

**CONSTITUTION OF THE DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

I Composition and Membership:

1. The Council will consist of :-
 - (a) 4 groups of representative members, all of whom are to be appointed by the Authority;
 - (b) One member to represent such grant-maintained schools as are using the Agreed Syllabus; to be appointed by the governing body or bodies of the school or schools concerned;
 - (c) Such members as the Council (that is, Members of the Council who have not themselves been co-opted) shall co-opt. These will hold office on such terms as may be determined by the members co-opting them.

2. The ‘representative members’ will be as follows:
 - (a) such Christian and other religious denominations (except for the Church of England) as in the opinion of the Authority, reflect the principal religious traditions of the area; namely, the Methodist Church (1), the Roman Catholic Church (1), the Assemblies of God (1), Hebrew Congregation (1), Islam (1), Sikhism (1), Hinduism (1).
 - (b) the Church of England (3 members);
 - (c) such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the Authority, ought to be represented; namely (5) representatives of teaching unions.

National Union of Teachers	1	
National Association of School Teacher/ Union of Women Teachers	1	
Association of Teachers and Lecturers	1	
National Association of Head Teachers	1	
Secondary Head’s Association	1	
Co-opted Members :-		} Non voting
Buddhism	1	
Society of Friends	1	
Salvation Army	1	
United Reform Church	1	
Baptist Church	1	

1 Co-opted Member

3. The appointment of members is subject to the following provisions:

- (a) before appointing a person to represent any denomination or associations, the Authority shall consult locally and take all reasonable steps to assure themselves that he/she is representative of the denomination or associations in question;
 - (b) a member appointed by the Authority may be removed from membership if in the opinion of the Authority he/she ceases to be representative of the denomination or associations he/she was appointed to represent or (as the case may be) the Authority;
 - (c) a member appointed under Section I.1(b) (of this constitution) may at any time be removed from membership by the governing body or bodies of the grant-maintained school or schools concerned.
4. (a) Members of the Standing Advisory Council shall hold office for four years. Any outgoing member may be re-appointed.
- (b) Any member of the Standing Advisory Council may at any time resign his/her office. A member replacing an existing member would hold office for a full four years from the date of appointment.

II Powers, Duties and Responsibilities

1. The Standing Advisory Council has two main responsibilities:

- (a) to advise the Authority on such matters connected with religious worship in its schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus as the Authority may refer to the Council or as the Council may see fit.

These matters include in particular methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers.

In the performance of this task the Council may expect to be consulted by the Authority and kept fully informed on all matters relating to religious education and collective worship in the schools of the Authority.

- (b) to consider and make a 'determination; on any application that the requirement for Christian collective worship should not apply to a particular school or class or description of pupils within that school.

2. Additional Powers, Duties and Responsibilities

- (a) The representative groups on the Council, other than that consisting of persons appointed to represent the Authority, may at any time require a review of any agreed syllabus for the time being adopted by the Authority. Each representative group concerned shall have a single vote on the question of whether to require such a review.
- (b) The Council shall in each year publish a report with respect to the exercise of its functions. The report shall in particular;
 - (i) specify any matters in respect of which the Council has given advice to the Authority;

- (ii) broadly describe the nature of the advice given; and
- (iii) where any such matter was not referred to the Council by the Authority, give the Council's reasons for offering advice on that matter.

Copies of the annual report will be sent to schools and to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. They will be sent to local teacher training institutions when the report makes reference to initial teacher training or in-service training.

III Proceedings

1. The Council shall appoint a Chair from among its members, whose term of office shall be for four years. An outgoing Chair may be re-elected. The Chair does not have a casting vote.
2. The Council shall meet not less than once in each school term.
3. The Council and, in relation to any question failing to be decided by Members of the Council of any particular category, the Members of that category may regulate their own proceedings, subject to the following limitation:

On any question to be decided by the Council only the representative groups on the Council shall be entitled to vote, and each such group shall have a single vote. Decisions within groups on how that vote is to be cast shall not require unanimity.

4. The validity of proceedings of the Council or of the Members of the Council of any particular category shall not be affected:
 - (a) by a vacancy in the office of any Member of the Council required by section I.1 of this constitution; or
 - (b) on the ground that a Member of the Council appointed to represent any denomination or associations does not at the time of the proceedings represent the denomination or associations in question.

Clerk to the Council

1. The Clerk to the Council shall be provided by the Democratic Services Section, Corporate Services Department of the Borough Council.