

Rutland Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

A SACRE is part of the local government machinery which was 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 must provide SACRE with a suitable annual budget to ensure that SACRE can carry out its statutory responsibilities effectively.

The Council is named Rutland Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education.

The LA is Rutland Local Authority and Rutland SACRE is an independent body which exists to advise the LA on matters concerned with the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship in state maintained schools.

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

The Responsibilities of Membership

Each group has equal status and voting rights. All members shall be delegates who are committed to education and to respecting the views of others. Delegates as 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 and notice of this substitution should be received by the clerk of the SACRE 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 Council it shall be assumed that a vacancy now exists and the matter will be referred to the relevant group/committee.

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 Council can elect one of its members to act as the Chair for that meeting.

A meeting will only be quorate if three of respective groups are represented. The Groups are:

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

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. A 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
The Baptist Church	1
The Methodist Church	1
The Quakers	1
The Roman Catholic Church	1
The United Reform Church	1
British Humanist Association	1
Group B	
Rutland Deanery	2
Peterborough Diocese	2
Group C	
ATL	1
NUT	1
NAHT	1
NASUWT	1
Voice	1
Group D	
Local Authority County Councillors	2

Rutland SACRE co-opts from the following, and additional members if appropriate

Co-opted groups	Number of representatives
Unison (representing Teaching Assistants)	1
Rutland Head Teachers' Forum	1
Rutland RE Teachers' Network	1
Rutland Academies (one primary, one secondary)	2

In addition there is an LA Officer/ Adviser to SACRE and a clerk appointed by the LA but neither have voting rights.

The Duties of the Rutland SACRE

The SACRE's main function is to advise the local authority on matters related to RE, which follows the locally agreed syllabus, and on collective worship in schools.

The 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.)
- Must publish an annual report of its work.

The broad role of the SACRE is to support the effective provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools/colleges through:

- Advice on methods of teaching the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education;
- Advising the LA on provision of training for teachers;
- Monitoring inspection reports on Religious Education, Collective Worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Development of pupils;

- Considering complaints about the provision and delivery of Religious Education and Collective Worship referred to SACRE by the LA
- Asking the LA to review its Agreed Syllabus
- Contributing to Community Cohesion and safeguarding of children and young people.

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
- 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 local authority 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 uses the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus and will work with the Northamptonshire ASC until such time as either authority wishes to terminate this relationship.

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

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.