

Cheshire East SACRE

One Minute Guide

November 2017

What is the Cheshire East SACRE?

The Cheshire East SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) is the body responsible for monitoring religious education and collective worship provision in all Cheshire East schools. Religious education is the only compulsory subject in schools that is locally determined. The DfE (Department for Education) do not decide centrally what religious education is taught in schools. The 1988 Education Act confirmed religious education as part of the basic curriculum and it became a duty for every local authority (LA) to appoint a SACRE. The Children's Services division of the LA is responsible for making sure there is a SACRE.

Who belongs to the Cheshire SACRE?

SACRE is made up of four groups or committees known as 'the Council' that represent interests in the local community:

- Group A: representatives of Christian denominations and other religions reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area
- Group B: Church of England representatives
- Group C: teacher representatives (often from the teacher associations)
- Group D: local authority (LA) representatives (often Councillors)

Each group or committee must be represented on 'the Council'. Members may be nominated by appropriate organisations but are appointed by 'the Council'. Other members may be co-opted. For further information see <http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/sacre/sacre.aspx>

Cheshire East SACRE is also a member of the national associated body of SACREs known as NASACRE which keeps SACRE connected to national events concerning religious education and collective worship. Local places of worship and faith communities provide an invaluable resource for good RE.



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What does the Cheshire East SACRE do?

SACRE's main duty is to advise the local authority on religious education and collective worship for the schools within its remit and:

- requires the local authority to review its agreed syllabus every five years
- considers requests from schools to be released from the requirement to provide collective worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character (a determination)
- publishes an annual report of its work
- monitors the provision and quality of the agreed syllabus, and of collective worship
- meets in public, unless confidential information is to be disclosed
- records minutes of all meetings
- provides advice and support on teaching the agreed syllabus

How does the Cheshire East SACRE connect with schools?

Cheshire East SACRE is funded by the LA and runs regular networks for primary and secondary schools through its two RE consultants. Regular CPD which includes local and national updates, are run twice termly for subject leaders and exam data is scrutinised each year. Ofsted reports provide some data each term and schools are congratulated on good practice. RE practice is monitored in schools and enquiries from parents and schools responded to regularly. Wherever possible, SACRE meets termly in local schools and asks each subject leader to give a report of RE in their schools which also informs SACRE's work.



Contact Information

Visit: <http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/sacre/sacre.aspx>

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