

## **Item 3 SLOUGH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) Constitution 2026**

### **1.0**

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) has been established in Slough to meet the requirements of the Education Act 1996 (Section 390). This Constitution ensures that those requirements are met and embodies conditions agreed by the Local Authority for the conduct of SACRE's business.

SACRE is a separate body from the Local Authority that is established and supported by the Local Authority in accordance with its statutory duty. Funding for SACRE is provided through the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) of the Dedicated Schools Grant. The SACRE is established in accordance with the Education Act 1996.

### **2.0 Membership**

2.1 The Members of the SACRE shall be appointed by the Authority so that they shall represent the following groups. The Council shall take all reasonable steps to assure itself that an individual appointed to represent any religion, denomination or association is representative of the same.

Committee-Group 1 – Christian denominations (except the Church of England) and other religions (12)

The Free Churches (1)  
The Black Free Churches (1)  
The Roman Catholic Church (1)  
Hinduism (1)  
Islam (4)  
Judaism (1)  
Sikhism (2)  
Baha'is (1)  
Humanism (1)

**Commented [bm1]:** These to be revisited in the light of 2021 Census data and to include the decision regarding our Humanist representation

Committee-Group 2 – The Church of England (4)

Committee-Group 3 – Teachers' associations (representing Primary, Secondary and Special Schools and headteachers) (6)

Committee-Group 4 – The Authority (5) (to reflect the political groups)

2.2 Committee-Group 4 shall be subject to the proportionality requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

2.3 No Member appointed to the Cabinet shall be appointed to the SACRE.

**Commented [bm2]:** Why not? All other SACREs that I have supported have allowed this and some even insisted. There is nothing in law against this, as far as I am aware, and it can be to the advantage of SACRE's work.

The SACRE shall be appointed by the Council in consultation with representative bodies and the Chair of SACRE.

2.4 Members of the SACRE shall serve from the date of their appointment for a term of three years or until their successors are appointed by the Council. They shall be eligible for reappointment after each term for a further term by consultation, if necessary, with the group which they represent. The Council may remove any individual if, in its opinion, the individual ceases to be

representative of the religion, denomination or association which they were appointed to represent or where appointed to Committee 4, a member of the Council.

2.5 The SACRE may co-opt persons on to the Council. Co-opted members will have no voting rights.

2.6 Where a nominated representative fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the SACRE and fails to give their apologies s/he, shall cease to be a member of the SACRE and the nominating body shall be invited to nominate another representative provided that:

- (a) the Clerk to the SACRE has advised the member in writing of the provision of this clause following the second missed meeting and at least 10 working days before the third meeting.
- (b) SACRE does not decide to disapply this rule for reasons of extenuating circumstances.

2.7 Where a member of SACRE breaches the expectations of the agreed Code of Conduct, the Chair of SACRE, supported by the Adviser, will hold a conversation with that member to resolve the issue. If such behaviour continues, the Chair, in consultation with SACRE members, the appropriate representative body and the LA may take the decision that the member is no longer suitable to be a representative on SACRE and asked to leave.

Commented [bm3]: This section could be added to the end of 2.4?

2.8 The SACRE will elect a chairman from among the members of the four committees (A-D) whose term of office will be for a period of two years. The election shall be in the Autumn term of the appropriate school year. If the Chairman steps down at any time, the new chairman will then serve for the remaining time until the two-year term ends.

### 3.0 Terms of Reference

3.1 In accordance with Section 390 and 391 of the Education Act 1996 to advise the Council on:

(a) such matters connected with ~~religious-collective~~ worship in community or foundation schools which do not have a religious character; and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed or other syllabus as the authority may refer to it or as it may see fit.

To advise, in particular, on methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers.

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2. (b) it may determine, on application by the headteacher and after consultation with the Governing Body, that the requirement for collective worship in county schools to be of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all of the pupils in a particular school. The SACRE shall arrive at its decision and communicate it in writing to the headteacher in accordance with the provisions of Section 394 of the Education Act 1996.

~~On application made by a Head Teacher of any community or foundation school not designated as having a religious whether it is appropriate for the requirement for Christian collective character, consider worship to apply in the~~

~~— case of that school, or in the case of any class or description of pupils at that school. SACRE shall give the Head Teacher written notification of its decision.~~

- 3.2 The representative groups on the SACRE other than that representing the authority may at any time require a review of ~~any the current~~ agreed syllabus ~~for the time being adopted by the authority.~~

The SACRE shall each year publish a report on its proceedings and those of its representative groups, the report to specify any matters on which the SACRE has given advice to the authority and the reasons for offering that advice. ~~This annual report will be circulated to members of the Local Council and copies will be sent to schools, the DfE, NASACRE and local teacher training institutions.~~

3.3

- 3.4 ~~On any question to be decided by SACRE, each of the four committee groups set out above are entitled to one single vote. In the event of a tied vote, and where unanimity is not statutorily required, the Chair has the casting vote~~

#### **A. PROCEEDINGS**

1. ~~SACRE will normally meet as a full body once per term. It will be for the SACRE to decide whether further meetings of the full council, representative committees or sub-committees are needed.~~
2. ~~SACRE will be serviced by a clerk provided by the Local Authority and supported by an appropriate officer, with specialism in religious education.~~
3. ~~On any question to be decided by the SACRE, the representative Groups(A-D) have a vote and each Group has a single vote. Decisions within a Group about how that vote is cast do not require unanimity. Each Group will regulate its own proceedings.~~
4. ~~A meeting shall be quorate if there is at least one representative from each Group.~~
5. ~~The validity of proceedings of the SACRE of any particular category shall not be affected by a vacancy in the office of any member of the council.~~
6. ~~If the agenda of a meeting has made it clear that there will be a vote on an issue, it is the responsibility of each Group to ensure that they are represented. Where a vote arises out of a meeting, any Group not represented will be able to vote at the following meeting.~~

~~The SACRE may appoint such standing or ad-hoc sub-committees which it considers necessary in order to fulfil its functions. Any sub-committee so established shall be responsible to the SACRE for any action initiated on its behalf.~~