

**Changes to the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Constitution**

Purpose: Review

1. Aim

Membership of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) is based on the 2011 Census. The 2021 Census has been published and so the composition of SACRE is under review. In addition, a request has been received to establish whether membership can include a voting representee(s) of non-religious worldwide views/beliefs, such as Humanism.

2. Summary

- 2.1 SACRE's constitution is clear that the number of representative members shall be determined from time to time by the Local Authority. The Council is required to inform SACRE when undertaking a review of the SACRE constitution and receive any recommended changes put forward following that consultation.
- 2.2 There is no guidance in law or by the Secretary of State as to which specific voting group non-religious worldwide views/beliefs, such as Humanism would belong. As such, each individual Council is left to decide.
- 2.3 Lack of guidance and legislative clarity has resulted in an inconsistent approach across the UK. Wales have specific legislation to allow non-religious worldwide views/beliefs, such as Humanists as voting members. In the rest of the UK Councils have permitted non-religious worldwide views/beliefs, such as Humanists representation within category 'A', whilst others have no representation or, as in Walsall, Humanist representatives have been included as Co-Opted members.
- 2.3 In light of the request and a review of available data regarding the representation of religious and belief demographics within Walsall following the publication of the 2021 Census, a change to the membership of SACRE is proposed to include two secular voting members to Category A. This will reflect the full range of beliefs held by people living in Walsall, including those with professed religious and non-religious beliefs.

3. Recommendations

That:

- 3.1 SACRE provides a view on the proposed amendment to the constitution, to include two voting representatives, for people with non-religious affiliation or belief not represented by any other membership group so long as the non-religious beliefs analogous (similar or equivalent) to a religious belief, within category A (Religion);
- 3.2 Subject to recommendation 3.1, notes the arrangements for the appointment of those representatives as set out in paragraphs 4.7 and 4.8; and
- 3.2 Note that the outcome will be reported to Council for decision.

4. Report detail – know

Structure and membership arrangements

- 4.1 SACRE is established under section 390 of the Education Act 1996. It is not a formal committee of the Council and sits as an outside body with responsibilities relating to advising the local authority and education providers regarding the teaching of religious education, which follows the locally agreed syllabus. SACRE's broader role is to support good Religious Education (RE) and collective RE worship within its schools by:

- Giving advice on ways of teaching agreed syllabus RE, including the choice of teaching materials;
- Monitoring schools' provision for RE and collective worship as well as the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) of pupils;
- Advising the LA on the provision of training for teachers in RE; e.g. the provision of a fair related to Religious Education for teachers and students;
- Considering complaints about the provision and delivery of religious education and collective worship referred to it by the LA.

SACRE also has power to require an LA to review the syllabus undertaken, via an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). Membership of ASC's will often be the same as SACRE but there is no provision to include co-opted members on ASC's.

- 4.2 Whilst its origins go back to the Education Act of 1944, the role, structure and function of SACRE in Local Education Authorities was strengthened by the Education Reform Act 1988 before being replaced by the Education Act 1996. Wording in respect of membership of each category has remained unchanged and S390(4) of the 1996 Act confirms:-

(4) The representative groups required by this subsection are:-

- (a) a group of persons to represent such Christian denominations and other religions and denominations of such religions as, in the opinion of the

authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area;

- (b) except in Wales, the Church of England;
- (c) Associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the authority, ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area; and
- (d) The authority.

4.3 The constitution allows for up to 42 members with the right to co-opt (non-voting) members. Membership is split into four groups as detailed above and in table 1. With regard to Group A, the number of representatives of each religion and religious denomination appointed, so far as 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.

Table 1 – membership of SACRE

Group	Description	No. Members
A	Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations, reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area including:- 1 Baptist 1 Black Country Orthodox Trust 2 Methodist 1 New Testament Church of God 1 Quakers 1 Roman Catholic 1 Salvation Army 1 United Reform Church 3 Muslim 2 Hindu 3 Sikh 1 Jewish 1 Buddhist	19
B	Church of England	5
C	Teacher representatives	11 (includes 6 teachers and up to 5 Union Representatives)
D	Local Authority	7

4.4 Only those representatives of Groups A, B, C & D are entitled to vote and each such group shall have a single vote.

4.5 SACRE's constitution states that the number of representative members shall be determined from time to time by the Local Authority and the individual appointments should be made by the Local Authority after taking all reasonable

steps to assure itself that the individual is representative of the denomination or the teacher association concerned. It is desirable that all members have an interest in education in general and in religious education in particular.

Proposed number of representatives from non-religious worldwide views/beliefs and process for consideration of applications

- 4.6 Given the increase in 'No religion' within the census (see paragraph 4.9) and changing landscape nationally, as detailed within this report, it is proposed that the constitution be amended to increase the number of places in Group A by 2 to include representatives of 'other bodies' for people with non-religious affiliation or belief not represented by any other membership group. These to be available to secular belief representatives.
- 4.7 It is suggested that the Constitution be amended as follows to confirm the inclusion of an additional 2 people with Non-Religious Philosophical Convictions not represented by any other membership group and that a process of these appointments be clarified. The amended Constitution is attached in full at **Appendix A** with additions shown in bold/underlined:-

Non-Religious Philosophical Convictions

- 2 appointed representative for people with non-religious affiliation or belief not represented by any other membership group so long as the non-religious beliefs analogous (similar or equivalent) to a religious beliefs as per the following guidance:-
- To be “analogous” we consider the non-religious beliefs must in accordance with case law under the European Convention of Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998 attain the necessary level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance to attract protection under the Convention Rights.
- Any appointment is dependent on the relevant local authority’s opinion as to whether such a representative would help ensure that the relevant traditions in the local authority’s area are appropriately reflected in Group A. The final decision of an appointment rests with the local authority, and they are best placed to assess whether a SACRE has the necessary expertise and experience to properly discharge its function.

Nomination and election process

Nominations for people with non-religious affiliation or belief not represented by any other membership group in Category A should be submitted in writing to Democratic Services. Nominations to be reviewed by the Director of Children’s Service together with the Portfolio Holder for Education and SACRE, to consider eligibility. A recommendation to Council shall then be made.

- 4.8 As a nomination has been received for Mr Bill Green to be appointed to represent the Humanists, it is proposed that Mr Green takes up one of the vacancies available, should the amendment be approved by Council.

National Census - Taking into account religious and non-religious affiliations – voluntary question.

- 4.9 A number of authorities, including Walsall have religiously diverse boroughs where SACRE has a strong and well-established relationship to the communities they serve. Authorities use data from the National Census to inform representation of SACRE.

Statistics from the 2021 National Census confirm that Walsall has an estimated resident population of 284,100. It also sets out the religious affiliation in Walsall. The table below compares the figures in the 2011 Census to that in 2021 together with the number of seats each religion holds on SACRE:-

Religion	(2011 census)	(2021 census)	Seats on SACRE
Christian	158,971	126,921	9
Buddhist	516	533	1
Hindu	4,560	5,096	2
Jewish	54	74	1
Muslim	22,146	32,107	3
Sikh	11,606	17,148	3
Other Religion	1,420	1,658	0
No Religion	53,876	85,819	0
No answer	16,174	14,768	0

- 4.10 The table reflects the changing nature of religious and non-religious beliefs in current society and the Walsall area. Levels of Walsall residents with no religious belief vary across the wards of the borough ranging from 7.4% to 42.7%, with an overall percentage of the population of Walsall that hold no religion being 30.2%. This does not mean that 1/3 of the population of Walsall are humanists, it is however reasonable to expect there would be a reasonable proportion of whom are.

National Context

Wales

- 4.11 In 2018, the Welsh Government issued Guidance to clarify that persons who hold non-religious beliefs (such as humanists) should be permitted full membership on Group A, in light of the Human Rights Act 1998, so long as the non-religious belief is analogous (similar or equivalent) to a religious belief, such as Humanism. This guidance only applied in Wales and specifically included the following paragraphs to ensure that the person(s) appointed was analogous to a religious belief, such as Humanism.
- To be “analogous” we consider the non-religious beliefs must in accordance with case law under the European Convention of Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998 attain the necessary level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance to attract protection under the Convention Rights.

- An appointment is dependent on the relevant local authority's opinion as to whether such a representative would help ensure that the relevant traditions in the local authority's area are appropriately reflected in Group A. The final decision of an appointment rests with the local authority, and they are best placed to assess whether a SACRE has the necessary expertise and experience to properly discharge its function.

4.12 On 29 April 2021, the Welsh Government passed the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act which introduced an array of reforms. These include changing the name 'religious education' (RE) to 'religion, values, and ethics' (RVE) and clarifying that that humanists may sit on the bodies that oversee and develop the syllabus (SACRE).

Humanists UK

4.13 Whilst the legislative position in England is unclear, Humanists UK have successfully challenged Local Authorities including the Royal Borough of Greenwich and Southampton Council to review their decision not to allow non-faith representation under Category A. The decision to review was taken after Humanists UK notified the authorities of their intention to take legal action against the decision. This on the basis that Humanist representatives' exclusion from being admitted as a voting member violated human rights law. The Council subsequently agreed to reconsider the matter.

The House of Lords

4.14 On 14 June, 2022, the Education (Non-religious Philosophical Convictions) (Bill) was introduced in the House of Lords to make provision to include non-religious philosophical convictions within the school curriculum; to require that persons who hold non-religious philosophical convictions, such as Humanists must be represented at standing advisory councils on religious education and at agreed syllabus conferences; and for connected purposes.

5. *Council Plan priorities*

5.1 This issue links to both the Communities (Empower our communities so that they feel they are connected and belong in Walsall, creating safe and healthy places whilst building a strong sense of community) and Children (Have the best possible start and are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well) priorities within Our Council Plan. SACRE sets the syllabus for religious education within Walsall Schools and so it is important that SACRE's membership is proportionate to the Boroughs Census information to ensure that it fully reflects the communities which the Council serve.

6. *Risk management*

6.1 If this proposal is rejected and the status quo persists, then Humanists UK and / or other affected groups could seek a Judicial Review with an aim to have the decision overturned. A similar risk would exist if Humanists were simply appointed

to the SACRE without a fair and transparent application process open to all. This would potentially have a financial and reputational risk to Walsall Council.

7. Financial information

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications. However, should the decision be taken to refuse membership for non-religious worldwide views/beliefs, such as Humanism within Group A (Religions) the Council would incur costs in defending any potential challenge.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 Section 391 of the 1996 Education Act requires every Local Authority (LA) in England and Wales to constitute a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) with the following functions and duties:

1. to advise the LA on matters connected with collective worship in community schools and the RE to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus. This includes particular methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision for the training of teachers
2. to require the LA to review its current Agreed Syllabus
3. to determine (following an application made by the headteacher of any community or foundation school) whether it is appropriate for the requirement for collective worship to be broadly Christian should not apply in the case of that school or for some of the pupils in that school
4. to publish an annual report on its work which should:
 - specify any matters on which it has advised the LA
 - broadly describe the nature of that advice on any matters which were not referred to it in the first place by the LA.

- 8.2 In 1994, the Government issued a Circular which asserted Non-Religious World Views, such as Humanist were not entitled to be voting members of SACRE in category A. This guidance was superseded by a 2010 Guidance, issued by the Secretary of State, giving examples of where Humanists taking part in SACRE meeting as co-opted members. Further, the reference to Humanists not being permitted to be voting members was not included in the 2010 guidance.

- 8.3 The Equality Act 2010 provides protection for individuals from discrimination because they have a religion or a belief or no religion or no belief; but it does not define either religion or belief in any further detail.

- 8.4 Article 9 of the Human Rights Act 1998 protects individuals right to hold both religious and non-religious beliefs. This is an absolute right which means it can't be interfered with by the state. Article 9 includes the right to choose or change religion or beliefs and confirms that individuals cannot be forced to have a particular religion.

- 8.5 In a High Court case in 2015 it was concluded that the non-inclusion of Non-Religious World Views as part of Religious Education is a breach of the Convention for Human Rights which is enshrined in English law through the Human Rights Act.

9. *Reducing Inequalities*

- 9.1 Religion and Belief, as a protected characteristic under the Equality Act does include a lack of faith in an organised religion. Should a decision be made to not allow those with non-religious worldviews/faith such as Humanist Representatives this would limit the capacity for them to be represented fully at meetings of SACRE.
- 9.2 However, the current arrangements are in line with the legislation and requirement that these seek to provide representation to particular religious groups within the Local Authority area, as determined by the Local Authority. Opportunities for alternative involvement mitigate the negative impact such as the inclusion of a humanist representative as a co opted member.

10. Decide – Options

- 10.1 Option 1: To amend the constitution to include x2 voting representee of non-religious worldwide views/beliefs, such as Humanism, within Group A (Religions). This would enable the request from the Humanist Co opted member to become a full member possible whilst ensuring that a further place is available for another representative of secular belief, subject to satisfying the selection process outlined within the report.
- 10.2 Option 2: To amend the constitution to include x1 voting representee of non-religious worldwide views/beliefs, such as Humanism, within Group A (Religions). As a request has been made to include a Humanist representative, should that be agreed by the Authority, it would prevent other non-faith groups being represented as the place would be filled. This would disenfranchise a sizeable proportion of those living in Walsall and prevent their views and opinions from helping to shape the overall nature of Religious Education in maintained schools specifically under SACRE statutory duties, and those non-maintained who follow the Locally Agreed Syllabus.
- 10.3 Option 3: To continue with co-opted member status and not amend the constitution to allow voting representatives from non-religious worldwide views/beliefs, such as Humanism. However, this has previously been the subject of legal challenge by a Humanists UK and while a legal challenge may be defensible under current legislation, it is unlikely to be in the public interest to defend such proceedings when there is evidence supporting the need to review membership to include more secular belief systems being represented on SACRE.
- 10.4 Option 4: To include up to 2 members under category D to represent the authority. However, this is currently elected members of the Council and so consideration would need to be given as to how a member of a secular belief would represent the Council.

11. Respond

11.1 Once a view has been provided by SACRE, the matter will be considered by Council for decision. SACRE will be advised of the outcome at the next available meeting and.

12. Review

12.1 Membership will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Background papers

None

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**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(S.A.C.R.E.)
CONSTITUTION**

1. Legislative Background

The Education Act 1996, Sections 375-397 (in conjunction with 'Religious Education In English Schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010').

2. Terms of Reference

- a) The broad role of SACRE is to support the effective provision of RE and Collective Worship in schools. Walsall Local Authority will work with the SACRE to monitor and review the existing provision for RE and Collective Worship.
- b) The functions of SACRE are detailed in section 391 Education Act 1996 (as amended). Other responsibilities are outlined in: Religious Education in English Schools: non-statutory guidance 2010; SACRE and Self Evaluation: A guide Ofsted 2005; Circular 1/94 (Collective Worship).

These responsibilities are:

- a) **to advise** the Authority on such matters connected with Religious Education and Collective Worship in Walsall Community schools, Foundation schools without a religious character and Voluntary Controlled schools.
- b) **to monitor** the provision and quality of RE taught according to its Agreed Syllabus together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus in all schools.
- c) **to provide** advice and support on the effective teaching of the Agreed Syllabus.
- d) **to provide** advice to the LA and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training.
- e) **to require** the LA to set up a statutory conference to review the Agreed Syllabus if, in the opinion of the SACRE, this becomes necessary. This must be reviewed and updated every five years but a majority of representative groups on the SACRE, other than that consisting of persons chosen to represent the Authority (Group D), may at any time require a review of the Agreed Syllabus which is currently being used by the Authority.

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- f) **to consider**, in partnership with the LA, whether any changes need to be made to the Agreed Syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus, to improve the quality of RE and the learning of pupils.
- g) **to offer** schools and the LA advice concerning how an existing syllabus can be interpreted so as to fit in with wider changes in education.
- h) **to receive, determine and review** applications from headteachers that the requirement for **Collective Worship** in community schools to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all of the pupils at that particular school.
- i) **to publish** an annual report on its work and on actions taken by its representative groups, specifying any matters on which it has advised the LA, broadly describing the nature of that advice, and setting reasons for offering advice on matters which were not referred to it by the LA. This report will be presented to the LA and schools and is to be delivered to the Department for Education and NASACRE (the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education) by the date specified. This report should also be made available to the public. The report will provide at least the information specified by the receiving body.
- j) **to develop** SACRE's own role, supported by the LA and working with inter-religious bodies, to enhance the important contribution that the study of religion and belief can make to community cohesion, British values* and the combating of religious prejudice and discrimination.
- k) **to offer** advice to the Walsall LA on any matters related to SACREs.

3. Membership of SACRE

- a) The number of representative members shall be determined from time to time by the LA and the individual appointments should be made by the LA after taking all reasonable steps to assure itself that the individual is representative of the denomination or the teacher association concerned. It is desirable that all members have an interest in education in general and in religious education in particular.
- b) SACRE is to be comprised of the members of the four Representative Groups and members co-opted to SACRE
- c) The four Representative Groups shall be:

Group A: Such Christian denominations other religions and religious denominations as, in the opinion of the LA, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in Walsall and religions and faiths covered by the Agreed Syllabus. The number of representatives of each religion and religious denomination appointed shall, so far as 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 2011 census data:

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- 1 Baptist
- 1 Black Country Orthodox Trust
- 2 Methodist
- 1 New Testament Church of God
- 1 Quakers
- 1 Roman Catholic
- 1 Salvation Army
- 1 United Reform Church
- 3 Muslim
- 2 Hindu
- 3 Sikh
- 1 Jewish
- 1 Buddhist

Non-Religious Philosophical Convictions

- 2 appointed representative for people with non-religious affiliation or belief not represented by any other membership group so long as the non-religious beliefs analogous (similar or equivalent) to a religious beliefs as per the following guidance:-
 - To be “analogous” we consider the non-religious beliefs must in accordance with case law under the European Convention of Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998 attain the necessary level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance to attract protection under the Convention Rights.
 - Any appointment is dependent on the relevant local authority’s opinion as to whether such a representative would help ensure that the relevant traditions in the local authority’s area are appropriately reflected in Group A. The final decision of an appointment rests with the local authority, and they are best placed to assess whether a SACRE has the necessary expertise and experience to properly discharge its function.

Nomination and election process

Nominations for people with non-religious affiliation or belief not represented by any other membership group in Category A should be submitted in writing to Democratic Services. Nominations to be reviewed by the Director of Children’s Service together with the Portfolio Holder for Education and SACRE, to consider eligibility. A recommendation to Council shall then be made.

Group B: Church of England. This group is made up of 5 members of the Church of England, representing the Diocese of Lichfield. It can include both clergy and lay people. Each nominee will be proposed by the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education and appointed by the LA. The nominating body will be the

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point of reference should the LA have any questions pertaining to their nominee(s) either before or subsequent to their appointment.

Group C: Teacher representatives to represent a spread of teacher specialisations as listed below, and these should reflect as broad a spread of teacher associations as possible. Any teacher association that is not represented by the teacher category criteria will have the right to nominate an additional representative. The nominating body will be the point of reference should the LA have any questions pertaining to their nominee(s) either before or subsequent to their appointment:

- 2 Maintained School Headteachers (Primary or Secondary)
- 1 Secondary Academy School Headteachers
- 1 Primary Academy School Headteacher
- Local RE subject leader Primary
- Local RE subject leader secondary
- Representatives of Unions (NUT, NASUWT, ATL, ASCL, NAHT)

Group D: Local Authority. This group shall comprise a group of up to seven elected members as nominated by the political parties represented on the council.

Co-opted members: SACRE shall have the right to co-opt additional members for the remainder of the municipal year. Co-opted members may take part in any of the discussions but do not belong to any of the groups and do not have voting rights. The co-opted members shall be appointed only by those members of SACRE who have not themselves been co-opted.

Co-opted Members to include a Humanist UK representative.

4. Officer Support

- a) Local Authority senior officer or representative (non-voting)
- b) Clerk to SACRE (non-voting)
- c) RE Consultant (non-voting)

The nominating body will be the point of reference should the LA have any questions pertaining to their nominee(s) either before or subsequent to their appointment. The Head of Service will be the point of reference should SACRE have any questions pertaining to the Local Authority Senior Officer.

5. Membership

- a) The LA shall appoint the members of the SACRE after consulting with the Nominating Bodies as appropriate.
- b) Nominating bodies will review their representation at the beginning of each municipal year or up to every five years as they see fit.

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- c) An individual representative member may resign at any time by giving notice in writing to their Nominating Body and to the Clerk of SACRE
- d) An individual representative member may be removed from membership by the LA, if in the opinion of the LA he or she ceases to be representative of the nominating denomination or teacher association.
- e) Following non-attendance of a member at two consecutive meetings without apology, the SACRE will recommend to the LA that a replacement nomination be sought from the relevant Nominating Body.

6. Term of Office

- a) Appointments to SACRE shall generally be for a term of 5 years from the date that the new member should have attended their first meeting. Groups can re-nominate members after the end of the 5 years for consideration by the LA. Members may not serve for more than two consecutive periods of 10 years (i.e. ten consecutive years in total). SACRE may waive this rule with the agreement of all voting members of SACRE if the continued service of a Member was considered to be beneficial to the Council.
- b) The SACRE shall review the membership annually at the AGM in the summer term.

7. Voting

- a) Each of the four Groups on SACRE shall have one vote. Groups are to determine their own internal voting arrangements. Decisions within a group about how that vote is cast do not require unanimity. Each group is to regulate its own proceedings including provision for resolving deadlock.
- b) A proposal shall not be deemed to be carried unless it has been approved by at least three of the four Groups, unless otherwise required by law or guidance. If there is a tied vote then the issue would fail, and no action would be taken.
- c) The validity of the proceedings of SACRE or of the members of SACRE of any particular category shall not be affected by a vacancy in the office of any member of SACRE, or on the ground that a member appointed to represent any religion, religious denomination or association does not at the time of the proceedings represent the religion, religious denomination or association in question.

8. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of one member from at least three of the constituent groups with a total presence of no less than eight of the appointed members.

9. Chairs and Vice Chair

- a) The chair and vice chair will be appointed by the membership of SACRE at the AGM in the summer term or any meeting during the year when the

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position is vacant. Normally the chair and vice chair will remain in their positions for two years.

- b) The chair and vice chair, where possible, will represent different Groups of the SACRE and if possible have different religious backgrounds.
- c) SACRE will put in place procedures to consider succession planning for the posts of chair and vice chair.
- d) Where a vote is required, voting will be by a simple majority with each Group being assigned one vote.
- e) The Chair will be responsible for:
 - the management of meetings
 - representing the SACRE to other bodies
 - such other duties as the SACRE considers appropriate.
- f) The Vice Chair will be responsible for:
 - deputising for the chair as required;
 - representing the SACRE to other bodies in the absence of the chair or in agreement with the Chair
 - such other duties as the SACRE considers appropriate.

10. The Clerk

The LA shall appoint, fund and supervise a Clerk to:

- a) attend the full meetings of SACRE, any agenda setting meeting and Agreed Syllabus Conference meetings
- b) take appropriate minutes and notes at meetings
- c) maintain and update the records of SACRE and its meetings
- d) perform any other necessary administrative duties
- e) provide a copy of the minutes and papers of meeting to the members of SACRE and LA

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11. The Local Authority Senior officer

SACRE shall be served by a Local Authority Senior Officer. The LA officer will:

- a) attend each SACRE and ASC meeting
- b) represent the views of the LA at these meetings
- c) provide necessary information and support to the RE Consultant regarding RE and Collective Worship in the Walsall schools
- d) ensure that the LA provide sufficient funds for SACRE to perform its functions.

12. The RE Consultant

The RE adviser will:

- a) attend each meeting of the SACRE and support the SACRE to fulfil its function with regard to RE and Collective Worship
- b) work with the Chair, Clerk and LA Officer to prepare the SACRE agenda and any reports, papers or advice required
- c) report regularly to SACRE on work completed on behalf of SACRE
- d) provide expertise and advice in the areas of RE and Collective Worship.

13. Meetings of SACRE

- a) There will normally be three SACRE meetings per academic year, one per term. Meetings will be convened by the LA. The summer term meeting will be the AGM.
- b) Special meetings may be called by the Chair, Vice Chair and LA acting jointly.
- c) Details of the business to be considered by the meeting, which will be included in the agenda, must be received by the Clerk not later than 15 school days before the meeting.
- d) The Clerk will, no later than 5 working days before the meeting, circulate the agenda and supporting papers to the members.
- e) Meetings of SACRE shall be held in public except where an item of business is being considered which involves the consideration of confidential information in accordance with the Religious Education (Meetings of Local Conferences and Councils).

14. Convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference

- a) Walsall LA is required to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) to review the Agreed Syllabus every five years. An ASC may be requested to be convened by SACRE more frequently.
- b) This conference will ideally have the same composition as SACRE. There is no provision for co-opted members, however some individuals may be invited to all meetings of the conference and its Groups in order to give their advice.

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15. General

- a) The SACRE may if it wishes establish working parties to take forward specific projects comprising representatives of each of the groups and the RE Consultant. These working parties will report back to SACRE regularly, according to a schedule agreed at the outset of the project.
- b) In accordance with the statutory requirements of the Education Act 1996 and associated regulations, the press and public will be entitled to attend meetings of the SACRE, but may be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of items containing information capable of being treated as exempt information if meetings of SACRE were meetings of a Local Authority. The press and public are not entitled to attend meetings of an Agreed Syllabus Conference.
- c) The Constitution will be reviewed on a biennial basis at the Summer term meeting of SACRE (the AGM) and suggestions for amendment voted on as described in Sections 7 & 8. Minor amendments may be brought to any meeting, with the agreement of members, and such minor amendments voted on as described in Section 7 & 8.

*For the purpose of this document British values are those identified by the DFE and monitored by OFSTED

- democracy.
- the rule of law.
- individual liberty.
- mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.