

Revised Constitution of SACRE/SAC for RVE,
October 2022

CARDIFF COUNCIL STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) / STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC) ON RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS

CONSTITUTION AND STANDING ORDERS

Purpose of Committee & Terms of reference

1. To advise the LA on matters connected with collective worship in county schools.
2. To advise the LA on matters connected with religion, values and ethics education which is given in accordance with the agreed syllabus.
3. To decide when, within the five year statutory time scale, the LA should review its agreed syllabus.
4. To consider with the LA and the Agreed Syllabus Conference any changes required to the agreed syllabus.
5. To consider with the LA the support offered to religious education/ religion, values and ethics in its schools, with particular regard to curriculum design and pedagogy and the provision of training for practitioners.
6. To offer advice on any other matters related to its function as it sees fit.
7. To publish an annual report on its work by 30th December of the academic year following the period of the report which should:
 - a. specify any matters on which it has advised the LA;
 - b. broadly describe the nature of the advice;
 - c. set out its reasons for offering advice on any matters which were not referred to it in the first place by the LA;
 - d. record the membership of SACRE/SAC for RVE and the dates of meetings held.
 - e. Be noted at a meeting of Full Council each year.
9. To participate in the LA's statutory complaints procedures in those instances where the complaints relate to religion, values and ethics and/or collective worship.
10. To receive and make determinations in respect of applications from head-teachers of county schools for the lifting or modifying of the requirements that collective worship in such schools must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

Composition

11. The SACRE/SAC for RVE shall comprise three voting groups representing:

Group A

Such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the LA, will appropriately reflect the religious traditions in the area and also such persons who represent holders of non-religious philosophical convictions in the same way as they permit the appointment of holders of religious beliefs (section 390 (4) (a) of, and paragraph 4(2) (1) of Schedule 31 to the 1996 Act.).

The non-religious philosophical convictions adhered to be the person to be appointed must be analogous to a religious belief. To be 'analogous' we consider the non-religious philosophical convictions must in accordance with case law under the European Convention of Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998 attain the necessary level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion (Valsamis v Greece, §§ 25 and 27) and importance to attract protection under the Convention Rights.

An appointment is dependent on SACRE's/SAC for RVE opinion as to whether a holder of non-religious philosophical convictions would help ensure that the relevant traditions in the local authority's area are appropriately reflected in Group A. The final decision of an appointment rests with SACRE/SAC for RVE, as they are best placed to assess whether the SACRE/SAC for RVE has the necessary expertise and experience to properly discharge its function.

The relevant statutory provision gives discretion to the authority to determine which religious groups will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions of the area. The statutory provisions, therefore, recognise there will be occasions when the interest of efficiency overrides the requirement for directly proportionate representation.

16 places specifically:

The Church in Wales	1 member
The Roman Catholic Church	1 member
Free Churches	5 members
Bahá'í Faith	1 member
Buddhism	1 member
Hinduism	1 member
Islam	1 member
Judaism	1 member
Sikhism	1 member
Humanism	1 member
Additional religions, non-religious philosophical convictions or denominations other than those specified above	2 members

Group B

Such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the LA, ought to be represented having regard to the circumstances of the area.

The relevant statutory provision gives discretion to the authority to determine which associations are to represent practitioners. There would be advantage in ensuring that members representing associations of teachers include practitioners of religious education/religion, values and ethics.

Eight places from as broad a range of teacher associations as possible whilst recognising that in the interest of the effective running of the committee there may be periods where some teacher associations may be more heavily represented than others.

Associations might include:

- NAHT
- UCAC
- NEU
- NASUWT
- SHA

Group C

The Local Authority: Five places

Co-opted Members

12. SACRE/SAC for RVE may also appoint co-opted members as the SACRE/SAC for RVE may decide will assist it in the performance of its functions, up to a maximum of four such members.

Members of SACRE/SAC for RVE should consider the following when co-options are decided. Candidates should generally:

- a) have some experience as educators, and ideally experience of religious education/religion, values and ethics
- b) have a balanced view of the aims of religious education/religion, values and ethics and collective worship
- c) where possible, be representative of specific education phases, to provide a balanced spread across various phases
- d) be able to assist SACRE/SAC for RVE in the performance of its functions, and offer insight into matters relating to the SACREs/SAC for RVE current priorities

SACRE/SAC for RVE will decide co-options following nominations from members of SACRE/SAC for RVE or representative groups.

Co-opted members shall hold office on such terms as may be determined at the time of co-option by the representative members and shall hold office at the pleasure of, and may be removed at any time by, the representative members.

SACRE/SAC for RVE shall review its co-opted members on an annual basis, ensuring that co-options serve the current needs and priorities of the SACRE/SAC for RVE.

13. Membership of Groups A, B and C on SACRE/SAC for RVE shall be for a period of four years. Any outgoing members may be re-appointed.
12. The terms of office for the Chair and Vice Chair will be for one year and that the Chair shall be appointed from the Local Authority and the Vice Chair from the faith group.
13. Membership of the SACRE/SAC for RVE is subject to the condition that the LA has taken all reasonable steps to assure itself that the persons appointed are representative, as the case may be, of the denominations, faith or belief communities, or such persons who represent holders of non-religious philosophical convictions or associations in question.
14. Members representing associations of teachers should include practitioners of religious education/religion, values and ethics.
15. Individuals may be removed from the SACRE/SAC for RVE if they cease to be representative of the denomination, faith or belief community or such persons who represent holders of non-religious philosophical convictions or association or of the Authority they were appointed to represent.
16. Any member of the SACRE/SAC for RVE may at any time resign his or her office.
17. Any member who fails to attend two consecutive meetings without apology or send a representative (subject to point 27) will cease to be a member. An individual who is so disqualified shall not be precluded from being re-appointed by the appropriate nominating body.
18. Supply cover and travel expenses will be paid for practitioners attending meetings (representing their unions/teacher associations) and any practitioners who are attending the meeting as faith representatives. Travel expenses will be paid to any other members who cannot otherwise claim expenses from their nominating body.
19. Cardiff SACRE/SAC for RVE is a member of WASACRE (the Welsh Association of SACREs). It shall nominate up to four members, including the RE Consultant/SAC for RVE Advisor, to represent the SACRE/SAC for RVE at WASACRE meetings. Supply cover and travel expenses will be paid for practitioners attending WASACRE meetings. Travel expenses will be paid to any other member who cannot otherwise claim expenses from their nominating body. Nominations will be decided at the first meeting of the academic year.

Proceedings

22. The SACRE/SAC for RVE shall meet not less than once in each school term. Meetings are open to members of the public. Members will receive at least seven days' notice of any meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting, agenda and any other relevant papers will be provided. Groups A, B and C may hold group meetings as and when required.

23. The SACRE/SAC for RVE shall elect from its membership a chairperson and vice chairperson to stand for one year. The chairperson and vice chairperson in any one year shall not be drawn from the same representative group. An outgoing chairperson may be re-appointed.

On any question to be decided by the SACRE/SAC for RVE only the representative groups on the Council shall be entitled to vote, and each group shall have a single vote. Before a formal vote is taken opportunity shall be given to each representative group to determine how its vote is to be cast. Resolutions will go to the **Education and Social Care Portfolio and then the Executive Business Meeting.**

24. Co-opted members may take part in discussions but are not entitled to vote.
25. The agenda for each meeting shall be determined by the chairperson in consultation with the clerk to SACRE/SAC for RVE, Director of Education Representative and Professional Officer. Any voting member of SACRE/SAC for RVE shall be entitled to propose items for an agenda at least eighteen days prior to any meeting. Only items on the agenda may be considered at any meeting except at the discretion of the chair.
26. In the case of any member not being able to attend a Council meeting, a substitute may attend to represent that member provided that the substitute meets the eligibility criteria and the Education Directorate of the LA and the Clerk to SACRE/SAC for RVE is notified at least five working days in advance of the meeting.
27. A meeting of the SACRE/SAC for RVE will be deemed to be quorate if at least one member of each of the three representative groups is present.
29. The representative groups on the SACRE/SAC for RVE other than that representing the Local Authority, may call, at any time, for a review of the agreed syllabus current in the Local Authority. At such time an Agreed Syllabus Conference shall be constituted and convened.
30. The SACRE/SAC for RVE shall consider its annual report at the first meeting to be held in each academic year. Upon the Council's ratification of the report it shall proceed to publication by 30th December of the academic year proceeding the period of the report.
31. The clerk to the SACRE/SAC for RVE shall arrange for copies of the annual report to be sent to all county schools within the Local Authority, to the Welsh Government, the National Library and to such other individuals and institutions as the LA sees fit.

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