

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) 14 July 2025

Membership and Constitution Review

1. Aim

To review the membership and constitution of SACRE to ensure diverse representation and the effective delivery of SACRE's functions.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That SACRE recommend to the Local Authority that the nominations set out in paragraph 3.4 be appointed to SACRE.
- 2.2 That SACRE request that the local authority consider delegating authority to the Director – Access & Inclusion, to make appointments to SACRE for Groups A, B and C.
- 2.3 That the Chair write a letter of thanks to the outgoing members of SACRE.

3. Report detail – know

- 3.1 The Constitution of SACRE requires that the membership be reviewed annually at the AGM in the summer term and that the Constitution be reviewed every two years.

Composition of SACRE

- 3.2 SACRE is comprised of members from four Representative Groups and any members co-opted to SACRE. The four Representative Groups are as follows:
 - Group A: Christian Denominations, Other Religions and Denominations (and persons of non-religious beliefs analogous (similar or equivalent) to religious beliefs).
 - Group B: Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education The Church of England
 - Group C: Teachers' Associations
 - Group D: Local Authority
- 3.3 SACRE's constitution, approved in 2023, establishes the composition of SACRE. This includes the number of representatives of each religion, denomination or belief which, so far as is consistent with the efficient discharge of the Council's functions, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in the area, as indicated by the 2021 census data.

New nominations

- 3.4 Appointments to SACRE are made by the Local Authority based on nominations from appropriate nominating bodies. In the absence of clear delegations, this is currently done through referrals to Council. It is recommended that Council consider delegating authority to officers to formally appoint non-Local Authority representatives.
- 3.5 The following nominations have been received to fill existing vacancies or as replacements where previous representatives have resigned or been replaced:
- Mr Jay Hart – Jewish faith representative

Representatives not in attendance

- 3.6 SACRE's Constitution states that *'Following non-attendance of a member at two consecutive meetings without apology, the SACRE will recommend to the LA [Local Authority] that a replacement nomination be sought from the relevant Nominating Body.'*
- 3.7 There are several existing members who have not attended two or more consecutive meetings without apology. The Clerk has written to these Members and their nominating bodies to seek new nominations.

Vacancies

- 3.8 Since the previous meeting the Clerk has received the resignation of Mrs R. Graham (Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education).
- 3.9 There are currently several vacancies on SACRE which are as follows:

Group A:

- 1 Buddhist faith
- 1 Orthodox
- 1 Methodist
- 1 Baptist faith
- 1 Jewish faith*

Group B:

- 2 Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education

Group C:

- 2 Maintained School Head teachers
- 1 Secondary Academy Head teacher
- 1 Subject Leader Primary
- 1 Subject Leader Secondary
- Representatives of Unions

**note: a nomination has been received for this position*

- 3.10 The Clerk has contacted organisations in Walsall and (where appropriate) regionally to seek nominations to fill vacancies.

Nominating Bodies

- 3.11 Appointments to SACRE are made by the Local Authority following nominations from appropriate nominating bodies. The Local Authority has a responsibility to ensure that individuals appointed to sit on SACRE are representative of the group they are nominated to represent.
- 3.12 The Local Authority has sought guidance from NASACRE regarding best practice.

5. Review

- 5.1 The Clerk keeps records of attendance. Where a member is absent without apology from consecutive meetings, this is noted and the Clerk contacts the nominating body for a new nomination.
- 5.2 SACRE shall review the membership annually at the AGM in the summer term.

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