

Constitution Working Group

Interim Report (Part 2)

In November, 2023, the working group presented its first interim report for preliminary discussion by SACRE. It drew SACRE members' attention to specific points in the existing constitution, it recommended minor changes and removed errors and repetitions. Receipt of this report was noted by the meeting

We now offer a further interim report, setting out more complex changes which, we hope, will make SACRE a more effective organisation. This report follows the ordering of the constitution for ease of reference.

Recommendation:

That SACRE considers this report, amends where necessary and invites the chair of the working group to produce a final report which will set out all the changes recommended in both of the interim reports for adoption at the next SACRE meeting in June.

A. Additional changes /clarifications

RE and Collective worship:

1. 3.3 should read 'religious education and **collective** worship in Community and Voluntary **Controlled** schools...' (Voluntary Aided schools are not within SACREs' remit.) These amendments reflect more accurately the Law on RE and CW
2. 3.7 the order of 'collective worship' and 'religious education' should be reversed (again, reflecting the Law and government guidance)

SACRE procedures:

3. 5.1 bullet 1 delete '**municipal**' and replace with '**academic**' year. SACRE is concerned with schools and there is a statutory duty to report annually to the Department for Education, based on the school year
4. 5.1 bullets 10 and 11 should be combined to read: 'receive the agenda and all relevant reports at least **ten** working days before a meeting; any member can submit agenda items for inclusion at least **15** days before the meeting'
5. 5.1. Insert three new bullet points:
 - The dates of SACRE meetings should be agreed at least one calendar year in advance
 - The draft minutes of meetings should be sent out within three weeks of the meeting date
 - Agendas should include 'matters arising' after 'minutes'

Membership of SACRE committees:

We need to consider the membership of SACRE in the light of recent census data and professional need and to amend the constitution accordingly.

6. 6.2 Committee A: Christian denominations (other than the Church of England) , **independent church networks** and other faiths or belief systems active in Northumberland, eg: the Assembly of God, the

Baptist Church, the Methodist Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Salvation Army, the Society of Friends, the United Reformed Church, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, the Jehovah's Witnesses, Judaism, Sikhism, Humanism (one representative for each church **denomination, network** or religion).

7. 6.2. Committee A: Amend to include a representative of the Baha'i community
8. 6.2. Committee C: Amend to include a representative of higher education professional associations whose members are involved in initial teacher education
9. 6.2. Committee C: Amend to include a representative of local RE network meetings
10. 7.5. Delete the last sentence and replace with: Any co-options will be for a period of **two years and then reviewed by SACRE**
11. 11.1. Include: The Chair and Vice Chair will be members of different committees
12. 11.1. Amend to read: 'The Chair and Vice Chair are appointed from **members of** committees A,B, C and D. Any appointments will be **for four years....***
13. 13.0 to include 'It should be understood that all participating members agree to follow the Religious Education Council of England and Wales's Agreed Code of Practice when representing the SACRE (See Appendix x, where the Code of Practice will be included')

* This is already under discussion as part of our current action plan

AGM:

14. Insert new section before section 20: The AGM will be held annually, as part of the first meeting of the academic year. Its remit will be three-fold: to consider changes to the constitution, to examine membership and representation, and to receive a report on finance

B. Procedural matters/ standing orders

Additional to changes to the Constitution, the following recommendations were raised during our meetings and are offered for further consideration by SACRE:

- I. All papers should be circulated electronically and all SACRE members should have internet access during meetings
- II. Documentation that is only relevant to Councillors, such as Disclosures of Interest, should be removed from SACRE's papers but it should remain as an agenda item