

The Composition of a SACRE

There are four groups or committees, as below:

A: The Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations, reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area	B: The Church of England
	C: Teacher and head teacher associations
	D: The Local Authority

On the rare occasions when a formal vote is taken, each of these groups or committees has equal voting rights; there is one vote per group.

Who are the representatives?

Group A

This group is made up of representatives of Christian denominations, (other than the Church of England). It may include, for example, representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Churches, the Free Churches (e.g. Baptist, Methodist, United Reformed Church, Pentecostal, The Salvation Army) and The Society of Friends. It also has representatives from other faiths in the area, e.g. Buddhists, Baha'is, Hindus, Jains, Jews, Muslims, Parsees, Sikhs.

The make-up of Group A will vary from SACRE to SACRE as it reflects the diversity of the various faith communities in the locality.

Group B

This is made up of representatives nominated by the local Church of England diocese or dioceses.

Group C

The teacher members of this group are usually representatives of teacher associations. It is usual for there to be representation also from the head teacher associations. It is the local authority that decides which associations will be invited to be represented. They will usually approach the teacher unions, but local associations of RE teachers may also be asked to provide a representative. Sometimes someone from a local teacher training establishment is also invited to be a member of this group.

Group D

It is the local authority's responsibility to provide their own representatives for this committee. Usually these are elected members or other political nominees. The LA may wish to have all parties and viewpoints from across the political spectrum represented on the SACRE. In some LAs, a representative of school governors may also be in this group.

Co-options

SACREs are at liberty to co-opt other members who have a particular expertise or represent a small community. Many bring in a Humanist representative, currently technically prevented by law from becoming full members of Group A. Co-opted members do not have voting rights.