to co-opt representatives to the Committees and there shall be no maximum limit on the number of co-opted representatives on any of the Committees.

3. OFFICER REPRESENTATIVES

- 3.1 The Director shall appoint an officer to attend SACRE meetings as an observer or in an advisory capacity only but not to vote or take part in the executive decision making of the SACRE.
- 3.2 The Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and LA shall be responsible for compiling the agenda.
- 3.3 A Clerk to the SACRE will be appointed by the LEA and shall be responsible for taking Minutes of all SACRE meetings and distributing the same within a reasonable time thereafter.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Two students to be nominated from IW Youth Council to attend but not to vote, nor take part in executive decision making of SACRE.

4. CHAIR

- 4.1 Each Committee of the SACRE shall nominate a spokesperson on an annual basis.
- 4.2 SACRE shall have a Chairman who shall be appointed for a period of 2 years from the date hereof. The Chairman of SACRE shall be held by rotation by the Chair of Committees A-D. Each Committee will elect its own Chairman.
- 4.3 The Vice-Chairman of SACRE shall be the Chair elect of SACRE for the forthcoming 2 years.

5. TERM OF OFFICE

- 5.1 Members of the Committees shall serve on the Committees for a period of four years maximum, unless they are asked to continue serving by the group they represent.

6. MEETINGS AND VOTING

6.1

6.1.1 The quorum at a meeting of a Sub-Committee shall be as follows:

Committee A [4]

Committee B [3]

Committee C [4]

Committee D [2]

Or such other number as the SACRE may from time to time decide but so that no meeting shall be deemed to have a quorum unless at least two representatives are present

6.1.2 Decisions at each Committee meeting shall be determined by the majority of the meeting present and voting on the question provided that in the case of equality of votes the Chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

6.2

6.2.1 The quorum at a meeting of SACRE shall be at least one representative from each Committee A-D.

6.2.2 Each Committee shall have one vote at a meeting of SACRE

6.2.3 At a meeting of SACRE every matter shall be determined by a simple majority of the meeting present and voting on the question provided that in the case of equality of votes the Chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

6.3

6.3.1 SACRE will meet 3 times in each year at such time and such place, as SACRE shall determine, usually termly.

6.3.2 The Committee A-D will meet as and when required but may be required to meet before each SACRE meeting to discuss how the vote at the SACRE meeting of the Committee shall be cast.

6.3.3 Any working group set up by SACRE in accordance with paragraph 9 hereof shall meet as and when required.

6.4 Co-opted members have no vote.

6.5 Committee A-C shall be entitled to vote on and require SACRE to carry out a review of the LEA's Religious Education Syllabus ('the Agreed Syllabus'). Each Committee shall have one vote on the question of whether to require such a review.

6.6

6.6.1 The meetings of SACRE shall be open to members of the public including duly accredited representatives of news media.

- 6.6.2 Public notice of the time and place of any meeting of SACRE shall be given by posting it at the offices of the LEA 3 clear days at least before the meeting.
- 6.6.3 Copies of agendas and reports if appropriate of SACRE meetings shall be available for inspection by members of the public at least 3 clear days before the meeting.
- 6.6.4 Copies of agendas, reports and minutes shall be available for inspection by members of the public after a meeting of SACRE until the expiration of 6 years beginning with the date of the meeting.
- 6.6.5 Information regarding meetings, agendas and reports to be put on the local Authority's website "Virtual Learning Environment"

PROVIDED ALWAYS that the SACRE shall not be authorised or required to disclose to the public confidential information as defined by paragraph 9 of the Religious Education (Meetings of Local Conferences and Councils) Regulations 1994.

7. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- 7.1 The SACRE shall comply with all its obligations contained or referred to in Part V Chapter 111 and Schedule 31 to the Education Act 1996 and in particular shall:
 - 7.1.1 Advise the LEA on Religious Education and collective worship in LA schools within the Isle of Wight.
 - 7.1.2 Decide on applications for determinations of cases in which requirements for Christian collective worship is not to apply as and when required.
 - 7.1.3 Require the LA to review its Agreed Syllabus.
 - 7.1.4 Publish an annual report of its works specifying any advice given, its nature and reasons for giving it, to the LA.
 - 7.1.5 For the avoidance of doubt the obligation on SACRE in accordance with paragraph 7.1.1 shall include methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers.

8. **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 8.1 SACRE is responsible for the provision of advice to help the LA and Governing bodies ensure that:
 - 8.1.1 All pupils in attendance at an LA school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship and that this shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
 - 8.1.2 Every LA school provides a basic curriculum which includes provision for Religious Education for all registered pupils at the school alongside the National Curriculum.

8.2 Religious Education is in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus and that the Agreed Syllabus reflects the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. VA schools follow Diocesan guidelines for Religious Education.

9. **WORKING GROUPS**

SACRE shall as and when required appoint Working Groups to advise and report back to SACRE on any issue within the terms of reference specified in paragraph 7 hereof and shall meet as and when required.

10. **RECORDS**

Copies of the minutes prepared by the Clerk will be stored in the LA's offices and will be made available to the public on request.

11. **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

11.1 The Committees are required to consult with the groups that they represent on a regular basis.

11.2 From time to time SACRE may, as and when appropriate, consult with parents and governing bodies of LA schools and shall make contact with the parents and governing bodies via the school.

12. **REMOVAL OF REPRESENTATIVES**

12.1 A member of the SACRE may be removed from membership if the member ceases to be representative of the religion, denomination or associations, which he or she was appointed to represent or he or she ceases to be representative of the LEA.

13. **ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Any proposal to alter the Constitution of SACRE shall be made at a meeting of SACRE and shall be approved only by a unanimous vote at the meeting. The proposal will be considered for adoption by the LA.

THIS CONSTITUTION was proposed to the LA for adoption as the Constitution of the Isle of Wight Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education at a meeting duly convened at:

On: 6th March 2012

..... Chair

..... Vice Chair