

## **Role, Function and Good Practice for SACRE Members**

(Based on NASACRE Updated SACRE Handbook – July 2025)

### **Legal and Statutory Basis**

- SACREs are constituted under the Education Act 1996, Section 375.
- Their role is to advise the Local Authority (LA) on matters relating to Religious Education (RE) and collective worship in schools.
- SACREs are distinct from the LA, but work in partnership with it.

### **Core Roles & Responsibilities**

#### **Advisory Role to the LA**

Advise on RE according to the Agreed Syllabus, on collective worship, and on matters referred by the LA or identified by the SACRE itself.

#### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitor and review the quality, provision, and effectiveness of RE and collective worship in schools.

#### **Support and Guidance**

Provide guidance to schools on pedagogy, resources, professional development, and implementation of the Agreed Syllabus.

#### **Reviewing / Recommending Agreed Syllabus Changes**

Consider whether the syllabus should be revised and advise on its relevance and alignment with the curriculum.

#### **Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC)**

Assist in the statutory review of the syllabus (typically every five years).

#### **Annual Reporting**

Publish an Annual Report on advice given, activities, and assessments of RE and worship.

#### **Public Meetings & Transparency**

Hold open meetings where possible, publish minutes and documents.

#### **Co-option & Representation**

Co-opt additional members to reflect local religious and nonreligious groups.

#### **Encouraging Community / Interfaith Dialogue**

Engage with local faith and belief communities to promote understanding.

#### **Complaint / Redress**

Raise concerns with the LA or schools if statutory requirements for RE are not being met.

### **Good Practice & Guidance for SACRE Members**

#### **Shared Vision & Understanding**

Members should agree on SACRE's purpose and focus on improving RE and worship.

#### **Capacity & Training**

Provide induction and ongoing training to members; encourage use of NASACRE webinars and resources.

### **Effective Meetings**

Ensure meetings are purposeful, well-structured, and supported by timely papers.

### **Use of Evidence & Data**

Analyse data on exam entries, school RE provision, and inspections; use self-evaluation tools.

### **Strategic Planning & Priorities**

Develop costed plans linked to LA priorities and national developments.

### **Inclusivity & Representation**

Ensure membership reflects local religious, belief, and nonreligious communities.

### **Co-opted Expertise**

Use co-opted members to bring knowledge, youth voice, or interfaith perspectives.

### **Transparency & Communication**

Publish minutes and reports; engage with schools and local communities.

### **Adapting to Change**

Review constitutions regularly and respond to demographic and policy changes.