

Complaints on Religious Education and Collective Worship

1. Background

- 1.1 A complaints procedure was set up in 1990 for religious education and collective worship that set up arrangements for consideration and disposal of any complaint which is to the effect that the authority or the governing body of any community school has acted or are proposing to act unreasonably with respect to the exercise of any power in relation to:

- Any provision of religious education or collective worship
- Any enactment relating to religious education in the curriculum or religious worship in maintained schools

or have failed to discharge an such duty.

2. Categories of Complaints

- The provision of religious education and worship which meets the general requirements set out in acts of parliament
- The establishment of a SACRE and the review of the agreed syllabus

3. Stages of Complaint

3.1 Informal Stages

- 3.1.1 Concerns expressed by parents and others should be dealt with, as far as possible by informal discussions with teachers and headteachers. At this stage the LA could be involved in trying to resolve the issue informally. It is not the intention that expressions of concern should be considered as complaints

3.2 Formal Stages

- If the concern is not resolved at the informal stage then it becomes a complaint and is considered by the governing body of the school or a panel thereof
- If the concern is not resolved by the governing body then the complaint is considered by a panel of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education or the relevant Church

4. Complaints heard by SACRE

- 4.1 Any panel of SACRE set up to hear a complaint shall consist of the chairman or vice-chairman of SACRE together with two other members, at least one of whom shall be a member of the County Council.

5. Complaints in Aided or Special Agreement Schools

- 5.1 Complaints relating to religious education or collective worship in Aided or Special Agreement Schools will be heard by a panel set up by the appropriate Church authority.

6. Complaints in Controlled Schools

- 6.1 Complaints relating to religious education in controlled schools will be heard by a panel of SACRE.
- 6.2 Complaints relating to collective worship will be heard by a panel set up by the appropriate church authority.

7. Contacts

- In relation to complaints regarding religious education or collective worship in community schools: Karen Hammond
- In relation to complaints regarding religious education or collective worship in C of E Aided schools or collective worship in C of E Controlled schools: Diocesan Director of Education, Church House, 211 New church Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 4ED
- In relation to complaints regarding religious education or collective worship in Roman Catholic Aided and Special Agreement schools: Director of Education, DABCEC, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 6RP

8. Membership (May 2017 – May 2021)

- 8.1 Mr Burrett (Chairman), Mrs Smith (Vice Chairman), Mrs Jones (Local Authority) and Vacancy (Committee A).