

What is a SACRE?

SACRE stands for the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education. Every Local Education Authority (LEA) is required by law to have a SACRE. Its origins go back to the Education Act of 1944, but the Education Reform Act 1988 and the Education Act 1996 strengthened its place in an LEA.

The Function of SACRE

A SACRE's main function is "to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus".

Education Act 1996 section 391

A SACRE also shall, on application by the head teacher of a any county school maintained by the authority, or any grant maintained school which is in the authority's area, consider whether it is appropriate for the collective worship requirement to apply to that school or in any class within that school.

Education Act 1996 section 394

The responsibilities of SACRE are:

- to provide advice to the LEA on all aspects of its provision for RE in its schools (this does not include Voluntary Aided Schools)
- to decide whether the LEA's Agreed Syllabus for RE needs to be reviewed and to require the LEA does so.
- to provide advice to the LEA on Collective Worship in its schools (this does not include Voluntary Aided or Voluntary Controlled Schools).
- to consider any requests from Headteachers to hold Collective Worship that is not of a broadly Christian character.
- to advise on matters relating to training for teachers in RE and Collective Worship.

SACREs respond to matters referred to it by the LEA, which include:

- methods of teaching
- the choice of teaching material
- the provision of teacher training
- the consideration of OFSTED reports, particularly RE and Collective Worship.

From time to time, it may choose to offer other advice as it sees fit.

SACRE meetings are **open** meetings. Anyone is welcome to attend. Although this is not a council committee, meetings of the SACRE are advertised in the same way.

Further information and details of future meetings may be obtained from:

The Clerk to SACRE

Guildhall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 1EU

Tel : 020 8547 5023

Fax: 020 8547 5125

Kingston SACRE

The structure of SACRE is legally determined and its origin is found in the 1944 Education Act. It comprises of four groups, each of which have ONE vote. In Kingston, the structure is as follows:

A. Christian Denominations and other Religions - in Kingston upon Thames these include:

- Kingston, Surbiton & District Synagogue
- Archdiocese of Southwark (Roman Catholic)
- The local Evangelical Churches
- The Sikh Community
- The Hindu Community
- The Muslim Community
- Kingston & District Free Church Federal Council

B. The Church of England

- Diocese of Southwark
- Diocese of Guildford

C. Teachers' Associations

D. The Local Authority

In addition, a number of organisations are co-opted. In Kingston, these include:

- Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
- Schools Christian Worker Project
- British Humanist Association
- the local Baha'i community



STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

INFORMATION SHEET