

Rutland Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

A SACRE is required by the Education Reform Act of 1988 to be established by the local authority (cf. also DFE Circular 1/94, para.89: 1 and 2; The Education Act 1996, Chapter 111; and RE in English Schools Non-Statutory Guidance 2010, pages 10-16). The Local Authority (LA) must provide SACRE with a suitable annual budget to ensure that SACRE can carry out its statutory responsibilities effectively.

The LA is Rutland County Council.

Rutland SACRE is an independent body which exists to advise the local authority on matters concerned with the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship in state-maintained schools.

'Member' means a member of Rutland SACRE, usually appointed, but includes a substitute or co-opted member.

A meeting will only be quorate if all four of the following groups are represented:

- Group A - Representatives of other Churches and faiths
- Group B - Church of England Representatives
- Group C - Teacher Associations
- Group D - Local Education Authority Representatives

A Member can only represent one group. Rutland SACRE has the power to co-opt members as agreed by the majority of its members. All members are entitled to speak and vote on any issue, but substitute or co-opted members may speak but not vote at any meeting. Rutland SACRE will always seek to reach decisions on a consensus basis but in the event of a vote being taken only one vote is allowed from each of the FOUR groups. In the event of a tied vote on any issue the Chair may exercise the casting vote.

Membership

Group A	Number of representatives
Baptist Church	1
Humanist UK	1
Jewish Community	1
Methodist Church	1
Muslim Community	1
Quakers	1
Roman Catholic Church	1
Sikh Community	1
United Reform Church	1
Group B	
Rutland Deanery	2
Peterborough Diocese	2
Group C	
Teacher Representatives	5
Education Support Staff	1
Group D	
Local Authority County Councillors	2

Rutland SACRE can co-opt members when it is deemed a person's expertise is required to help inform SACRE's work. Co-opted members do not have voting rights.

In addition, there is a Local Authority SACRE Officer or Adviser and a Local Authority SACRE Clerk. Both are appointed by the Local Authority but neither have voting rights.

The Responsibilities of Membership

All Members shall be committed to education and to respecting the views of others. Members shall remain until such time as they will have resigned or fulfilled their duties of membership under the rules dictated by their Governing Body e.g.co-opted temporarily because of a specific expertise in Religious Education. There can be a substitute Member nominated by an absent Member. Notice of this substitution should be received by the LA SACRE Clerk at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

If a Member is absent for 3 or more consecutive meetings for any reason not acceptable to the LA, it shall be assumed that a vacancy now exists. The matters will be referred to the sub-group of Members responsible for Membership.

The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be chosen from the Members of the Rutland SACRE and shall be elected at the first meeting in each academic year. In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair at any meeting the LA can elect one of its members to act as the Chair for that meeting.

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The Duties of the Rutland SACRE

Rutland SACRE's main function is to advise the LA on matters related to RE, which follows the locally agreed syllabus, and on collective worship in schools. This means Rutland SACRE:

- can require the LA to review its agreed syllabus;
- must consider applications from a head teacher that the school be released from the requirement for collective worship to be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character." (A determination.); and
- must publish an annual report of its work.

Further Rutland SACRE is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools/colleges through. This means Rutland SACRE shall:

- provide advice on methods of teaching the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education;
- advise the LA on provision of training for teachers;
- gather feedback and evidence from inspection reports and exam entries and results on Religious Education, Collective Worship and Personal Development;

- consider complaints about the provision and delivery of Religious Education and Collective Worship referred to SACRE by the LA;
- ask the LA to review its Agreed Syllabus; and
- contributing to Community Cohesion and Safeguarding of young people and children.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference

An Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) is a statutory body brought together in order to produce an agreed syllabus for RE. It is a separate legal entity from a SACRE. An ASC:

- has the same committee structure as the SACRE; and
- can be made up of SACRE members but need not be so. There is no provision for co-opted members.

The Chair of the ASC can be appointed by the LA, or the LA may allow the ASC to choose its own chair. The LA's responsibility to convene the ASC implies a duty to provide funds and support for its work. Rutland County Council uses Rutland Agreed Syllabus and works in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council SACRE's.

Procedures for SACRE

Dates

The Rutland SACRE meets four times a year.

Agenda

Matters for the agenda of any meeting shall be sent to the clerk at least ten days in advance of the meeting. The clerk shall agree the agenda with the chair and the agenda shall be distributed to each member seven days in advance of the next listed meeting.

Minutes

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

Notification

Rutland SACRE is a public meeting, and the clerk shall ensure public notice is given as with any Rutland County Council meeting and arrangements made for the public to attend should they so wish. Minutes will also be made public once approved.