

**ISLE OF WIGHT STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**(‘SACRE’)**

**DRAFT CONSTITUTION FOR CONSIDERATION**

**ISLE OF WIGHT STANDING ADVISORY  
COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
(‘SACRE’) CONSTITUTION**

The SACRE has been established under the provisions of Section 390 – 397 of the 1996 Education Act.

**1. COMPOSITION OF SACRE**

1.1 SACRE shall consist of representative members appointed to the four committees of the SACRE by the Local Authority of the Isle of Wight (‘the LA’) as follows:

**1.1.1 Committee A**

The members of Committee A shall be representatives of such Christian and other religious denominations which reflect the principal traditions in the Isle of Wight, not including the Church of England, and shall consist of 10 members as follows:

Two persons who are representative of the Roman Catholic Church, nominated by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth.

Eight members that are representatives of other Faiths as agreed by the LA. (See note 2).

**1.1.2 Committee B (4 members in total)**

The members of Committee B shall be representative of the Church of England and shall consist of:

Four persons nominated by the Portsmouth Diocesan Board of Education

**1.1.3 Committee C (4 members in total)**

The members of Committee C shall be representatives of the Isle of Wight Teachers and shall consist of:

One Headteacher nominated by Primary Heads

One teacher from each of the primary, secondary and special schools.

**1.1.4 Committee D (4 members in total)**

The members of Committee D shall be representative of the Local authority and shall consist of:

Two elected members and up to two further representatives nominated by the

LA.

The four Committees A-D shall constitute the SACRE.

1.2 In appointing representatives to SACRE the LA must take all reasonable steps to satisfy that the persons so appointed are representatives of the denominations or associations as required in this paragraph

## 2. **CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVE**

SACRE shall have the power to co-opt voting representatives to the Committees.

## 3. **OFFICER REPRESENTATIVES**

- 3.1 The Director of Education, currently the director of Childrens Services, shall appoint an officer to attend SACRE meetings as an observer or in an advisory capacity only but not to vote.
- 3.2 The Officer shall be responsible for setting the Agenda for SACRE meetings in consultation with the Chair and Clerk to the SACRE
- 3.3 A Clerk to the SACRE will be appointed by the LA and shall be responsible for taking Minutes of all SACRE meetings and distributing the same within a reasonable time thereafter.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Two students to be nominated from high school sixth forms to attend but not to vote.

## 4. **CHAIR**

- 4.1 Each Committee of the SACRE shall nominate a spokesperson on an annual basis.
- 4.2 SACRE shall have a Chairman and vice chairman who shall be appointed for a period of 4 years. The Chairman and vice chairman of SACRE shall be held on rotation by the Chair of Committees A-D unless otherwise agreed by SACRE.

The elected Chairmen and vice chairman shall remain in office until the election of their successors, they become disqualified, resign or the council or committee votes their removal. In the latter two cases, an election for their successor should be held as soon as possible. If neither the chairman or vice chairman is present or able to preside, the committee shall elect another member to preside for that meeting or item.

## 5. **TERM OF OFFICE**

- 5.1 Members of the Committees shall serve on the Committees for a period of four years until the election of their successors, they become disqualified, are no longer representative of the religion, denomination or associations for which they were appointed to represent, resign or the council or committee votes their removal. A member may be further nominated for a further 4 year term by the group they represent and reappointed by the Local Authority.

## 6. **MEETINGS AND VOTING**

- 6.1.1 Decisions at each Committee meeting as to how to vote at a meeting of SACRE shall be determined by the majority of the members present and voting on the question provided that in the case of equality of votes the Chair of the committee meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- 6.2

- 6.2.1 The quorum at a meeting of SACRE shall be 4 so long as it includes at least one representative present from each of the Committees A-D.
- 6.2.2 Each Committee shall have one vote at a meeting of SACRE in relation to any statutory issues such as The Agreed Syllabus Conference.
- 6.2.3 At a meeting of SACRE every matter, apart from items referred to in 6.2.2, shall be determined by a simple majority of those present and voting on the question provided that in the case of equality of votes the Chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- 6.3
- 6.3.1 SACRE will meet 3 times in each year at such time and such place, as SACRE shall determine, usually termly. Such places to include places of worship, schools and County Hall on a rotation basis.
- 6.3.2 Any working group set up by SACRE in accordance with paragraph 9 hereof shall meet as and when required.
- 6.4 Committee A-C shall be entitled to vote on and require SACRE to carry out a review of the LA's Religious Education Syllabus ('the Agreed Syllabus'). Each Committee shall have one vote on the question of whether to require such a review.
- 6.5
- 6.5.1 The meetings of SACRE shall be open to members of the public including duly accredited representatives of news media although the public may be excluded from a meeting during an item of business whenever it is likely that, if members of the public were present, confidential information would be disclosed.
- 6.6 For the purpose of suppressing or preventing disorderly conduct or other misbehaviour at a meeting the conference or the council shall have power to exclude any person from a meeting by simple majority vote.
- 6.6.1 Public notice of the time and place of any meeting of SACRE shall be given by posting it at the offices of the LA 5 clear working days before the meeting.
- 6.6.2 Copies of agendas and reports if appropriate of SACRE meetings shall be available for inspection by members of the public at least 5 clear days before the meeting.
- 6.6.3 Copies of agendas, reports and minutes shall be available for inspection by members of the public after a meeting of SACRE until the expiration of 6 years beginning with the date of the meeting. They will also be available on the LA's website.
- 6.6.4 If the chairman of the conference or of the council (as the case may be) thinks fit, there may be excluded from the copies of reports made available in pursuance of the above the whole of any report which, or any part of which, relates only to items during which, in his opinion, the meeting is likely not to be open to the public; and, accordingly, where the whole or any part of a report is not to be available for inspection, every copy of the report (or of the part) shall be marked "Not for publication"
- 6.6.5 Information regarding meetings, agendas and reports to be put on the local Authority's website.

**PROVIDED ALWAYS** that the SACRE shall not be authorised or required to disclose to the public confidential information as defined by paragraph 9 of the Religious Education (Meetings of Local Conferences and Councils) Regulations 1994.

## **7. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

7.1 The SACRE shall comply with all its obligations contained or referred to in Part V Chapter 111 and Schedule 31 to the Education Act 1996 and in particular shall:

7.1.1 Advise the LA on Religious Education and collective worship in LA schools within the Isle of Wight.

7.1.2 Decide on applications for determinations of cases in which requirements for Christian collective worship is not to apply as and when required.

7.1.3 Require the LA to review its Agreed Syllabus.

7.1.4 Publish an annual report of its works specifying any advice given, its nature and reasons for giving it, to the LA.

7.1.5 For the avoidance of doubt the obligation on SACRE in accordance with paragraph 7.1.1 shall include methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers.

## **8. RESPONSIBILITIES**

8.1 SACRE is responsible for the provision of advice to help the LA and Governing bodies ensure that:

8.1.1 All pupils in attendance at an LA school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship and that this shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

8.1.2 Every LA school provides a basic curriculum which includes provision for Religious Education for all registered pupils at the school alongside the National Curriculum.

Religious Education is in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus and that the Agreed Syllabus reflects the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. VA schools follow Diocesan guidelines for Religious Education.

### **8.1.3 WORKING GROUPS**

SACRE shall as and when required appoint Working Groups to advise and report back to SACRE on any issue within the terms of reference specified in paragraph 7 hereof and shall meet as and when required.

## **9. RECORDS**

Copies of the minutes prepared by the Clerk will be held in the LA's offices for a period of 6 years and will be made available to the public on request.

**10. CONSULTATION PROCESS**

10.1 The Committees are required to consult with the groups that they represent on a regular basis.

From time to time SACRE may, as and when appropriate, consult with parents and governing bodies of LA schools and shall make contact with the parents and governing bodies via the school.

**11. REMOVAL OF REPRESENTATIVES**

11.1 A member of the SACRE may be removed from membership if the member ceases to be representative of the religion, denomination or associations, which he or she was appointed to represent or he or she ceases to be representative of the LA.

**12. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Any proposal to alter the Constitution of SACRE shall be made at a meeting of SACRE and shall be approved only by a unanimous vote at the meeting. The proposal will be considered for adoption by the LA.

**THIS CONSTITUTION** was proposed to the LA for adoption as the Constitution of the Isle of Wight Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education at a meeting duly convened at:

On:

.....Chair

.....Vice Chair