

LEWISHAM STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL

on

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

(LEWISHAM SACRE)

CONSTITUTION

Dated:

LEWISHAM STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Council shall be called the Lewisham SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education). It is established under Section 3.90 – 3.97 of the Education Act 1996 as amended.

Interpretation

In this Constitution

‘Local Authority’ means Lewisham Council acting either independently or through the Education Lead Member and Directorate.

‘The Council’ means Lewisham’s SACRE.

‘Member’ means a Member of SACRE and includes a substitute or co-opted Member.

‘Elected member’ means an elected member of the council sitting on Committee D as a SACRE member

All questions of Interpretation are governed by the “Interpretation Act” 1978 as may be subsequently amended.

MEMBERSHIP

Current membership of Lewisham SACRE

Committee A Other Christian denominations and other faiths and beliefs represented in the LA

African-Caribbean Churches/ Pentecostal churches	1 representative
Baha’i	1 representative
Buddhism	1 representative
Free Churches	3 representatives
Hinduism	1 representative
Humanism	1 representative
Islam	2 representatives
Judaism	1 representative
Roman Catholicism	1 representative
Sikhism	1 representative

Committee B The Church of England

Southwark Diocese 5 representatives

Committee C Teachers’ Professional Associations

ATL	1 representative
NASUWT	1 representative
NUT	2 representatives
Lewisham Heads and Deputies	1 representative
Turnham school	1 representative

Committee D The Local Authority

Elected Members	3 representatives
Representative of the Executive Director	1 representative
Secondary school Governors	1 representative

Primary school Governors 1 representative

Also

Clerk to the SACRE	(non-voting)
RE Adviser to SACRE	(non-voting)
Co-optees	(non-voting)

All members shall be delegates who are interested in education in general and religious education in particular. Delegates as Members shall remain until such time as they will have resigned or have been removed from Membership under the rules dictated by their sponsorship group, Governing Body of that class of Members or for any reason stated therein.

There can be a substitute Member nominated by the absent member and notice of this substitution should be notified to the clerk of SACRE at least 6 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 there shall be deemed to be a vacated place to be filled by the sponsorship group / governing body for that class of Members.

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council shall be chosen from Members of the SACRE and shall be elected at the first meeting in each education (academic) year.

In the absence of the Chair or Vice-Chair at any meeting the Council can elect one of its member to act as the Chair for that meeting.

A meeting will only be quorate if the following numbers of representative/s of the respective groups are present: -

Group A - minimum of 2 representatives (1 Christian and 1 non-Christian)

Group B - minimum of 1 representative

Group C - minimum of 1 representative

Group D – minimum of 1 representative

All members are entitled to speak and vote on any issue as invited by the Chair but substitute or Co-opted members may speak but not vote at any meeting. SACRE will always seek to reach decisions on a consensus basis but when voting is to be exercised as only one vote is allowed from each group A, B, C or D as mentioned above.

Co-option – SACRE has the power to co-opt members as agreed by the majority of its members.

In the event of an equality of votes on any issue the Chair may exercise a casting vote.

The clerk of the Council shall be an employee of Southwark Council as designated by the Council's Director of Legal and Democratic Services.

THE DUTIES OF SACRE

To advise the LA on such matters concerned with school worship and with Religious Education according to an Agreed Syllabus as the LA may refer to it or as SACRE may see fit. These matters might include, for example, the provision of INSET, methods of teaching and choice of materials and the consideration of complaints should the LA so require.

SACRE shall send a copy of advice on religious education in accordance with the current agreed syllabus to the Head Teacher of all Academies or free schools within the borough. Such advice will also be sent to Schools with a religious character for information.

To receive, and determine whether an application from a Head Teacher to vary the legal requirement for collective is appropriate for the whole school or for groups of pupils.

To publish an annual report outlining SACRE's work, the advice given by SACRE to the LA and whether a Statutory Agreed Syllabus Conference was requested during that year. The report should broadly describe the nature of advice provided and, if such advice was in relation to matters not referred to SACRE by the LA, stating the reasons why such advice was offered.

A copy of the report will be sent by SACRE to the Department for Education (DfE) and the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)

To require the LA to set up a Statutory Agreed Syllabus Conference to review the Agreed Syllabus if, in the opinion of SACRE, this becomes necessary.

PROCEDURES

Dates

The dates of the main meetings will be decided at the first meeting in the education (academic) year.

Agenda

Matters for the Agenda of any meeting shall be sent to the Clerk at least 21 days in advance of the meeting.

T

he Agenda shall be distributed to reach members at least 7 working 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.

..... (Chair) on behalf of Lewisham SACRE

Dated: