

Code of Conduct

Southend SACRE encourages all its members to:-

General Principles

- Attend SACRE meetings and take a full and active part in its work and deliberations;
- Express views and opinions openly and sensitively, recognising others may have views different from one's own;
- Listen with respect to the views of other members;
- Remember that our central aim is to improve the quality of provision in RE and collective worship for all Southend pupils;
- Actively consult, and report back to, the membership body which they represent so that debate is fully informed;
- Never denigrate or mock the views of other SACRE members and seek reasoned consensus where views diverge;
- Actively challenge and resist stereotyping.

Visiting Schools

A critical aspect of the Southend SACRE's work is its partnership with schools. At times, the SACRE members will have the opportunity to visit schools.

SACRE Members should remember that it is a privilege to visit a school and that they are not there to make judgements about the school or to "inspect" RE and collective worship.

Members should:

- Only visit a school when invited;
- Inform the Clerk of SACRE and the SACRE's RE Professional of any invitation received and visits made;
- Ensure that you do not say or do anything, which could be viewed as denigrating any religion or ethical belief system;
- Avoid being critical of others or imposing their own views;
- Any confidential information disclosed should not be passed on but along with any possible concerns or confusions about what may have been seen should be discussed with the LA Officer and RE Professional before being reported back to SACRE.

Visiting Schools as a representative of a faith community

Some faith community representatives may be more regular visitors to schools and invited to support Re and/or collective worship.

Visitors should be well-supported by the class teacher who should **always** be present and take an active role in question and answer sessions, and ensure visitors are well-briefed.

SACRE members visiting a school to share their beliefs, values and experiences should:

- Have a clear, mutually agreed understanding of the purpose of the visit with the school before the visit takes place;
- Appreciate that they are not there to convert or proselytise;
- Be willing to share their beliefs, values and experiences but without being critical of others or imposing their own views;
- Be familiar with the school's aims, ethos and policies in RE and collective worship;
- Have an understanding of where the lesson will fit into the unit of work from the Southend Agreed Syllabus and what the learning objectives are, but at no time touch pupils or behave favourably towards pupils of particular faiths, ethnic groups or genders;
- Use a variety of teaching and learning methods and approaches;
- Ensure that pupils understand that the visitor is representing a particular faith view and their own personal interpretation of it and therefore that others from the same faith may not always interpret ideas in exactly the same ways;
- Communicate at an appropriate level for the age group concerned;
- Ensure that they do not say or do anything, which could be viewed as denigrating.

For many years RE struggled with being regarded as indoctrinatory (i.e. putting forward one view as though no other existed). RE Today is about developing pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding, and encouraging personal learning from the material which is encountered. This should be remembered and adhered to at all times.

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