

## Sunderland SACRE Questionnaire

### What is SACRE?

SACRE stands for Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education. It is the statutory duty of every Local Authority (LA) to establish a SACRE.

The duty of SACRE is to advise the Local Authority on matters concerning RE and collective worship. They must publish an annual report on their work. SACRE will also:

- monitor the quality and provision of RE in community and aided schools
- provide advice and support on affective teaching in RE according to the Agreed Syllabus
- consider, along with the LA whether changes need to be made to the Agreed Syllabus (they can require the LA to review its Agreed Syllabus)
- consider applications from schools who request to be released from the requirement that collective worship is “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

### Membership of SACRE

Every SACRE is made up of 4 committees. The LA must appoint representatives to each of the 4 committees, representing respectively:

<b>Group A</b>	Christian denominations and such other religions and religious denominations as, in the LA’s opinion, appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area.
<b>Group B</b>	The Church of England Representatives nominated by the local Church of English dioceses.
<b>Group C</b>	Teacher Associations This is usually representatives from a range of teacher professional associations (unions) but can also include other local associations of RE teachers (eg networks/curriculum groups).
<b>Group D</b>	The Local Authority The LA is usually represented by elected members. The LA can also appoint LA officers or others whom they consider can appropriately represent the Authority.

All members shall be delegates who are interested in education in general and religious education in particular.

In order to ensure Sunderland SACRE can fulfil their role and duties as effectively as possible, it would be good to consider what our own needs and challenges are as SACRE members. In this way we can ensure we support and challenge schools in offering high quality RE and collective worship to all children.

I would be very grateful therefore if you could fill in the following questionnaire. We could then discuss our findings at a future meeting, and consider our next steps.

Please return this questionnaire to Hazel Mackel by post or email:

[hazel.mackel@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:hazel.mackel@sunderland.gov.uk).

Governance Services,  
Commercial and Corporate Directorate,  
Sunderland City Council,  
Civic Centre,  
Burdon Road,  
Sunderland.  
SR2 7DN

If you would like to discuss any issues with me further please do not hesitate to contact me on 0191 553 6996.

Thank you.

Teresa Laybourne  
Chair – Sunderland SACRE

Your name and title

What group do you represent on Sunderland SACRE?

Sunderland SACRE meets once a term. Please indicate which days are most convenient for you to attend (Monday to Thursday).

Please indicate which times are convenient / not convenient.

10am – 12

1.30 – 3.30

4pm – 6pm

5.30 – 7.30

7pm – 9pm

Please indicate any barriers which make attendance difficult. How could we help to resolve these? e.g. would dates of meetings in advance for the whole year be helpful?

I would be pleased to hear your views about current SACRE meetings and any suggestions you have for how they could be improved.

What items would you like to see on a SACRE agenda?

Do you feel clear about your role on SACRE? Did you receive any induction / guidance (either locally or nationally) when you became a SACRE member? Would you be interested in further training / support regarding your SACRE role? Have you any particular training needs? (e.g. functions of SACRE, aims of RE, collective worship). Please comment

SACRE has a key role in monitoring and supporting schools so that they can deliver high quality RE and collective worship. Please indicate below any ideas you may have about how Sunderland SACRE can do this more effectively?

Would you be interested in helping deliver a Sunderland Interfaith Conference where students can meet and talk to members of faith communities? If so, how?

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.