

— A guide to the work of the —

Lewisham SACRE

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education



CONTACT THE LEWISHAM SACRE

You can contact
SACRE RE advisor
Denise Chaplin by:

Email: denise.chaplin@lewisham.gov.uk

Post: SACRE, c/o
School Improvement
Team, Laurence
House, Catford SE6
4RU

Website:
<https://lewisham.gov.uk>

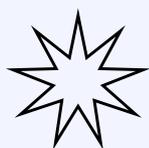
What is a SACRE?

The Education Act 1996 stated that every local authority (LA) must set up a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) with responsibility to advise it on matters concerned with the provision of religious education and collective worship. This provision was continued in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Therefore the broad role of a SACRE is to support effective provision for RE and Collective worship in the Local Authority.

A SACRE is made up of four groups to reflect the community in many ways including different local faith and belief communities. In Lewisham these groups are: Group A: Christian denominations (other than the Church of England) and other religions and religious denominations represented in the LA; Group B: The Church of England; Group C: Teachers' professional associations; Group D: The Local Authority. In addition there are co-optees.

Who is represented in the SACRE Groups?



GROUP A: Christian denominations (other than the Church of England) and other religions and religious denominations represented in the LA:

Christian Denominations:

- Free Churches: Baptist, Redeemed Christian Church of God and Assemblies of God (3 places)
- Independent Evangelical Churches
- Roman Catholic Archdiocese

Other Faiths and Beliefs:

- Bah'ai
- Buddhism
- Hinduism (2 places)
- Humanism
- Islam (2 places)
- Judaism
- Sikhism



GROUP B: The Church of England including where possible:

- Representative of the Director of Education of the Diocese
- Teacher of RE with primary school experience
- Teacher of RE with secondary school experience
- Ordained minister of the Church of England



GROUP C: Teachers' Professional Associations:

- National Education Union (3 places)
- National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
- Lewisham Headteachers and Deputies (1 place)
- Representative of the Academies



GROUP D: The Local Authority:

- Elected Members (3 places)
- Representative of Governors of Lewisham primary schools (incl. special schools)
- Representative of the Director of Education
- Representative of Governors of Lewisham secondary schools (incl. special schools)



Co-optees:

- The Young Mayor's Team – 2 support adult representatives
- Parent of Lewisham pupils
- Primary Teacher
- Borough of Sanctuary Lead
- In Lewisham there is also a vacant additional co-opted place for a Rastafarian (Ethiopian World Federation, Inc)



Lewisham SACRE has a place on the council website where you can find details of how to contact SACRE members.

What does the SACRE do?

Lewisham SACRE meets approximately four–five times a year. The meetings are often held in a local place of worship in order to enhance members' knowledge and understanding of faiths other than their own.

At the meetings, members:

- discuss issues relating to religious education in Lewisham schools and other educational establishments and monitor the delivery of that education.
- update their knowledge, consider and comment on national initiatives and issues related to RE, pupils' personal development, community cohesion and collective worship;
- consider information or advice from the RE School Improvement Officer;
- where available review data on RE and collective worship in order to gain information about standards of these areas in individual schools and across Lewisham;
- work on the production of support materials for schools and occasional advice where necessary, to support schools at times of local, national or international difficulty;
- discuss and decide on ways to support teachers for example by setting up or arranging exhibitions;
- develop or maintain links with and between local and national faith communities;
- consult with Lewisham Council on issues relating to faith and the faith communities;
- produce an annual report of their work.



SACRE welcomes contact and visits from representatives of interested organisations or individuals to their meetings – the dates of which are on the council calendar.



Religious Education in the Curriculum

Religious education is a vital subject for the promotion of core values; it enhances understanding and discourages prejudice. RE helps pupils to make sense of the world in which they are going to take place as adults, by knowing and understanding what it is that people believe and how this affects the way they live alongside each other.

Lewisham SACRE has produced an Agreed Syllabus for religious education, that will enable the young people of Lewisham to learn about and understand their own beliefs and those of others in a safe, non-threatening environment.

Religious education is part of the curriculum by law and the Agreed Syllabus is the method by which that law is implemented. It deals with one of the most important parts of the curriculum, yet one of the hardest to define and plan. It engages pupils of all ages with the fact that people in all societies have tried to recognise ultimate values, and to grapple with the meaning of life.

An Agreed Syllabus is for all pupils and this principle has been kept at the heart of the SACRE's work, endeavouring to remember and address the needs of the pupils of all faith and cultural backgrounds, gender, disability or special need. Lewisham's syllabus has been

written for all of them. Each of them must see that those things that matter most, in terms of faith and culture, are valued and protected by this syllabus.

It is not the place of religious education to nurture pupils into a particular religious standpoint, or into a system of belief that they be required to accept. The task of nurturing in a particular faith is that of the home and/or the faith community who wish to do so. Schools are, however, required to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils so that they are able to develop their own views as believers or non-believers as they move into adult life.

Lewisham SACRE supports schools in delivering the Agreed Syllabus and also helps with planning collective worship.

Collective Worship in schools

Collective worship is the legal description given to the type of worship that should happen in schools. All schools are required to provide a daily 'act' of collective worship, the majority of which must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', as defined in the Education Act 1996. SACRE has produced separate guidance for this area of school life.



Support for Schools

Practical advice and support for teachers either whole departments or on an individual basis or support for governors and governing bodies may be arranged with the SIO for RE, Denise Chaplin.

e-mail: denise.chaplin@lewisham.gov.uk

