

## APPENDIX 2 - LEWISHAM SACRE and Agreed Syllabus Conference

### Code of conduct

*Please note- where an Agreed Syllabus is currently working, references to SACRE also relate to the Agreed Syllabus Conference, its work, members and its Chair.*

#### All representatives should:

- be nominated by a respected professional body and / or faith and belief community and have the support of their nominating body behind them;
- regularly attend the meetings of SACRE and take part in the deliberations and work of SACRE;
- where attendance is difficult, aim to ensure a substitute member is nominated who can attend;
- ensure apologies are submitted when attendance is not possible;
- demonstrate respect to the work of the SACRE and its Chair;
- participate in and share the work of SACRE for the benefit of the whole community;
- actively challenge and resist stereotyping;
- work with all other members of SACRE, in the spirit of trust and collaboration where all are concerned with the best interests of SACRE and its work;
- state views and opinions honestly, whilst respecting and listening to each other's contributions, not denigrating each other's views or beliefs;
- respect the rights of other members to disagree with your point of view;
- express differing points of view in a spirit of respectful disagreement;
- understand that it is not the place of RE to challenge the beliefs of any member of the school community or to attempt to change those beliefs;
- have respect for the work of SACRE, believing that the RE and collective worship that all students are legally entitled to experience should be of the highest quality.

#### Belief group representatives should:

- ensure that they have sufficient knowledge, skills and understanding to represent authentically their belief, community or sponsoring body
- be able to explain how they intend to inform and consult with their belief community
- feel a sense of responsibility not only to the children coming from their own belief but also to all the children of Lewisham
- provide expertise, or assist in providing access to such expertise, in matters of tradition, theology and practice relating to their own belief for the benefit of the whole school population
- represent to SACRE the interests and concerns of their own belief community
- endeavour to represent fairly the views and interests of the widest possible range of belief positions within their community (*this is particularly relevant if they are the sole representative on SACRE for their belief.*)

- recognise that stating a belief or religious tenet is not the same as advancing an argument for or against any proposal, although it may well be an overriding consideration
- inform members of their belief community of the work of SACRE

**Teacher and teacher association representatives should:**

- provide information and expertise in relation to teaching and the school environment
- where appropriate provide information and expertise in relation to the teaching of religious education and the delivery of collective worship in schools
- represent the interests and concerns of teachers, pupils and schools
- consult with teaching colleagues and students
- keep colleagues informed about the work of SACRE
- ensure that the welfare and education, particularly religious education, of all the children in Lewisham is the primary focus of SACRE

**LA representatives should:**

- represent the wider public interest or the interest of the school communities
- provide information and expertise to SACRE in their capacity as an elected member of Lewisham Council or a school Governor
- inform SACRE of concerns or issues known to Lewisham Council relating to education and in particular the provision for SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development), teaching of religious education and the delivery of collective worship in schools
- support the work of SACRE by representing its interests in Lewisham Council and to school Governing bodies
- endeavour to ensure that SACRE and the ASC are adequately resourced, funded and supported
- ensure that the legal requirements for the conduct of SACRE are observed, particularly in relation to the suitability and qualifications required to be a member of SACRE

*Members who do not work within the code of conduct will be reminded courteously of the relevant elements of this code that they are ignoring by the Chair.*

*Repeated examples of working in conflict with the code and therefore disrespectfully or in conflict with the effective work of either body will result in the issue being taken up with their sponsoring body and ultimately to a request for a replacement representative.*

