



## SACRE: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

This is a body which must be legally constituted by each Local Authority. It has responsibility for overseeing Religious Education and Collective Worship in the following schools: *community, VC (RE only not CW), foundation schools without a religious character and trust schools*. Academies, Free schools and VA schools, including RCVA schools, lie outside the SACRE remit, but many SACREs concern themselves with these schools as well.

### Who sits on SACRE?

A SACRE is comprised of 4 groups. One representative from each group must be present for a meeting to be quorate and each group has a single vote in a formal voting situation. Any co-opted members, those with particular expertise, may not vote.

<p><b>Group A:</b> Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations, reflecting principal religious traditions of the area (and specified by their particular constitution)</p>	<p><b>Group B:</b> The Church of England with representatives nominated by the diocese</p>
<p><b>Group C:</b> Teacher and Head teacher associations invited by the Local Authority</p>	<p><b>Group D:</b> The Local Authority – ideally reflecting the range of political viewpoints across the area. <i>This group may include representatives of school governing bodies.</i></p>

### What does a SACRE do?

1. **ADVISES the LOCAL AUTHORITY** – SACRE’s main aim is to advise the Local Authority on matters related to RE & CW. SACRE members should focus on supporting the learning and development of children in regard to RE and CW.
2. **PRODUCES an RE SYLLABUS** - SACRE is responsible for the production of the Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE (although the writing / adoption of a new syllabus is undertaken by an Agreed Syllabus Conference, often with the same members).

3. **ISSUES CW DETERMINATIONS** - SACRE is also responsible for “determinations” – deciding whether a particular school can change collective worship away from the current requirement to be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”.

### **How can SACRE fulfil this role?**

The SACRE carries out its function by advising the Local Authority. The SACRE should monitor provision for RE & CW, offer advice and training to teachers and head teachers and share good practice. The SACRE should hold the LA to account for provision for teacher training for RE and ensure that there is sufficient funding and training available when a new syllabus is launched. Activities may include: requesting a review of the Agreed Syllabus, responding to complaints about RE or CW provision, examining data on RE, reading OFSTED reports for comments on RE, CW and SMSC, visiting schools or organising events to promote good practice. SACRE may choose to put up advice on their Local Authority website.

### **What are the responsibilities of individual members?**

Individual members, particularly of groups A & B, represent their faith tradition and contribute, for example, by helping avoid negative stereotyping, enabling good links / training for teachers etc. Teacher groups offer invaluable advice about work in schools, and the current needs for training and so on. Councillors and LA reps bring a broader perspective. It is important that members attend meetings and send apologies if this is not possible. They should contribute to discussion and ensure that their expertise and the opportunities for networking that SACRE provides are used in service of

Group members are encouraged to express genuine differences of opinion but, in the spirit of good RE, should be prepared to work for the good of their local schools, pupils and teachers.

### **How often does SACRE meet?**

There is no legal stipulation about the frequency of meetings, but they should be frequent enough, often between 3 and 6 a year, to allow SACRE to carry out its role. The Local Authority must provide funding and clerking to enable the group to function and ensure that minutes and agendas are made public.

Further information is available through the NASACRE website: <http://www.nasacre.org.uk>

**You can contact Suffolk SACRE through the clerk: Linden Pitcher ([Linden.Pitcher@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Linden.Pitcher@suffolk.gov.uk))**