

From: John Lynch, Head of Democratic Services
To: Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
Subject: Amendment to the SACRE's Constitution

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: None

Electoral Division: not applicable

Summary: It is proposed to amend the constitution of Kent SACRE to ensure it is fully aligned with the Circular published by the Department for Education governing the operation of SACREs.

Recommendation(s):

SACRE is asked to agree an amendment to paragraph 5 of its constitution to read "*SACRE may also include co-opted members. Co-opted members will be appointed to the most appropriate group and will have a voice but not a vote within that group.*"

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with Circular 1/94 published by the Department for Education on 31 January 1994 Kent County Council has established a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) which meets three times annually.
- 1.2 It has recently come to light that the constitution of the Kent SACRE does not fully conform to the requirements of the Paragraph 108 of Circular number 1/94. In particular paragraph 5 of the constitution and paragraph 108 of the circular could be interpreted in different ways.
- 1.3 It is therefore proposed to amend the constitution to ensure both documents are fully aligned.

2. Requirements of Circular 1/94

- 2.1 Paragraph 103 of Circular number 1/94 published by the Department for Education on 31 January 1994 says that a SACRE is to comprise of four or five groups representing:

Group A - Christian denominations and other religious and religious denominations

Group B – the Church of England

Group C – associations representing teachers

Group D – the local education authority

Group E – under certain circumstances, governing bodies of those grant maintained schools equivalent to county or voluntary controlled schools (Kent SACRE has not included a Group E in its membership)

2.2 Paragraph 108 of Circular number 1/94 published by the Department for Education on 31 January 1994 says that:

“On any question to be decided by a SACRE the representative groups listed in paragraph 103 each have a single vote. The grant maintained school representative (prior to the establishment of a grant maintained schools group) and co-opted members do not have a 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, including provision for resolving deadlock”.

3. SACRE’s Constitution

3.1 The membership of the Kent SACRE is set out in appendix 1 of its constitution and comprises of four groups as required by the circular and listed in paragraph 21.1 above

3.2 Paragraph 5 of the Kent SACRE’s constitution also states that

SACRE may also include co-opted members. Co-opted members will be appointed to the most appropriate group and will be able to vote within that group.

4. Conclusion

4.1 As there is potential for confusion it is proposed that paragraph 5 of the constitution be amended to read:

SACRE may also include co-opted members. Co-opted members will be appointed to the most appropriate group and will have a voice but not a vote within that group

5. Recommendation

5.1 SACRE is asked to agree an amendment to paragraph 5 of its constitution to read *SACRE may also include co-opted members. Co-opted members will be appointed to the most appropriate group and will have a voice but not a vote within that group.*

6. Background Documents

There are no background documents

7. Contact details

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