



PORTSMOUTH

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - CONSTITUTION

Constituted under the Education Act 1996, this body shall be the Portsmouth Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). Throughout this constitution it shall be known as 'The Council' and 'The Authority' shall refer to the Portsmouth City Council

1. FUNCTIONS

The Council Shall:

- (a) advise the Authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in city schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the Authority may refer to the Council, and as the Council may consider appropriate;
- (b) advise the Authority regarding its statutory duty to review its agreed syllabus every five years and to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference;
- (c) determine any application from the headteacher of a city school following consultation with the governing body, for an amendment to the requirement that collective worship should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- (d) publish an annual report which:
 - i. specifies any matter on which it has advised and / or supported the Authority
 - ii. broadly describes the nature of that advice and / or supported the Authority
 - iii. sets out its reasons for offering advice on any matters which were not referred to in the first place by the Authority.

In addition to making the report available for public inspection, a copy shall be sent to other organisations, as the SACRE considers appropriate for example, NASACRE, HMI/Ofsted, the Cabinet Member for Education, the Director of Children's Services and the elected member representatives on the SACRE.

2. MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 The Council shall comprise four groups of members constituted by the Authority as specified below¹:

¹ In accordance with the Education Act 1996, Section 390



(a) Group A

One representative of each of the religions and other bodies listed below:

Representatives of: Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area:

The Roman Catholic Church	The Methodist Church
The Baptist Union	The United Reformed Church
The Religious Society of Friends	The Assemblies of God
The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches	The Salvation Army

Other Religions represented include:

Judaism	Islam
Hinduism	Sikhism
Buddhism	Baha'i Faith

Other Bodies:

Humanism

(b) Group B

Four Representatives of the Church of England

(c) Group C

Six or more teachers representing the various key stages and an association recognised by the Authority for the purposes of consultation and negotiation.

(d) Group D

Four representatives of the Authority, at least two of whom shall be elected members of the Authority.

2.2 Co-opted persons may be appointed by SACRE for example, teachers from local schools, or members of local organisations such as Interfusion.

2.3 For a meeting to be quorate there shall be at least one representative present from each of the four groups A, B, C and D.



3. VOTING

- 3.1 On any question to be decided by the Council only the representative groups on the Council shall be entitled to vote, and each representative group A, B, C and D shall be entitled to one vote. No other persons shall be entitled to vote.
- 3.2 In the event of a 2:2 vote, there be no casting vote and the resolution put before the council not be carried and the status quo be maintained until such time as a majority decision is reached.

4. DURATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 Members of the Council shall be appointed for four years.
- 4.2 Any member of the Council may at any time resign from office.
- 4.3 A member of the Council appointed by the Authority may be removed from membership by the Authority at any time if in the opinion of the Authority the person ceases to be representative of either the denomination or association to which the member was appointed. Subject to the conditions of this section of the constitution, members of the Council having served the full term are eligible for re-appointment.
- 4.4 Co-opted members to have a specified period of office, to be no longer than the standard 4 year term of office (which can be linked to the duration of a particular event or project).

5. PRE-APPOINTMENT AND MEMBERSHIP SUB GROUP

- 5.1 Before appointing the Council shall take all reasonable steps to assure themselves that the nominees are a representative of the religion, denomination or associations in question.
- 5.2 To help decide membership requests that are not straightforward replacements by established member organisations, the SACRE has the power to appoint members to a sub-group/working party to consider such matters (including membership and pre-appointment issues) as and when it sees fit. The sub-group can then make recommendations to the full SACRE. The terms of reference and membership of such sub-groups will be set by the SACRE as and when required. The sub-group would ordinarily be an advisory body, not a decision making body so that the final decision is still made in accordance with the Act's required voting/quorum provisions

6. CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

- 6.1 The Chairman, being a member of Group A, B, C or D shall be elected by the members of SACRE in accordance with the voting procedure stated in 4.1 above for a period of two years or until the person elected ceases to be a member of the Council, whichever is the sooner.



- 6.2 The Vice-Chairman, being a member of Group A, B, C or D, shall be elected by the members of SACRE in accordance with the voting procedure stated in 4.1 above for a period of two years or until the person elected ceases to be a member of the Council, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.3 Persons continuing to be members of the Council are eligible for re-appointment to the position of Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

- 7.1 The SACRE may alter this constitution at any time, but will consult the Authority before doing so.
- 7.2 The Council shall review its constitution annually on the occasion of the presentation of its annual report. The Council may make such recommendations for amending the constitution, as it deems appropriate.

Revised November 2019