

What is SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education)?

A SACRE is part of local government. Every local authority must have a SACRE and it must meet sufficient times to fulfil its statutory duties. Plymouth SACRE meets three times a year.

- It is a statutory body that all local authorities have to have and support.
- It is representative of the local community and has four groups.
 - ❖ The Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations, reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area.
 - ❖ The Church of England
 - ❖ Teacher, Lecturer and Head Teacher Associations
 - ❖ The Local Authority – usually elected members.
 - ❖ SACRE may co-opt other members who have a particular expertise or represent other communities, for example: Humanist; Pagan etc.
- It is responsible for Religious Education and Collective Worship (CW) in most schools.
- It strives to ensure quality experiences for all pupils in RE and CW.
- It makes an annual report available.
- It has the potential to contribute to social harmony and cohesion.

Plymouth SACRE's main function is to advise the local authority (LA) on matters related to Religious Education and collective worship in school.

Plymouth SACRE must:

- advise the local authority (LA) on matters related to agreed syllabus religious education (RE) and collective worship (CW) either in response to a referral from the LA or as it sees fit
- publish an Annual Report on its work and on actions taken by its representative groups
- email a copy of the Annual Report to the Secretary of State

Plymouth SACRE must also:

- meet in public, unless confidential information is to be disclosed
- make minutes of its meetings available for inspection (uploaded to the PCC website)

- consider appeals from schools wishing to modify the legal requirement for the majority of acts of collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character; this procedure is called a 'determination' as SACRE determines whether or not to agree the appeal
- monitor the provision and quality of agreed syllabus RE and of CW in order to provide targeted advice and support on teaching agreed syllabus RE
- advise the LA on the provision of training for teachers
- consider complaints about RE and CW referred to them by their LA
- consider whether changes need to be made to the agreed syllabus, in partnership with the LA
- offer advice to the LA in respect of the agreed syllabus and its implementation

Plymouth SACRE may:

- require the LA to review its agreed syllabus
- decide to advise the LA on matters to do with RE and CW
- co-opt individuals, who are not members of any of the groups, for example: to provide educational expertise, the views of young people, or religious and non-religious views that reflect a diverse multi-cultural society

SACREs are responsible for oversight of religious education and collective worship in the majority of maintained schools.

The exceptions are:

- RE in voluntary aided schools where RE is determined by the governors and taught according to the school's trust deed
- collective worship in all schools with a religious character where worship can be reflective of that religious faith
- academies (even those that follow the LA agreed syllabus)

Type of school	Religious education is
Community and Voluntary controlled (VC) schools	taught according to the local authority's agreed syllabus and comes within SACRE's remit.
Voluntary aided (VA) schools	determined by the governors in accordance with the trust deed and reflects the religious character of the school.
Foundation schools with or without a religious character	taught according to the local authority's agreed syllabus.
Trust schools	taught according to the local authority's agreed syllabus.
Academies	Is part of the curriculum, but is taught according to the school's funding agreement.

Type of school	Collective worship
Community	follows the 1996 Education Act and the majority is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.
Voluntary controlled (VC) and Voluntary aided (VA) schools	reflects the Christian character of the school.
Foundation schools without a religious character	follows the 1996 Education Act and the majority is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.
Academies	Collective worship is determined by the academy's funding agreement but must be every day for pupils not withdrawn in whole or in part by their parent.

The Plymouth agreed syllabus for Religious Education

'Engaging with Religion and World Views'

 [Revised religious education syllabus](#) [419KB]

Support for Teachers

A Plymouth RE hub for teachers, which began through the Learn Teach Lead RE project, continues to be supported by Plymouth SACRE and run by Miss Katie Freeman (teacher at St Matthews Primary and Nursery Academy). The Hub meets six times a year and is advertised on the Plymouth Teaching School Alliance (PTSA) website.

Contact

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