

## **Lancashire SACRE**

### **Meeting to be held on 4 March 2013**

#### **SACRE Membership**

SACRE membership is renewed every four years, coinciding with the County Council election cycle.

The membership of a SACRE is locally determined within a statutory framework, which identifies four "representative groups" to which the County Council must appoint. The four groups are:

- Christian and other religions and denominations which appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area
- The Church of England
- Associations Representing Teachers
- Representatives of the Local Authority

The size and membership of each group is determined locally, but each group, regardless of size, carries one vote in matters which fall to be determined by the SACRE.

The SACRE may also include non-voting co-opted members. Lancashire has chosen to appoint to a further category, "Observers"

The membership of the Lancashire SACRE is set out in the Constitution and Terms of Reference, attached at Appendix A. All appointments, other than for Observers must be formally approved by the Cabinet Member for Children and Schools.

#### **1. Representative Groups**

In establishing the various representative groups, Lancashire County Council resolved to seek nominations from a number of "Sponsoring bodies", representing religious or educational organisations. These bodies then put forward the agreed number of nominations for approval. Members may serve more than one term. With the County Council elections in May, It is proposed that we shortly begin the process of writing out to all Sponsoring bodies to request nominations to serve for the forthcoming 4 year term 2013 – 2017.

The current membership of the SACRE is as follows:

Representative Groups		Sponsoring Body	
1	Christian and Other religions and denominations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Roman Catholic Church</li> <li>• The Free Churches Group</li> <li>• Islam</li> <li>• Hinduism</li> <li>• Judaism</li> <li>• Sikhism</li> <li>• Buddhism</li> </ul>	3  4 5 2 1 1 1	One nomination each from the Diocese of Lancaster, Diocese of Salford, Liverpool Archdiocese Churches Together in England Lancashire Council of Mosques Two nominations agreed from the five Hindu Societies in Lancashire Board of Deputies of British Jews Guru Nanak Gurdwara Bhatra Singh Sabha Vajravahai Buddhist Centre, Preston
2	The Church of England	5	Three nominations from the Diocese of Blackburn One from the Diocese of Liverpool One from the Diocese of Bradford and Ripon & Leeds
3	Associations Representing Teachers	5	One nomination each from the following associations: NASUWT; NAHT; NUT; ATL; ASCL
4	The Local Authority	5	Lancashire County Council

### Census Data

The Education Act 1996 requires that the composition of representative group one – Christian and Other religious denominations – "reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in the area".

The outturns from the 2011 census are available, and these include an analysis of religious groups in the area. The figures for Lancashire are attached at Appendix B. In considering these statistics it is important to note a number of issues:

- The data is high level – it does not, for example, distinguish between the different denominations or traditions within a religion.
- The question was voluntary, unlike much of the rest of the census
- Smaller faith groups are recorded, but are not included in this analysis.
- The strength of a denomination in an area can only be partially understood by the number of self declared adherents
- The relative significance of faiths nationally and internationally may not be reflected in the figures

## **2. Co-opted members.**

The Lancashire SACRE Constitution allows for the appointment of up to five Co-opted members. Co-opted members can take full part in all debates, but can't participate in any vote.

The Lancashire SACRE has chosen to appoint representatives from school and educational backgrounds to these posts, with one representative from each of the following groups:

- Lancashire Association of School Governing Bodies
- National Association of Teachers of RE
- Higher Education Sector
- Teachers in the Secondary Sector
- Teachers in the Primary Sector

## **3. Observers**

The Lancashire SACRE currently includes three Observers, representing Paganism, Baha'i and the Society of Friends (Quakers). The Observers have full speaking rights at committee, but cannot participate in any vote.

## **Recommendations**

That the SACRE:

- i. notes the current membership and process for membership renewal
- ii. comments as appropriate on any membership issues