

Visits to Derby City Schools by SACRE members

SACRE members would like to visit schools in the LA to help develop their understanding of RE in schools and to support the work of teachers who have responsibility for teaching the subject. This document is intended to provide you with some background information to ensure that such visits are mutually beneficial.

What is SACRE?

Every LA is required to have a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).

A SACRE's main function, as set out in the 1996 Education Act, is:

"To advise the local education authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with the agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the council or the council may see fit."

A SACRE may also require the LA to review its current agreed syllabus and must consider applications made by schools that the requirement for collective worship in school to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character shall not apply to the school or some of the pupils in that school

Who are SACRE?

SACRE is made up of four separate committees representing:

1. Committee A - Christian denominations (other than the Church of England) and all other faith groups with significant representation in the City
2. Committee B - The Church of England
3. Committee C - Teachers Associations
4. Committee D – Elected members

How visits benefit Schools

- SACRE will be in a better position to celebrate your successes in Religious Education and to share good practice
- By visiting schools SACRE members will be better informed and better able to support the work of RE teachers
- By extending hospitality to SACRE members schools will be extending links into the wider community
- SACRE members will be better able to represent the needs of schools at the regular SACRE meetings and also at appropriate national forum

How visits will benefit SACRE

- Visits to schools will allow SACRE members to be better informed about the responsibilities of RE teachers
- SACRE members will gain a better understanding of RE provision in the City
- SACRE members will have a more direct opportunity for feedback and comment from schools as they undertake future revisions of the Agreed Syllabus

To ensure that there is mutual clarity about the purpose, function and remit of visits by SACRE members to schools SACRE has issued the following code of practice to its members:

Code of Practice

- SACRE members are **not** visiting the schools in an inspectorial role
- Members of SACRE visit schools as **representatives of SACRE** and not as representatives of a particular faith tradition or group
- SACRE members will request school visits in writing with the Headteacher at least **one month in advance**. The date and time of any visit will be arranged at the mutual convenience of the school and the SACRE member
- SACRE members will seek to act in a **supportive** capacity to the RE teacher and the school at all times
- SACRE members should at all times be **sensitive** to the situation and context in which they find themselves
- Observations arising from school visits should be treated **in confidence**. Where discussion is felt appropriate at a SACRE meeting such discussion should be of a general nature with no individual teacher or pupil named
- Members of SACRE should seek to **avoid** RE lessons focussing on their **own faith tradition, group, or belief system** unless specifically invited to do so
- Members of SACRE should be mindful at all times of the professional context in which teachers operate and use the opportunity to **extend their own Learning** rather than seek to make judgements

If you have any concerns or questions about any visit involving a member of SACRE please contact