

## **Background**

At the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March, SACRE was informed that a recent High Court case had declared that it would be illegal to not include a non-religious representative from Group A of the SACRE. At the moment, SACRE had a Humanism representative as a co-opted member, rather than a full member.

From this, SACRE formally approved to establish a new permanent position of 'Non-Religious Worldviews' within Group A of SACRE.

The process required a revision to SACRE's Constitution which proposes a revision to establish the position of 'Non-Religious Worldviews' in Group A as a full member.

Another revision is to clarify in the Constitution on the appointment of SACRE members whereby SACRE would nominate members and Cabinet would approve the appointment.

The amendments are shown in blue text.

## **Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM)**

### **SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)**

#### **Constitution**

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is established in accordance with Section 390-397 of the 1996 Education Act (as amended) by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (“the authority”) acting as the local education authority.

#### **1. Duties and Powers**

- a) The SACRE shall advise the authority on matters connected with collective worship in schools within the Royal Borough and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus in all maintained schools<sup>1</sup> as the authority may refer to it or as it may see fit.
- b) SACRE shall in particular be free to advise on methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers. SACRE may itself offer training and support for religious education teachers, and for those responsible for arranging collective worship, in the Royal Borough’s schools.
- c) The SACRE shall on an application made by a headteacher of any school within the Royal Borough, after consultation with the governing body, consider whether it is appropriate for the requirement for collective worship to be of a wholly or broadly Christian character to be disapplied in the case of that school, or in the case of any class or description of pupils at that school. The SACRE shall arrive at its decision and communicate it to the headteacher in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of the Education Reform Act 1998.
- d) The representative groups on the SACRE, other than that representing the authority, may at any time require a review of any Agreed Syllabus for the time being adopted by the authority.
- e) The SACRE shall, each year, publish a report on its proceedings. The report shall specify any matters on which the SACRE has given advice to the authority and the reasons for offering the advice.
- f) The SACRE shall take any action assigned to it by the authority in relation to the consideration and disposal of any complaint concerning collective worship or religious education in compliance with Section 23 of the Education Reform Act 1988.

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<sup>1</sup> Academies and Voluntary Aided schools, and private schools, fall outside of SACRE’s remit, though Voluntary Controlled schools must use the Agreed RE Syllabus.

## **2. Membership**

~~The members of SACRE (other than co-opted members) shall be appointed by the authority so that they shall represent the following groups:~~

The members of SACRE (other than co-opted members) shall be nominated by SACRE and approved by Cabinet so that they shall represent the following groups:

### Group A - Christian denominations and other religions

The Free Churches – 3  
The Roman Catholic Church – 1  
Hinduism – 1  
Islam – 1  
Judaism – 1  
Sikhism – 1  
Buddhist – 1  
Bahá'í – 1  
Non-Religious Worldviews – 1

### Group B

The Church of England – 3

### Group C - Associations representing teachers

Key Stage 1 – 1  
Key Stage 2 – 1  
Key Stage 3 – 1  
Key Stage 4 – 1  
Headteacher – 1  
Academy Representative - 1

### Group D

Councillors - 3

## **3. Terms of Office and Procedures**

- a) Members of the SACRE shall serve a period of four years from the date of their appointment. They shall be eligible for reappointment by the authority at the end of a term of office. They may resign at any time.
- b) Any member who fails to attend 3 consecutive ordinary meetings of the SACRE other than for a reason approved by the SACRE shall cease to be a member. Substitutions for absent members shall not be permitted unless with the approval of the SACRE.

- c) The quorum shall be 5 members, with each Group represented by at least one member.
- d) The validity of the proceedings of the SACRE, or of any of its representative groups, shall not be affected by a vacancy in the membership or on the grounds that a member does not at the time represent the denomination, religion or association she or he was appointed to represent.
- e) The SACRE shall elect annually at its first meeting of the academic year, a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from among its members.
- f) The SACRE shall meet three times per year, or more frequently as determined by the SACRE.
- g) SACRE will always seek to find a consensus satisfactory to all members, and strive for unanimity. In the event that this is not possible, and that a decision must be made, then a vote shall be held. Each Group shall have one vote. In the event of a tied vote, the decision of the Chairman shall be final.
- h) SACRE may invite up to three individuals to serve as co-opted members to assist its work. These co-opted members shall be appointed for a term not exceeding four years. They be invited to serve additional terms. They shall have no voting rights.
- i) SACRE will be serviced by a Clerk provided by the authority and supported with appropriate resources including authority officers and an Adviser for Religious Education.

#### **4. Complaints**

Any complaint about SACRE as a whole, or about individual members in their capacity as SACRE members, shall normally be dealt with by SACRE initially and only referred to the authority where necessary.

Alternatively, complaints about SACRE as a whole, or about individual members acting in their capacity as SACRE members, can be made to the Local Authority by writing to The Complaints Team, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St Ives Road Maidenhead SL6 1RF or by calling 01628 683857.