

## **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)**

What is a SACRE?

A SACRE is a council which is set up within Local Education Authorities in order to ensure that education in schools is multicultural and covers areas of education that could otherwise be overlooked i.e. Religious Education (RE).

What does a SACRE do?

It is required by law that RE be taught in schools, but it is not part of the National Curriculum, instead it is a local responsibility. SACRE oversees RE and collective worship.

Who makes up a SACRE?

A SACRE is designed to represent all interests of the local community. You could find elected councillors, representatives of faith communities and members of the education community.

What are its duties?

Its main function is to advise the Local Authority (LA) on matters relating to collective worship in Community Schools, together with ensuring that the RE provided in all schools is in accordance with their agreed syllabus.

- The SACRE can require the LA to review its agreed syllabus
- It must consider applications from Headteachers that their school be released from the requirements for collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. This is known as determination;
- The SACRE must publish an annual report of its work.

What else can a SACRE do?

A SACRE's broad role is to support effective provision of RE and Collective Worship within its remit by:

- Giving advice on methods of teaching agreed syllabus of RE, including the choice of teaching materials;
- Advising the LA on the provision of training for teachers;
- Monitoring inspection reports on RE, collective worship and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC);
- Considering complaints about the provision and delivery of RE and collective worship referred to it by the LA.