

The City of York Council

The Constitution of the Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE)

1.1. Membership of SACRE:

1.1.1. According to the Education Reform Act 1988, membership shall be determined by the LEA (the Authority) to represent the following categories of persons:

1.1.1.1. Such Christian denominations and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the Authority, will approximately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area. *Group A.*

1.1.1.1.1. Any principal religious tradition in the area might request membership, at which point the LEA shall take steps to determine the proportionate strength, prior to admission.

1.1.1.2. The Church of England. *Group B.*

1.1.1.3. Such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the authority, ought to be represented having due regard to the circumstances in the area. *Group C.*

1.1.1.4. Four members representing the Local Education Authority. *Group D.*

1.1.1.5. SACRE shall have the right to co-opt to its non-voting membership such persons as it wishes; such co-options shall be for a period not exceeding three years.

1.1.2. Before appointing a person to represent any denomination or association as a member of SACRE, the Local Education Authority shall take all reasonable steps to assure themselves that a person so appointed is representative of the denomination or association in question.

1.1.3. A member of the SACRE appointed by the Authority may be removed from membership by the Authority if,

1.1.3.1 In the opinion of the Authority, that person ceases to be representative of the denomination or association which s/he was appointed to represent or (as the case may be) of the Authority.

1.1.3.2. S/he is absent for a period of three consecutive meetings without reasonable grounds.

1.1.4. Any member of the SACRE may at any time resign his/her office by giving notice in writing to the Clerk of the SACRE.

1.1.5. Membership shall be continuous unless a member resigns by writing to the Clerk.

1.2. Chair:

SACRE shall by election each year determine the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee from amongst its representative membership.

The posts shall be held for a maximum period of three years. The Vice-Chair shall be a member of a different Group from that of the Chair. The election shall take place at the autumn meeting.

1.3. Functions and Duties:

Under the constitution the functions and duties are as follows:

1.3.1. To advise the LA upon such matters as it may refer to the SACRE or as the SACRE may see fit. These will usually be connected with collective worship in City schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an Agreed Syllabus.

1.3.2. To require at any time the LA to review its current Agreed Syllabus.

1.3.3. To carry out the functions required by current legislation.

1.3.4. The SACRE shall produce an annual report for the LA.

1.4. Procedure:

1.4.1. On any question to be decided by the SACRE only the representative groups shall be entitled to vote and each group shall have a single vote.

1.4.2. Where possible, decisions shall be by consensus.

1.4.3. When any member asks that a decision be taken through the committee structure, SACRE shall break into its groups and each group shall determine how its representative shall vote in SACRE.

1.4.4. In the event of a tied vote, the Chair shall cast a deciding vote.

1.4.5. A meeting of SACRE shall be quorate only when one member of each constituent group is present in addition to either the Chair or Vice-Chair. Members' attendance may be recorded in the annual report.

1.4.6. The agenda for a SACRE meeting, accompanied by minutes of its previous meeting (if not already circulated) shall be sent so as to reach members not later than seven days before that meeting.

1.4.7. Matters for the agenda shall normally be sent to one of the SACRE's officers not later than fourteen days before that meeting. Items for 'any other business' shall be sent in writing to officers or Chair not less than forty-eight hours before the meeting.

1.4.8. The minutes of the SACRE meeting shall be reported to the LA.

Autumn 2019 (*change to 3 meetings pa*)