

SHEFFIELD
Standing Advisory Council
on Religious Education
(Sheffield SACRE)

Core Values,
Duties, Funding,
and Procedures

August 2014

1. Core Values

1.1 Sheffield SACRE seeks to ensure that all pupils in our schools develop socially, culturally, morally, academically, emotionally and spiritually so that they are able to understand themselves, understand others and develop a wide range of skills to benefit from and cope with the opportunities, challenges and responsibilities of living in a rapidly changing world.

1.2 Our vision is:

for schools to be able to:

- provide challenging learning through the Religious Education Curriculum;
- promote an inspirational and aspirational ethos through meaningful and engaging Collective Worship;
- contribute to community cohesion by engaging the whole school community in an exploration of identity and community in the local, national and global context.

for the Local Authority to:

- place a high priority on the role of RE and collective worship in schools;
- aim to provide sufficient resource to support schools in the above;
- work in partnership with SACRE to build links between schools and local faith communities.

for SACRE members to:

- represent their constituents in the spirit of promoting educational RE and Collective Worship within statutory regulations;
- represent fairly the views of their constituents as far as this is possible;
- work with other members of SACRE to model and promote respect for and understanding of different beliefs and lifestyles and a universal search for what it means to be human.

1.3 Education in Sheffield is an inclusive process that promotes knowledge, understanding and the development of a range of skills as well as personal development. Religious Education must therefore be open to all pupils, and be taught in a climate of open enquiry. It must not promote any particular approach to spirituality, religion, or worldview as 'the right way'. Rather it must enable pupils to understand their own spirituality, faith, or worldview and to learn from their study of different faiths and worldviews. In view of this, members of SACRE will work together to enable all children and young people to:

- a) understand the nature, role and influence of religion in the world
- b) pursue a personal quest for meaning, purpose and value
- c) formulate and express reasoned opinion/argument
- d) promote understanding of and respect for different beliefs and life-styles

2. Duties of Sheffield SACRE

2.1 To advise the Local Authority on such matters concerned with Religious Education, according to an Agreed Syllabus. This advice should be sent to all schools and sixth form colleges, including Academies and Faith Schools.

2.2 To advise the Local Authority on matters concerned with Collective Worship in schools.

2.3 To receive and determine whether an application from a head teacher to vary the requirement for Collective Worship of a broadly or mainly Christian character is appropriate for the whole school or for groups of pupils.

2.4 To publish a report on the work of the SACRE and its monitoring of Religious Education in Sheffield schools for dissemination to all stakeholders and, specifically, the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

2.5 To require a statutory conference to review the Sheffield Agreed Syllabus every 5 years, if in the opinion of SACRE, this becomes necessary.

2.6 To support the Local Authority's focus on community cohesion, Sheffield SACRE may make links with other local groups, multicultural centres, and community support officials. They may also make links with other neighbouring Local Authorities or SACREs.

2.7 Sheffield SACRE may also promote short term local collaborations, conferences and events to further the work of Religious Education in Sheffield schools, and to promote community cohesion across the city. They may also promote wider national events.

3. Funding

3.1 The Local Authority shall fund subscription to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) in order for it to receive support and advice from the national body.

3.2 The Local Authority will appoint and fund a clerk to support SACRE meetings and correspondence. Where appropriate they shall appoint a person to support the work of the SACRE as agreed at meetings, including the promotion of SACRE to faith communities and other nominating bodies to increase representation, and to provide introductions and materials to improve retention of members.

3.3 The Local Authority shall fund an Agreed Syllabus Conference to review the agreed Syllabus as necessary.

3.4 Funding for occasional particular projects will be at the discretion of the Local Authority.

4. Procedures

4.1 Membership: where vacancies exist, the Local Authority shall make contact with the nominating bodies of the 4 groups of members, inviting them to appoint a representative. It may co-opt such members as considered appropriate.

4.2 Meetings: these will be held 3 times each year, with dates agreed at the last meeting of each year, to be modified where appropriate. Additional meetings may be agreed by any quorate meeting (as explained in the Constitution document), or by the Local Authority where there is good reason, such as the revision and adoption of a new Agreed Syllabus.

4.3 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 a month in advance of the next listed meeting.

4.4 Minutes: the draft minutes of meetings shall be circulated to members within one month of the meeting taking place.

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