



SOUTHWARK STANDING ADVISORY  
COUNCIL  
On  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

(Southwark SACRE)

FINAL CONSTITUTION

Dated: DECEMBER 2007

## **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SOUTHWARK SACRE)**

The Council shall be called the Southwark SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education). It is established under Section 3.90 – 3.97 of the Education Act 1996 as amended.

### **Interpretation In this Constitution**

“Local Authority” means Southwark Council acting either independently or through the Education Committee.

“The Council” means Southwark’s SACRE.

‘Member’ means a Member of SACRE and includes a substitute or co-opted Member.

All questions of Interpretation are governed by the “Interpretation Act” 1978 as may be subsequently amended.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Current membership of Southwark SACRE**

##### **Committee A      Other Christian denominations and other faiths represented in the LEA**

African-Caribbean Churches	1 representative
Baptist Churches	1 representative
Bah’ai	1 representative
Buddhism	1 representative
Hinduism	1 representative
Islam	2 representatives
Judaism	1 representative
Methodist Church	1 representative
Roman Catholicism	1 representative
Sikhism	1 representative
United Reformed Church	1 representative
Salvation Army	1 representative
British Humanist Association	1 co-opted (non-voting)
Rastafarian	1 co-opted (non-voting)

##### **Committee B      The Church of England**

Southwark Diocese	4 representatives
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##### **Committee C      Teachers’ Professional Associations**

NAHT	1 representative
NASUWT	2 representatives
NUT	2 representatives
SHA	1 representative
GTC	1 representative

**Committee D            The Local Authority**

Elected Members	representatives
LA	2 representatives
Consultant Inspector/ Adviser to SACRE (non-voting)	

All members shall be delegates who are interested in education in general and religious education in particular.

Delegates as Members shall remain until such time as they will have resigned or removed from Membership under the rules dictated by their Governing Body of that class of Members or for any reason stated therein.

There can be a substitute Member nominated by the absent member and notice of this substitution should be notified to the clerk of SACRE at least 6 hours in advance of the meeting.

If a Member is absent for 3 or more consecutive meetings for any reason not acceptable to the Council there shall be deemed to be a vacated place to be filled by the governing body for that class of Members.

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council shall be chosen from Members of the SACRE and shall be elected at the first meeting in each education (academic) year.

In the absence of the Chair or Vice-Chair at any meeting the Council can elect one of its member to act as the Chair for that meeting.

A meeting will only be quorate if the following numbers of representative/s of the respective groups are present: -

- Group A - minimum of 2 representatives (1 christian and 1 non-christian)
- Group B - minimum of 1 representative
- Group C - minimum of 1 representative
- Group D – minimum of 1 representative

All members are entitled to speak and vote on any issue but substitute or Co-Opted members may speak but not vote at any meeting. SACRE will always seek to reach decisions on a consensus basis but when voting is to be exercised as only one vote is allowed from each group A, B, C or D as mentioned above.

Co-option – SACRE has the power to co-opt members as agreed by the majority of its members.

In the event of an equality of votes on any issue the Chair may exercise a casting vote.

The secretary/clerk of the Council shall be an employee of Southwark Council as designated by the Council's Director of Legal and Democratic Services.

## **THE DUTIES OF SACRE**

- To advise the LA on such matters concerned with school worship and with Religious Education according to an Agreed Syllabus as the LA may refer to it or as SACRE may see fit. These matters might include, for example, the provision of INSET, methods of teaching and choice of materials and the consideration of complaints should the LA so require. SACRE shall send a copy of advice on religious education in accordance with the current agreed syllabus to the Head Teacher of all grant maintained schools within the borough. Such advice maybe sent to Faith Schools for information.
- To receive, and determine whether an application from a Head Teacher to vary the requirement for worship of a broadly or mainly Christian character, is appropriate for the whole school or for groups of pupils.
- To publish an annual report outlining the advice given by SACRE to the LA and whether a Statutory Conference was requested during that year. The report should broadly describe the nature of advice provided and, if such advice was in relation to matters not referred to SACRE by the LA, stating the reasons why such advice was offered.
- A copy of the report should be sent by SACRE to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA).
- To require the LEA to set up a Statutory Conference to review the Agreed Syllabus if, in the opinion of SACRE, this becomes necessary.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **Dates**

The dates of the main meetings will be decided at the first meeting in the education (academic) year.

## **Agenda**

Matters for the Agenda of any meeting shall be sent to the Clerk at least 21 days in advance of the meeting.

The Agenda shall be distributed to reach members at least 7 working days in advance of the next listed meeting.

## **Minutes**

The draft minutes of meetings shall be circulated to Members within one month of the meeting taking place.

Sonny Sharma (Dr.) on behalf of Southwark's SACRE

Dated: December 2007

