

A G E N D A

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Kent Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education will be held in the Salvation Army Corps and Community Centre 74-80 Union Street Maidstone ME14 1ED on Wednesday, 27th June, 2012 at 9.30 am

NB Group pre-meetings at 9.15am in the meeting room

Refreshments will be available from 9.15am

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

1. Membership
To note the appointment of Mr S Manion as SACRE Chairman
To review the appointment of Miss T Kelvie and Miss E Pope - co-opted members on Group 3 -Teacher Associations
2. Apologies for Absence/Substitutes
3. Declarations of Interests
4. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)
 - (i) Minutes - 13 March 2012
 - (ii) Matters Arising
5. Budget Issues
6. Youth SACRE
7. Draft Constitution (Pages 7 - 10)
8. Development Plan / Steering Group Report (Pages 11 - 14)
9. Overview of National and Local Developments
10. Meeting Dates
Meeting Dates
Wed 21 November 2012 – County Hall
Thurs 7 March 2013 – County Hall
Wed 26 June 2013 – Gravesend ?
Tues 19 Nov 2013 – County Hall

Briefing Dates
Mon 15 October 2012
Mon 4 February 2013
Mon 20 May 2013
Mon 21 Oct 2013
Veune; Oakwood House, Maidstone

11. Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent
12. Member Presentation Mrs J Wigg - Salvation Army

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

Carol Wade
Clerk to SACRE

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Tuesday, 19 June 2012

Please note that any background documents referred to in the accompanying papers maybe inspected by arrangement with the officer responsible for preparing the relevant report.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES of a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 13 March 2012.

PRESENT: Mrs N Younosi (Vice-Chairman), Ms K Burke, Mrs S Clark, Rabbi C Cohen, Mrs V Corbyn, Mrs C Elapatha, Mrs J Grant, Mrs H Jones, Miss T Kelvie, Miss S Malone, Mr S C Manion, Mrs T Martin, Mrs M McDowall, Mr M J Northey, Mr S Platnauer, Miss S Shaw, Mr R Tyson, Mr N Utton and Miss J Webb

ALSO PRESENT: Prof R J Norman

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Foster (Consultant), Mrs T Palmer (Business Support Officer), Mrs S Rogers (Director of Communication) and Mrs C Wade (Democratic Services Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Membership

(Item 1)

(1) Election of Chairman

(1.1) It was noted there were two strong candidates for the post of Chairman after the resignation of Mr John Viner:-

- (i) Mrs P Martin, proposer Miss S Shaw, seconder Ms K Burke
- (ii) Mr S Manion, proposer Mr M Northey, seconder Mr G Gibbens

(1.2) The Four SACRE Groups broke to discuss how they wished the Convenors to indicate their vote and the results were as follows:-

- (i) Group 1 Mr Manion
- (ii) Group 2 Mrs Martin
- (iii) Group 3 Mrs Martin
- (iv) Group 4 Mr Manion

(1.3) The 2-2 tie result would be communicated to Mr M Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education Learning and Skills for him to confirm the Authorities preferred appointment. The Clerk would inform both candidates of the decision and then email SACRE members with the result.

(1.4) Mrs Martin asked for clarification about the criteria Mr Whiting would use to make his decision. Mr Foster replied that he would take account of the candidate's statements and act in the best interest of SACRE.

(1.5) The Clerk advised that the guidance in Circular 1/94 regarding the appointment of Chair was being followed (section 115) It was noted there had never been more than one candidate for ratification by the Authority.

(1.6) Mr Viner

Mrs Younosi commented that it had been previous practice to mark the departure of the Chairman by having a collection towards a small gift of appreciation and arranging a meal for a small group. It was agreed members would contact the Clerk at the close of the meeting, there were no contributions.

(2). Resignation of Fr Gus Kinnane

(2.1) To note the resignation of Fr Gus Kinnane, Roman Catholic representative on Group 1. Members of the Group wished to record their appreciation for the invaluable support he had given the group and the substantial contribution he had made to the work of SACRE as a whole. It was agreed Mr Foster would write to Fr Gus.

(2.2) The clerk would contact Bishop John Hine regarding an RC replacement.

(2.3) Mrs Younosi was hopeful of filling the vacancy for a Sikh member and Mr Foster was pursuing the Hindu vacancy, but was not optimistic about the outcome.

(2.4) ASPECT

Mr Foster reported that there had been an approach by ASPECT, an organisation representing the voice of educational improvement and children's services professionals, requesting representation on SACRE.

(2.5) Members of the steering Group had considered the request and concluded that ASPECT's remit was too far removed from SACRE's brief and Mr Foster would write to their General Secretary and explain it would not be appropriate.

2. Minutes

(Item 4)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2011 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising

The Minutes of the Final Conference to produce and recommend the Agreed Syllabus for RE held on the 9 November 2011 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

It was suggested the easiest way to access them on the web was to type Kent SACRE in the Google search engine.

3. Development Plan

(Item 5)

(1) Mrs Martin advised that progress on a complete re-write had been halted until the appointment of the new Chair and the preferred format was known. She suggested that a working group be appointed to consider the notion of a Kent Youth SACRE and the following members volunteered:-

- (i) Mr Manion
- (ii) Mrs Younosi
- (iii) Ms Burke
- (iv) Mr Tyson
- (v) Plus Mrs Martin (facilitator)

(2) Mrs Younosi commented there would be financial implications and Mrs Corbyn advised that bids for Youth SACRE's had been invited by the Westhill Awards up until 20 April. Mr Foster agreed to follow up enquiries with NASACRE to establish if funding was available and if so submit a letter of intent.

4. Budget Issues including payments to Academies

(Item 6)

(1) Mrs Palmer reported that although the budget had not been confirmed, funding was expected to continue at the same level.

(2) Agreement had been reached for the continuation of Mr Fosters services for a further year.

(3) Academies

Ms Burke reported that a number of members would have difficulty securing release from school to attend meetings if supply cover was no longer paid to teachers working in Academies. This would impact on both Union and Non-Union members.

(4) Mrs Rogers advised she would write to the Headteachers of all affected members and follow up with a visit if necessary. It was agreed the letter would refer to the valuable contribution made by the staff member and request that they continue to be released to fulfil the attendance requirements.

(5) Mr Foster had emailed all SACRE colleagues working in Academies and hoped it would be possible to negotiate release with headteachers. He requested any members having difficulty contact him direct

(6) Mrs Martin suggested evening meetings would be a possible solution, but Ms Burke commented this would raise child care issues and Mr Northey felt a daytime meeting helped raise the profile of the important work achieved by the Council.

5. Update

(Item 7)

(1) Mr Foster would continue to work with KCC colleagues in the School Improvement Service to identify issues, including non compliance and report back to SACRE meetings. He advised that the new Ofsted framework limited time subject coverage and would be inspected. It would be possible to identify if spiritual, moral social and cultural development was being addressed.

(2) NATRE and the RE Council had contacted the new Chief Inspector –Sir M Wilshire regarding the framework and ask for clarification about how Inspectors would report on schools not making appropriate provision. It was not known if they had received a reply.

(3) Mrs Rogers reported that a Kent Special School was currently being Inspected and would await the finding with interest. She advised that there was typically one RE subject inspection per academic year in Kent.

(4) *NASACRE AGM 23 May 2012, London*

It was agreed Mrs Martin and Mr Manion would represent Kent at the NASACRE AGM where the key note speakers would include Bob Jackson and Lat Blaylock.

(5) There were no nominations for the forthcoming election of NASACRE Officers

(6) *St Gabriel's weekend for RE Teachers – 29 and 30 Sept 2012, Wokefield Park, Reading.*

Ms Shaw had previously attended the event and thoroughly recommended it for RE teachers to attend.

(7) Mr Foster agreed to publicise on the e-bulletin, commenting that it was a free event and members would not be eligible for reimbursement of travel expenses.

(8) *Update by Mrs Rogers*

Mrs Rogers advised that the restructuring of ELS was ongoing and Mr Patrick Leeson was now in post. It was agreed he would be invited to speak at the November SACRE or subsequent meeting.

(9) *EduKent*

Mrs Rogers reported funds had been secured to cover the cost of the 15 staff in the School Improvement Division and the challenge was how to best utilise the service. A procurement framework had been established inviting tenders to provide support to Kent schools. Some 45 applications had been returned.

6. Meeting Dates

(Item 9)

SACRE

Wed 27 June 2012-Salvation Army Hall, Union Street Maidstone

No car parking provided, pay and reclaim on expenses

Wed 21 November 2012-County Hall

Briefing Dates

Tues 8 May 2012 –The Study Oakwood House

Mon 15 October 2012 – The Study Oakwood House

4th Annual Lecture-Wednesday 9 May, County Hall Maidstone

Twilight –light refreshments 6pm

Speaker Mr Michael Poole (sponsored by the Montgomery Trust)

Issues in Science and Religion with Special reference to Christianity.

Mr Foster agreed to publicise the event on the e-bulletin which was open to other SACRE's. After a show of hands 4 people indicated they wished to attend and members debated the value of holding the event if expected numbers were so low.

Miss Kelvie suggested school 6th form students would benefit from attendance and Mr Foster would write to Headteachers and Heads of RE inviting RE teachers and their 6th form pupils. He would Advise Mr Poole of the audience profile.

Members discussed the difficulties of effective communication with RE teachers, which Mr Foster agreed was an ongoing problem.

7. Member Presentation - Mrs N Younosi - Haj

(Item 11)

(1) Mrs Younosi was thanked for giving an amusing and informative account of her journey to Haj in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Mrs Younosi explained that she was in a position to make the trip because she was free of any prohibitive conditions ie not in debt, no longer responsible for anyone, in good health and not a burden. She had felt totally inspired by the visit and concluded her account by leaving members with the following thought "I am one of all this, and all this is one of me."

(2) Future Speakers

Prof R Norman volunteered to speak at a future meeting and Mrs Younosi suggested it would be interesting to invite the Baha'i member to speak in due course.

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**KENT STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(SACRE)
CONSTITUTION and TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Notes:

1. References to Kent throughout this document relate to the area served by Kent County Council
2. Those items marked * are required by statute

PREAMBLE

We seek to ensure that all pupils in our schools develop spiritually, academically, emotionally and morally so that they are able to understand themselves and others and cope with the opportunities, challenges and responsibilities of living in a rapidly changing world.

Our vision is:

for schools to be able to:

- provide challenging learning through the RE Curriculum;
- promote an inspirational and aspirational ethos through meaningful and engaging Collective Worship; and
- contribute to community cohesion by engaging the whole school community in an exploration of identity and community in the local, national and global context.

for the Local Authority to:

- place a high priority on the role of RE and Collective Worship in schools;
- aim to provide sufficient resource to support schools in the above;
- work in partnership with SACRE to build links between schools and local faith communities.

for SACRE members to:

- represent their constituents in the spirit of promoting educational RE and Collective Worship within statutory regulations;
- represent fairly the views of their constituents as far as this is possible;
- work with other members of SACRE to model and promote respect for and understanding of different beliefs and lifestyles and a universal search for what it means to be human.

Vision Statement:

Kent SACRE aspires:

- To enhance the quality of religious education and collective worship in Kent schools, and
- To celebrate the religious and cultural diversity found in Kent

Goals:

To support schools in:

- raising standards of pupil attainment in religious education to equate with national expectations of performance levels in other core subjects
- developing the spiritual dimension of school life
- improving the quality of collective worship

• making appropriate provision to meet the needs of all faith groups represented within their school community

Statutory Main Duties:

Kent SACRE is expected:

• To require the local authority to review its current agreed syllabus

• To advise the local authority on matters connected with religious education given in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus and collective worship in authority schools

• To offer advice particularly on methods of teaching, the choice of resources and the provision of training for teachers

• To consider any application from a school for a “determination” to lift the requirement for the majority of acts of worship in that school to be “wholly” or mainly of a broadly Christian character”.

• To publish an annual report giving details of its work, advice given by SACRE to the local authority, and deal with matters about which the authority has sought advice from SACRE.

A. MEMBERSHIP

1.* The SACRE will consist of the members appointed by the Local Authority (“the Authority”) to represent respectively:

- a. Christian denominations (other than the Church of England) and other denominations and religions as in the opinion of the Authority reflect the principal religious traditions in Kent. The number of representatives approved under the category shall, so far as is consistent with the efficient discharge of this group’s functions, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in the area.
- b. The Church of England
- c. Teacher Associations having regard to local circumstances.
- d. The Local Authority

NB. With reference to ‘local circumstances’, SACRE believes that it is of paramount importance that, across the Teacher Associations, representation is professionally focused on RE

2. The list attached as Appendix 1 outlines the composition of the SACRE in Kent.

3. The length of membership as determined by the Authority is four years following the County Council cycle. Any member of the SACRE appointed by the Authority may be removed if in the opinion of the Authority:

- (i) he/she ceases to be representative of the denomination or association he/she was appointed to represent or;
- (ii) he/she ceases to be a member of the Authority.

NB. Failure to attend two consecutive meetings without good reason will be deemed as ceasing to represent the appointing body.

4.* Any member may resign his/her office at any time.

5.* A SACRE may also include co-opted members. Co-opted members will have no voting rights. Co-opted members will be appointed to the most appropriate group.

6. (i) Co-opted members must fulfil a particular role or offer particular expertise that is not otherwise available through SACRE
(ii) A co-option is for a period not exceeding two years. If the group wishes to extend the period of co-option this must come to SACRE for approval and where appropriate to recommend to the LA to confirm the appointment.

7. The Authority will appoint the Chair of SACRE whose term of office will be for a period of four years. The Vice-Chair of SACRE will be appointed by the SACRE.

8.* Meetings of the full SACRE will be open to members of the public except when items of a confidential nature are to be discussed.

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

B.1 DUTIES

9.* SACRE can advise the Authority upon matters concerned with religious worship in maintained schools and religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus. These matters (which the Education Act 2006 provides can include teaching methods, teaching materials and teacher training) can be referred by the Authority or may be determined by the SACRE. The advice offered by SACRE carries no statutory force, but the LA should give careful consideration to advice offered.

10. The broad role of the SACRE is to support effective provision of RE and Collective Worship in schools. The Authority will work with its SACRE to review existing provision for RE and Collective Worship and consider any action which might be taken.

11.* SACRE has two particular functions: it can require the Authority to review its current agreed syllabus; and secondly it may determine, on application by a headteacher of a maintained school after consultation with the Governing Body, that the requirement for collective worship in his/her school to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the collective worship provided for some or all of the pupils in the school.

12.* Each SACRE must publish an annual report on its work. This should:

- (i) Specify any matters on which it has advised the Authority
- (ii) Broadly describe the nature of that advice
- (iii) Set out its reasons for offering advice in any matters which were not referred to it in the first place by the Authority

B.2 PROCEEDINGS

13. SACRE will meet as a full body for half a day three times a year. It will be for the SACRE to decide whether further meetings of the full SACRE, representative groups or sub-committees are needed.

14. The Authority will provide specific resources as follows:

- (i) A Clerk to organise and minute meetings and to co-ordinate working parties and initiatives.
- (ii) An officer from the Advisory Service with strategic responsibility for RE to support the SACRE in fulfilling its role.
- (iii) An officer from the Children, Families and Education Directorate to support the decision making process by Kent SACRE.

(iv) Funding to service the formal meetings of SACRE and associated running costs for the delivery of its functions.

15. (i) Each constituent group will elect a Convenor. The Convenor will normally represent the group on the SACRE steering group.

(ii) The group will agree who will represent them on SACRE working parties, as required.

16.* On any questions to be decided by the SACRE, only the representative groups listed in Appendix 1 have a vote and each such group has a single vote. Decisions within a group about how that vote is to be cast do not require unanimity. Each group is to regulate its own proceedings.

Representatives of the Authority appointed under group 1 (d) above cannot vote on the question of whether to require the Authority to review the Agreed Syllabus. In the event of a tied vote the issue would fail and similarly any new initiative will not proceed.

17. In order for the SACRE to be quorate a minimum of one-third of the representatives from groups A, B and C and one member of Group D must be in attendance at the meeting.

18. The validity of proceedings of the SACRE or of the members of the SACRE of any particular category shall not be affected:

(i) By a vacancy in the office of any member of the SACRE

(ii) By a member of the SACRE no longer representing the appointing body.

**Kent SACRE Development Plan
2012 – 2013**

1. Monitoring standards, quality and provision of RE

Objective	Action	Responsibility	Resources	Success criteria / outcomes
To monitor provision etc of Primary RE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake survey of primary schools 	RE Consultant	15 days RE Consultant time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring leads to improved standards in, and evaluation of, RE. Key strengths and areas for development shared with Kent SACRE and feed into future plans.
To monitor provision etc of Secondary RE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake survey and interviews with selected Secondary schools. Request all secondary schools to submit their TA levels for KS3 RE to SACRE 	RE Consultant		
To monitor provision, standards and achievements in KS4 & KS5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary survey plus data collection and analysis 	RE Consultant		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring strategy leads to improved performance in GCSE and A level RS/RE
To review implementation of the Agreed Syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey to determine the extent that RE provision in schools is compliant with the agreed syllabus requirements, and its recommendations in terms of time allocation 	RE Consultant		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% returns from a questionnaire All schools are providing RE on the timetable All schools are using Kent Agreed Syllabus Most schools are allocating sufficient time to deliver the syllabus
Analysis of GCSE and A level results in RE/RS, sharing key findings with SACRE and in annual report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of results data, as supplied by KCC Management Information Services, & comparison with national results 	RE Consultant	1 day RE Consultant time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE and AS/A Level standards are comparable to National standards or better
Analysis of key inspection judgements from Kent schools on SMSC annually and share findings with SACRE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Ofsted Inspection reports for all inspections carried out in 2012 - 13 	RE Consultant	1 day RE Consultant time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis leads to improved provision in SMSC in all Kent schools

2. Collective Worship

Objective	Action	Responsibility	Resources	Success criteria / outcomes
Practice and provision of collective worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer support to schools about Collective Worship • Offer Governor training on responsibilities for CW • Promote the use of “Gathering Together: Policy and Practice for Collective Worship” 	RE Consultant	Within 15 days RE Consultant time for Monitoring RE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective Worship is good or better in all primary schools and satisfactory or better in all secondary. • Governing bodies have received training and are using the SACRE Resource to effectively support CW
Monitoring provision and addressing noncompliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up to schools that did not respond to the primary survey • Develop a way to secure knowledge about CW in schools • Respond to any Ofsted comments about CW 	RE Consultant		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no noncompliance and ELS confirm that this is the case. • Self-evaluation confirms monitoring is embedded.
To manage any “Determination” applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the number of “determination” applications 	Clerk to SACRE		

3. Management of SACRE and relationship with LA

Objective	Action	Responsibility	Resources	Success criteria / outcomes
<p>SACRE Meetings: To ensure that SACRE meets its duties and responsibilities</p> <p>To meet 3 times a year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SACRE provides appropriate advice on RE and CW to LA • Annual Report written • Record on patterns of attendance of SACRE members in committees 1, 2, 3 and 4, indicating any problems that may have arisen concerning maintaining a quorum. • To correct any shortfalls in the representative nature of SACRE membership 	Clerk to SACRE with Chairman and Consultant	4 days RE Consultant time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive professional relationship between SACRE and LA flourishes and develops further • Annual report published and well received • All SACRE meetings quorate and well attended • All representative groups represented and attend SACRE meetings
Develop a Young People's SACRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings to be hosted to develop Young People's group 	Chairman and members of Working Group		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People's SACRE established
Professional and financial support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SACRE kept up to date of local and national developments • SACRE able to fulfil its duties and responsibilities • All members able to access necessary Training • Maintain agreement with LA to continue funding SACRE and Consultant support at current levels 	SACRE Chairman with RE Consultant	4 days RE Consultant time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the on-going development of SACRE members • Maintain funding for meetings, training and supply cover for members attending meetings, sub committees etc
<p>To increase awareness of and the work of SACRE</p> <p>To increase the publicity of SACRE in the community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular updated information provided on Kenttrustweb and via E-Bulletin circulation. • Create stronger links with local faith communities 	Clerk to SACRE with Chairman and Consultant		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in the LA and Schools know who are SACRE and what they do • Teachers and faith communities will know where to get information about SACRE.

Objective	Action	Responsibility	Resources	Success criteria / outcomes
SACRE and Consultant to be aware of Ofsted Inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Termly list of schools that have been Ofsted Inspected created. • Consultant to meet with Diocesan reps. to discuss SIAS reports 	Clerk to SACRE with Chairman and Consultant		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide updated information from KCC ELS to SACRE and the Consultant about outcomes of inspections where relevant.
SACRE has a strong partnership with the LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular information about anything related to RE and collective worship is exchanged between LA and SACRE 	Clerk to SACRE with Chairman and Consultant		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make links with LA to support monitoring standards and provision of RE/CW • Document any significant teaching quality issues relating to RE within the range of statutory provision (foundation stage, key stages 1–4, post-16, special schools) using outcomes of the questionnaire, School self-evaluation forms (SEFs) where appropriate, LA Consultant(s), professional experience of RE teachers or oral reports of CPD opportunities, professional experience of teachers
Partnership with other stake holders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue links with NASACRE, REC, National Conferences, NATRE and AREIAC • Feedback and actions from conferences by SACRE members 	SACRE Chairman	Funded within budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a representative is present at national events