

Thurrock: A place of opportunity, enterprise and excellence, where individuals, communities and businesses flourish

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

The meeting will be held at **6.00 pm** on **7 December 2016**

Committee Room 4, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL

Membership:

Committee A: Mrs S Lawson, Free Church Christian Member
Mrs Shepherd, Roman Catholic Member
Miss A Ahmed, Muslim Member
Mr A Rashid, Muslim Member
Mr B Gill, Sikh Member
Mr A Kariyawasam, Buddhist Member
Dr O Soleye, Pentecostal Member
Mr P Anderson, Free Church Representative
Vacancy, Jewish Member
Vacancy, Hindu Member

Committee B: Rev. J Guest (Chair), Mrs M Taylor, Rev. D Bates and Fr J Hutchinson - Church of England.

Committee C: Ms A Jellicoe, Ms H Gillman, Mr P Griffiths and 3 Vacancies - Teachers' Associations.

Committee D: Councillors: Martin Kerin, Tunde Ojetola and 1 Vacancy-Local Authority.

Co-opted Vacancy

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

	Page
1 Apologies for Absence	
2 Minutes	5 - 8

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education meeting held on 18 April 2016.

3 Items of Urgent Business

To receive additional items that the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

4 Declarations of Interest

5 Appointment of Chair of SACRE

Members are requested to appoint the Chair of SACRE

6 Appointment of Vice Chair for Committee A, B, C and D

Members are requested to appoint the Vice Chair for Committee A,B,C and D of SACRE

7	Thurrock SACRE Membership Update	9 - 18
8	Review of Thurrock SACRE Terms of Reference	19 - 30
9	Excellent RE	31 - 38
10	Thurrock SACRE Annual Report 2016	39 - 56
11	Any Other Business	

Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

Please contact Kenna-Victoria Martin, Senior Democratic Services Officer by sending an email to Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk

Agenda published on: **29 November 2016**

Information for members of the public and councillors

Access to Information and Meetings

Members of the public can attend all meetings of the council and its committees and have the right to see the agenda, which will be published no later than 5 working days before the meeting, and minutes once they are published.

Recording of meetings

This meeting may be recorded for transmission and publication on the Council's website. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be recorded.

Members of the public not wishing any speech or address to be recorded for publication to the Internet should contact Democratic Services to discuss any concerns.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Democratic Services at Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk

Guidelines on filming, photography, recording and use of social media at council and committee meetings

The council welcomes the filming, photography, recording and use of social media at council and committee meetings as a means of reporting on its proceedings because it helps to make the council more transparent and accountable to its local communities.

If you wish to film or photograph the proceedings of a meeting and have any special requirements or are intending to bring in large equipment please contact the Communications Team at CommunicationsTeam@thurrock.gov.uk before the meeting. The Chair of the meeting will then be consulted and their agreement sought to any specific request made.

Where members of the public use a laptop, tablet device, smart phone or similar devices to use social media, make recordings or take photographs these devices must be set to 'silent' mode to avoid interrupting proceedings of the council or committee.

The use of flash photography or additional lighting may be allowed provided it has been discussed prior to the meeting and agreement reached to ensure that it will not disrupt proceedings.

The Chair of the meeting may terminate or suspend filming, photography, recording and use of social media if any of these activities, in their opinion, are disrupting proceedings at the meeting.

Thurrock Council Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is available throughout the Civic Offices. You can access Wi-Fi on your device by simply turning on the Wi-Fi on your laptop, Smartphone or tablet.

- You should connect to TBC-CIVIC
- Enter the password **Thurrock** to connect to/join the Wi-Fi network.
- A Terms & Conditions page should appear and you have to accept these before you can begin using Wi-Fi. Some devices require you to access your browser to bring up the Terms & Conditions page, which you must accept.

The ICT department can offer support for council owned devices only.

Evacuation Procedures

In the case of an emergency, you should evacuate the building using the nearest available exit and congregate at the assembly point at Kings Walk.

How to view this agenda on a tablet device



You can view the agenda on your [iPad](#), [Android Device](#) or [Blackberry Playbook](#) with the free modern.gov app.

Members of the Council should ensure that their device is sufficiently charged, although a limited number of charging points will be available in Members Services.

To view any “exempt” information that may be included on the agenda for this meeting, Councillors should:

- Access the modern.gov app
- Enter your username and password

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

Breaching those parts identified as a pecuniary interest is potentially a criminal offence

Helpful Reminders for Members

- *Is your register of interests up to date?*
- *In particular have you declared to the Monitoring Officer all disclosable pecuniary interests?*
- *Have you checked the register to ensure that they have been recorded correctly?*

When should you declare an interest *at a meeting*?

- **What matters are being discussed at the meeting?** (including Council, Cabinet, Committees, Subs, Joint Committees and Joint Subs); or
- If you are a Cabinet Member making decisions other than in Cabinet **what matter is before you for single member decision?**



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

any of your registered interests and in particular any of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests?

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

- your spouse or civil partner's
- a person you are living with as husband/ wife
- a person you are living with as if you were civil partners

where you are aware that this other person has the interest.

A detailed description of a disclosable pecuniary interest is included in the Members Code of Conduct at Chapter 7 of the Constitution. **Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer about disclosable pecuniary interests.**

What is a Non-Pecuniary interest? – this is an interest which is not pecuniary (as defined) but is nonetheless so significant that a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard to be so significant that it would materially impact upon your judgement of the public interest.

Pecuniary

If the interest is not already in the register you must (unless the interest has been agreed by the Monitoring Officer to be sensitive) disclose the existence and nature of the interest to the meeting

If the Interest is not entered in the register and is not the subject of a pending notification you must within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the register

Unless you have received dispensation upon previous application from the Monitoring Officer, you must:

- Not participate or participate further in any discussion of the matter at a meeting;
- Not participate in any vote or further vote taken at the meeting; and
- leave the room while the item is being considered/voted upon

If you are a Cabinet Member you may make arrangements for the matter to be dealt with by a third person but take no further steps

Non- pecuniary

Declare the nature and extent of your interest including enough detail to allow a member of the public to understand its nature



You may participate and vote in the usual way but you should seek advice on Predetermination and Bias from the Monitoring Officer.

Vision: Thurrock: A place of **opportunity, enterprise and excellence**, where **individuals, communities and businesses** flourish.

To achieve our vision, we have identified five strategic priorities:

1. Create a great place for learning and opportunity

- Ensure that every place of learning is rated “Good” or better
- Raise levels of aspiration and attainment so that residents can take advantage of local job opportunities
- Support families to give children the best possible start in life

2. Encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity

- Promote Thurrock and encourage inward investment to enable and sustain growth
- Support business and develop the local skilled workforce they require
- Work with partners to secure improved infrastructure and built environment

3. Build pride, responsibility and respect

- Create welcoming, safe, and resilient communities which value fairness
- Work in partnership with communities to help them take responsibility for shaping their quality of life
- Empower residents through choice and independence to improve their health and well-being

4. Improve health and well-being

- Ensure people stay healthy longer, adding years to life and life to years
- Reduce inequalities in health and well-being and safeguard the most vulnerable people with timely intervention and care accessed closer to home
- Enhance quality of life through improved housing, employment and opportunity

5. Promote and protect our clean and green environment

- Enhance access to Thurrock's river frontage, cultural assets and leisure opportunities
- Promote Thurrock's natural environment and biodiversity
- Inspire high quality design and standards in our buildings and public space

Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education held on 18 April 2016 at 6.00 pm

Present:

Committee A: Mrs L Lawson, Free Church Christian Member, Mrs M Shepherd, Roman Catholic Member, Mr A Kariyawasam and Dr O Soley, Pentecostal Member

Committee B: Rev. J Guest and Rev. D Bates

Committee C: Ms A Jellicoe, Ms H Gillman and Mr P Griffiths

Committee D: Councillors Yash Gupta and Tunde Ojetola

Apologies: Mary Taylor and Councillor Kerin.

In Attendance: Roger Edwardson, Strategic Lead, School Improvement and Skills
Deborah Weston, Associate Adviser for Religious Education
Charlotte Raper, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Kenna-Victoria Martin, Senior Democratic Services Officer

18. Minutes

The Minutes from the previous meeting held on 2 December 2015 were approved as a correct record.

19. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

20. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

21. A New Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2017/2022

Members were asked to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference
It was agreed that the membership of the ASC would be identical to SACRE

Members were requested to agree the revised Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Thurrock and the launch of and training for the revised syllabus.

It was commented that following consultations there had been unanimous support from teachers as to the units of work guide included within the new proposed syllabus.

The Associate Adviser for Religious Education explained that Community Schools had to follow the agreed syllabus; Academies had the opportunity to either follow their own syllabus or that of the local authority. She confirmed that between 75/80% of Academies within Thurrock followed the local authority's agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

Once agreed by the Agreed Syllabus Conference, the syllabus was to be referred to the Council to formally be agreed and implemented. It was queried as to whether the Council could refuse the syllabus; Members were advised that their only reason to refuse the syllabus was if it did not meet legislation, which it did.

During discussions the following was agreed to be included within the front of the new agreed syllabus:

- **Joint forward by the Chair and Roger Edwardson, Strategic Lead, School Improvement and Skills;**
- **Continuity between the old/new syllabus & Religion in Thurrock: and**
- **12 how to steps on using the syllabus**

It was further commented that schools could choose which religions they wished to teach at Key Stage 1 along with Christianity. The Associate Adviser for Religious Education advised schools could add religions to teach, however they could not take any way.

The Chair proposed to agree to recommend the revised Agreed Syllabus for RE education in Thurrock and the vote was as follows:

For: *Committee A:* Mrs L Lawson, Free Church Christian Member, Mrs M Shepherd, Roman Catholic Member, Mr A Kariyawasam and Dr O Soley, Pentecostal Member

Committee B: Rev. J Guest and Rev. D Bates

Committee C: Ms A Jellicoe, Ms H Gillman and Mr P Griffiths

Committee D: Councillors Yash Gupta and Tunde Ojetola

Against: None

Abstained: None

Members further agreed the launch of and training for the revised syllabus. The Associate Adviser for Religious Education advised of two possible dates being:

- 10th June 2016 or
- 24th June 2016

RESOLVED:

1. **That SACRE Convened an Agreed Syllabus Conference**
2. **That the Agreed Syllabus Conference vote on the proposal to adopt the RE Today Model Syllabus**

22. Judicial Review R (Fox) v Secretary of State for Education [2015] EWHC 3404

The Associate Adviser for Religious Education introduced the report to Members, explaining a judicial review was held in the High Court of Justice following a challenge to the legality of the Department for Education's GCSE Subject Content for Religious Studies. In his judgment, Justice Warby upheld the claim that the following section of the content contained an error of law.

The judge found that the section of the content might mislead those responsible for the provision for RE in schools without a religious character into believing that irrespective of which specification they chose or route through that specification they would automatically be fulfilling their legal requirements in relation to Religious Education and that this was not necessarily true.

During discussions it was agreed that following the outcome of the review Schools with Thurrock should be written too.

RESOLVED:

That SACRE consider the report on this case and the Secretary of State's response in order to determine the implications for Religious Education in Thurrock.

23. Any Other Business

The Democratic Services Officer addressed Members informing them of the provisional dates for the year ahead:

- 22 June 2016
- 14 September 2016
- 14 December 2016
- 1 March 2017

During discussions Members enquired as to whether the June 2016 meeting could be moved to a date in July 2016. The Senior Democratic Services

Officer confirmed that she would seek to the possibility of changing the meeting dates.

The Associate Adviser for Religious Education asked that should any member wish to discuss a certain topic for them to contact Democratic Services, where a work programme could be created.

Before closing the meeting the Chair took the opportunity to thank Councillor Gupta for his work and for his contributions to SACRE.

The meeting finished at 6.50 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Democratic Services at Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk**

7 December 2016	ITEM: 7
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	
Thurrock SACRE Membership Update	
Report of: Kenna- Victoria Martin, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key
Accountable Head of Service: Roger Edwardson, Interim Strategic Leader, School Improvement, Learning & Skills	
Accountable Director: Rory Patterson, Corporate Director of Children’s Services	
This report is public.	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Members of Thurrock SACRE requested at their meeting on 18 April 2016, to receive an update on the membership of the committee.

1. Recommendations:

- 1.1 That SACRE comment on and approve the membership of Thurrock SACRE.**

2 Introduction and Background:

- 2.1 The membership of Thurrock SACRE was last amended following, a report published for the meeting of SACRE on the 6 March 2013, which requested members consider the membership of Committee A and decide whether or not it appropriately reflected the principal religious traditions in the area.

Although this meeting was declared inquorate, it was agreed that the meeting would continue informally and Members discussed the following:

“The Changing Profile of Religion and Belief in Thurrock

SACRE were provided with factual information on the religious profile of Thurrock as evidenced by the 2011 census data.

Councillor Anderson provided those present with the following suggestions:

1. *That Thurrock SACRE should adopt the following principles as guidelines when determining the composition of Committee A. In order to nominate a representative to Thurrock SACRE, a religion or belief should have:*
 - a) *A minimum of 500 self-identified adherents (0.3%) in the Thurrock area;*
 - b) *A recognisable local group meeting regularly within the Thurrock area;*
 - c) *A representative organisation capable of providing nominations which is willing to confirm its acceptance of and support for the aims and objectives of Thurrock SACRE.*
2. *That in light of the above, Thurrock SACRE should seek to identify a Buddhist member to be added to Committee A.*
3. *That Thurrock SACRE should consult with Christian groups within Thurrock to identify whether the current Christian members of Committee A still adequately reflect and represent the Christian groups active within Thurrock, and consider any changes at a future meeting.*
4. *That the Jewish representative ceases to be a permanent member of Committee A, but that the current representative be invited to continue serving SACRE as a co-opted member.*

The RE Consultant was requested to provide a breakdown of the Christian faith and she agreed that she would make this request to the National Statistics Office.

Councillor Anderson requested that nominations be invited from the Buddhist denomination as it had seen an increase from 0.17% to 0.40% over the last ten years.

The issue of a Humanist representative on Thurrock SACRE was discussed and it was recommended that if the British Humanist Association was happy to confirm their acceptance of the objectives of SACRE, then a representative from this Association should be sought.

The RE consultant advised members that the legal duties on SACRE in relation to the Agreed Syllabus, mean that all six of the 'principal religions' really need to be represented and they include Judaism. She suggested the following amendment to 4 above:

"In addition to 1 above, each of the principal religions represented in the UK as a whole should be represented in order that an Agreed Syllabus Conference convened by SACRE can include people that are fully informed to meet the legal requirements for an RE Syllabus"*

**Defined as Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism, Islam and Sikhism."*

Legal Background

- 2.2 S390 of the Education Act 1996 requires that a Local Authority shall constitute a standing advisory council on religious education (SACRE). The SACRE must consist of such groups of persons appointed by the Authority as representative members, as required by subsection 4. The SACRE may also include co-opted members; however co-opted members do not have voting rights.
- 2.3 Subsection 4 specifies that the representative groups that are to constitute membership of the SACRE are:
- a) A group of persons representing such religions and denominations other than the Church of England as, in the opinion of the authority will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area.
 - b) A group of persons to represent the Church of England.
 - c) A group of persons to represent such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the authority, ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area.
 - d) A group of persons to represent the Local Authority.
- 2.4 Section 390 (4) (a) of the Education Act 1990 provides that, in addition to the requirement that the composition of Group A be broadly representative of the proportionate strengths of the denominations and religions in the area, that the representative groups represent such religions as, in the opinion of the authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area.
- 2.5 Current Membership of Thurrock SACRE

The current membership of Thurrock SACRE is, as follows:

i) Committee A

Christian denominations and other religious denominations representative of the local community:

10 members:

- 2 Free Church Christian member nominated by the Free Church Federal Council;
- 1 Roman Catholic member nominated by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brentwood;
- 2 Muslim member nominated by the Muslim Teachers' Association;

- 1 Sikh member nominated by the Committee of the Local Gudwara;
- 1 Pentecostal member
- 1 Buddhist member
- 1 Jewish member
- 1 Hindu member

ii) Committee B

The Church of England – 4 members nominated by the Diocese of Chelmsford.

iii) Committee C

Teachers' Associations – 6 members nominated by the Professional associations group representing as far as is practicable, primary, secondary, special schools and academies.

iv) Committee D

The Local Education Authority – 3 members nominated by Council.

2.6 Vacancies of Thurrock SACRE Membership

Vacancies on the membership of Thurrock SACRE are, as follows:

Committee A

- 1 Jewish member to be nominated by the Board of Deputies of British Jews;
- 1 Hindu member to be nominated by the National Council of Hindu Temples

Committee C

2 members to be nominated by the Professional associations group representing as far as is practicable, primary, secondary, special schools and academies.

Committee D

- 1 member to be nominated by Thurrock Council.

Co-opted Member

- 1 member to be nominated by Thurrock SACRE

3. Issues, Options And Analysis Of Options:

3.1 Members may wish to suggest alternative membership; any proposals can be done at the meeting.

4. Reasons For Recommendation:

4.1 Members are invited to consider the information in Appendix 1 and consider the current SACRE membership with regard to the overall number of members and /or the number of members representing any particular religion, denomination or association.

5. Consultation (Including Overview And Scrutiny, If Applicable)

5.1 None.

6. Impact On Corporate Policies, Priorities, Performance And Community Impact

6.1 Not applicable.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**
Senior Finance Officer, Management Accounts

There are no financial implications to this report

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lucinda Bell**
Education Lawyer

Legal comments are incorporated into the body of the report. .

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Becky Price**
Community Development Officer

There are implications based on the information about religion for the way that the diversity of the population of Thurrock is reflected in the provision for Religious Education in local schools, therefore there are implications on the different groups identified in this report.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental

- There are none.

Background Papers Used In Preparing This Report (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- None.

Appendices To This Report:

- Appendix 1 – Current membership of Thurrock SACRE

Report Author Contact Details:

Name: Kenna-Victoria Martin

Senior Democratic Services Officer

Membership of SACRE
(Four Year Term of Office)

Committee	Representing	Nominating Body	No. of Reprs	Names of Reprs.	Date Appointed	Date due for re-election
A	Christian Denominations & other RE Denominations		10			
	Free Church Christian	Free Church Federal Council	2	Mrs S Lawson	December 2014	November 2018
		Free Church Federal Council		Mr P Anderson	July 2014	June 2018
	Roman Catholic	Diocese of Brentwood	1	Mrs M Shepherd	November 2014	October 2018
	Muslim	Thurrock Islamic Education & Cultural Association	2	Mr A Rashid	July 2014	June 2018
		Thurrock Islamic Education & Cultural Association		Miss A Ahmed	July 2014	June 2018
Page 15	Sikh	Local Sikh Guru Gudwara Committee.	1	Mr B Gill	July 2014	June 2018
	Pentecostal	King's Family Centre in assn with Pastor Laosun of Gates of Praise (Grays)	1	Dr O Soleye	April 2015	April 2019
	Buddhist	Buddhist Society	1	Adisha Kariyawasam	January 2015	January 2019
	Jewish	Vacancy (Board of Deputies of British Jews)	1	Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy
	Hindu	Vacancy	1	Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy

Membership of SACRE
(Four Year Term of Office)

Committee	Representing	Nominating Body	No. of Reprs	Names of Reprs.	Date Appointed	Date due for re-election
B	Church of England		4			
	Church of England	Diocese of Chelmsford		Fr J Hutchinson	June 2016	May 2020
	Church of England	Diocese of Chelmsford		Rev.J Guest	June 2016	May 2020
	Church of England	Diocese of Chelmsford		Mrs M Taylor	July 2014	June 2018
	Church of England	Diocese of Chelmsford		Rev D Bates	July 2014	June 2018

Page 16

Committee	Representing	Nominating Body	No. of Reprs	Names of Reprs.	Date Appointed
C	Teachers' Associations (pref. Primary, Secondary & Special Schools)		6		
	Teachers' Associations	Professional Associations Group		Ms A Jellicoe	September 2015 September 2019
	Teachers' Associations	Professional Associations Group		Ms H Gillman	July 2014 June 2018
	Teachers' Associations	Professional Associations Group		Mr P Griffiths	July 2014 June 2018
	Teachers' Associations	Professional Associations Group		Vacancy	Vacancy Vacancy
	Teachers' Associations	Professional Associations Group		Vacancy	Vacancy Vacancy
	Teachers' Associations	Professional Associations Group		Vacancy	Vacancy Vacancy

Membership of SACRE
(Four Year Term of Office)

Committee	Representing		Nominating Body	No. of Reps	Names of Reps.	Date Appointed
D	Local Education Authority		3			
	Local Education Authority	Thurrock Council		Councillor M Kerin	June 2014	May 2017
	Local Education Authority	Thurrock Council		Councillor T Ojetola	June 2014	May 2017
	Local Education Authority	Thurrock Council		Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy

Page 17

Committee	Representing	Nominating Body	No. of Reps	Names of Reps.	Date Appointed	Date due for re-election
(non-voting)	Co-opted Member		1			
	Vacancy	SACRE		Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy

This page is intentionally left blank

7 December 2016	ITEM: 8
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	
Review of Thurrock SACRE Terms of Reference	
Report of: Kenna-Victoria Martin, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key
Accountable Head of Service: Roger Edwardson, Interim Strategic Leader, School Improvement, Learning & Skills	
Accountable Director: Rory Patterson, Corporate Director of Children’s Services	
This report is public.	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Members of Thurrock SACRE requested an update report on the membership of the committee at their last meeting.

Whilst considering amendments to the membership of the committee, it was found that parts of the constitution were out of date and therefore the decision was taken by officers to amend the terms of reference to bring them up to date.

1. Recommendations:

1.1 That SACRE agree the revised Constitution of Thurrock SACRE as set out in Appendix 1.

2 Introduction and Background:

2.1 There have been no legislative changes that have required the Thurrock SACRE constitution to be amended and / or updated. However Circular 1/94, Religious Education and Collective Worship issued in 1994 has since been replaced by Religious Education in English Schools: Non-statutory Guidance 2010 which replaced the elements of Circular 1/94 that related to RE.

2.2 The proposed revised terms of reference of Thurrock SACRE are attached at Appendix 1.

2.3 Any Constitutional changes may be made at a meeting of a quorate SACRE. The Local Authority can also alter the terms of reference; however SACRE must be consulted upon before doing so.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options:

- 3.1 Members may wish to suggest amendments to the revised term of reference and this can be done at the meeting.

4. Reasons for Recommendation:

- 4.1 The composition of the SACRE should reflect its prime purpose, to support, in the best way possible, the teaching and development of the Agreed Syllabus for RE in schools and the terms of reference should reflect this.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 None.

6. Impact on Corporate Policies, Priorities, Performance And Community Impact

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**
Senior Finance Officer, Management Accounts

There are no financial implications to this report

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lucinda Bell**
Education Lawyer

Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 requires that the Local Authority constitutes a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education. Certain representative groups are required under section 4 of this provision. Other members may be co-opted.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**
Community Development Officer

There are implications based on the information about religion for the way that the diversity of the population of Thurrock is reflected in the provision for Religious Education in local schools, therefore there are implications on the different groups identified in this report.

7.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

- None

Background Papers Used In Preparing This Report (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- None.

Appendices to This Report:

- Appendix 1 - Revised Thurrock SACRE Constitution

Report Author Contact Details:

Name: Kenna-Victoria Martin

Senior Democratic Services Officer

This page is intentionally left blank

**THURROCK STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

(SACRE)

CONSTITUTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

THURROCK STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

(SACRE)

CONSTITUTION

REVISED December 2016

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with the Education Act 1996 and circular 1/94, Religious Education and Collective Worship, the Local Authority (“LA”) has a duty to establish and set up a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (“SACRE”) and an Agreed Syllabus Conference.
- 1.2 If there is a conflict between these Terms of Reference and the law, the SACRE shall comply with the law.

2. Functions and Responsibilities

- 2.1 To advise the Local Authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in community schools or in foundation schools which do not have a religious character and the religious education to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus. This may include, in particular, methods of teaching, choice of teaching material and the provision of training for teachers.
- 2.2 To publish an annual report on its work specifying any matters on which it has advised the Local Authority, broadly describing the nature of that advice, and setting out the reasons for offering advice on any matters which were not referred to it in the first place by the Local Authority.
- 2.3 To publish its annual report by the end of the academic year and send to local schools and other persons and organisations it sees fit.
- 2.4 To encourage the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus and in this regard to monitor the production of teaching resources and support material.
- 2.5 To support the Local Authority in reviewing provision for religious education and collective worship in schools within the Borough.
- 2.6 To disseminate an understanding of the educational role of religious education and collective worship and to encourage the active involvement of local religious groups and organisations.
- 2.7 To keep under review the effectiveness and appropriateness of the Agreed Syllabus until such time (and no later than 5 years after the publication of the last agreed syllabus) it decides to require the Local Authority to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to institute a formal review.

3. Membership and composition of SACRE

3.1 SACRE will comprise members of four representative groups appointed by the Local Authority as follows:

Group A Christian Denominations & other RE denominations

10 members

2 Free Church Christian member (nominated by the Free Church Federal Council)

1 Roman Catholic member (nominated by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brentwood)

1 Jewish member (nominated by the Board of Deputies of British Jews)

2 Muslim members (nominated by the Muslim Council of Britain)

1 Sikh member (nominated by the Local Gurdwara)

1 Hindu member (nominated by the National Council of Hindu Temples)

1 Pentecostal member (nominated by the Local King's Family Centre)

1 Buddhist member (nominated by the Buddhist Society)

Group B Church of England

4 members nominated by the Diocese of Chelmsford

Group C Teachers Associations

6 members nominated by the Professional Associations Group representing as far as is practicable, primary, secondary, special schools and academies.

Group D The Local Authority

3 members nominated by Council.

3.2 Co-Opted Members/Attendees

- 3.3. SACRE shall have the right to co-opt additional non-voting members who shall remain co-opted for as long as SACRE deems necessary or until such time as the co-opted member resigns.
- 3.4 Co-opted members may resign at any time and may be removed by the representative groups at any time or the LA.
- 3.5 It shall be open to SACRE to invite people of expertise or special interests to attend on an occasional basis.

4. Term of Office

- 4.1 Members of Committees A, B, C and D are appointed for a period of four years, but shall thereafter be eligible for re-nomination by their nominating bodies.
- 4.2 A member shall cease to be a member of SACRE if:
- a) They reach the end of their term of office
 - b) They write to the SACRE or the Clerk and tender their resignation;
 - c) They were appointed by virtue of being representative of the religion, denomination or associations which they were appointed to represent, but in the opinion of the LA, they cease to be such a representative, or to be representative of the authority;
 - d) The other members of their representative group notify the LA that the member should no longer act as one of its representatives on the SACRE and the LA agrees to their removal;
 - e) The LA determine, on reasonable grounds, that the member is unable, unwilling or an unsuitable person to continue these duties.
- 4.3 Any member of SACRE may at any time resign his/her office and a replacement be sought from the relevant nominating body.
- 4.4 The SACRE shall review the membership annually at their Autumn Term meeting.

5. Chair and Vice Chair

- 5.1 The Chair and Vice Chair of SACRE shall be appointed by Members in attendance at the first meeting of each Academic Year, or any meeting during the year when the position is vacant. The voting will be by a simple majority.
- 5.2 Each of the representative groups A, B, C and D shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the respective representative group. Each representative member having one vote. These chairs will be appointed annually at the Autumn Term meeting (or first meeting of the Academic Year).

- 5.3 In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson will take the chair and in the absence of both of these a member will be elected for one meeting.
- 5.4 The Chair will be responsible for:
- a) The management of meetings;
 - b) Representing the SACRE to other bodies;
 - c) Such other duties as the SACRE considers appropriate.
- 5.5 The Vice-Chair will be responsible for:
- a) Deputising for the Chair as required;
 - b) Representing the SACRE to other bodies in the absence of the Chair or by agreement with the Chair;
 - c) Such other duties as the SACRE considers appropriate.
- 5.6 The LA shall appoint a Clerk to:
- a) Attend the meetings of SACRE
 - b) Take appropriate minutes and notes at meetings;
 - c) Maintain and update the records of SACRE and its meetings;
 - d) Perform any other necessary administrative duties; and
 - e) Provide a copy of the minutes to the Members of the SACRE and LA.

6. Vacancies

- 6.1 In the event of a vacancy on the SACRE the Clerk shall:
- a. Advise the relevant appointing body of the vacancy;
 - b. Where appropriate, refer any nomination to the LA; and
 - c. Where such nominations are agreed, record the person as a member of SACRE.
- 6.2 In the absence of nominees from a representative group, the LA may nominate and appoint any person that it considers to be representative of that group and it deems appropriate, to fill the vacancy.

7. Arrangements for Meetings

- 7.1 Meetings will be convened by the Local Authority.
- 7.2 Special meetings may be called by the Chair and the Local Authority acting jointly.
- 7.3 There will be 3 meetings of SACRE held each academic year, normally one per academic term, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Chair.
- 7.4 Matters for the Agenda of any meeting shall be sent to the Clerk at least 21 days in advance of the meeting.

7.5 The draft minutes of the previous meeting shall be circulated to Members no later than one week before the next meeting takes place.

7.6 The Clerk will no later than 5 working days before the meeting, circulate the agenda and supporting papers to the SACRE members.

8. Attendance at meetings

8.1 The membership of any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without good cause will be considered to have resigned their position from SACRE and a replacement or reinstatement be sought from the nominating body.

9. Quorum

9.1 For the purposes of meetings, the SACRE will be deemed quorate when at least one member of three representative groups are represented and not less than a third of the total membership are present.

9.2 If the meeting is not quorate, either business shall not be transacted or the meeting could continue but decisions would have to be ratified at the next SACRE meeting.

10. Voting Rights

10.1 Each representative group within SACRE shall have one vote. Groups are to determine their own internal voting arrangements. Decisions within a group about how that vote is to be cast do not require unanimity. Individual representative members cannot vote separately. Co-opted members are not entitled to vote. Each group is to regulate its own proceedings including provision for resolving deadlock.

10.2 A proposal shall not be deemed to be carried unless it has been approved by at least three of the representative groups unless otherwise required by law or guidance.

10.3 In the interests of achieving consensus SACRE should only take a vote of the four groups when it is necessary to make a formal record of a decision, or if there are opposing views.

11. Access to meetings and documents

11.1 Meetings of the SACRE will be held in public and members of the public will be encouraged to attend meetings as observers except where matters under discussion are considered by SACRE to be confidential. Members of the public cannot take part in discussions nor have any voting rights.

11.2 Copies of agendas and reports for meetings of SACRE will be made available for inspection on the Committee Management Information System found on the Local Authority's website.

12. Constitutional Change

- 12.1 The Local Authority can alter these terms of reference but must consult SACRE before doing so.

This page is intentionally left blank

7 December 2016	ITEM: 9
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education	
Excellent RE	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key
Report of: Deborah Weston, Associate Adviser for Religious Education	
Accountable Head of Service: Roger Edwardson, Strategic Lead, School Improvement, Learning and Skills	
Accountable Director: Rory Patterson, Director of Children’s Services	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

This report presents the ‘Excellent RE’ programme to members for and invites them to be involved in its monitoring.

1. Recommendation(s) that SACRE:

That SACRE members visit the schools involved in this project to monitor the impact

2. Introduction and Background

The introduction of the new Agreed Syllabus and the training event has raised the profile of Religious Education in Thurrock. More than 90% of schools sent a representative to the training event and most of the remaining schools have received their copy of the syllabus and schemes of work.

In order to continue to raise standards in the teaching of RE we need to build our capacity for sharing good practice throughout Thurrock. The ‘Excellent RE’ scheme is an ideal model for achieving this aim. It is a grant funded scheme including the cover costs for teachers involved in the project.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

Members are requested to consider whether it might be possible to visit any of the schools involved in the Excellent RE project during this academic year to learn more about the project.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 One of the responsibilities of a SACRE is to monitor provision for RE to be given in accordance with its Agreed Syllabus

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 Not applicable

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 The Local Authority reviews its Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education on a regular basis;

- Publishes an Annual Report of its work;
- Offers guidance on resources and methods of teaching and in consultation with Thurrock Schools;
- Monitors the quality of provision for RE and Collective Acts of Worship in Thurrock.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**
Finance Officer –Corporate Finance

There are no financial implications for this report

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lucinda Bell**
Education Lawyer

This report proposes that SACRE agrees to visit schools as part of its monitoring function.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**
Community Development Officer

By providing training for the teachers in 11 primary schools in Thurrock the Excellent RE project aims to increase capacity for the sharing of good practice in the borough. Higher standards in the teaching of RE will help schools to fulfil their statutory duty to promote community cohesion and to encourage better respect and tolerance for those with different religions and beliefs.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

Not applicable

Background Papers Used In Preparing This Report (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- None.

Appendices to This Report:

- Appendix 1 - Initial flyer for Project for Excellent RE

Report Author:

Deborah Weston
Associate Adviser for RE

This page is intentionally left blank

RE Today & NATRE Project for Excellent RE
Working with Culham St Gabriel's

Excellent RE in Primary Schools

Thurrock SACRE, along with RE Today and NATRE are delighted to give Thurrock schools the opportunity to develop their RE provision through a year-long Excellent RE Project. Ten schools with primary age pupils are able to take part in this initiative and places will be given on a first come, first served basis.

RE Today and NATRE, with Culham St Gabriel's, will work in 2016-17 with the group of ten schools to provide a forum for curriculum development and access to 3 ½ days of high quality, practical and inspirational CPD for RE with a focus on supporting RE as a lead subject in school improvement and SMSCD across the school – a current HMI priority.

RE is too often marginal in schools facing curriculum change. However, there is some evidence that the subject can be pivotal in raising aspirations and standards through excellent teaching and learning, and improving opportunities for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSCD). The Excellent RE Project is a sustained CPD project which will ultimately impact on RE across the school and give teachers access to many high quality resources and activities.

This funded project is open to schools where there is a commitment from senior leaders to actively support the staff involved during the project, providing them with opportunities to complete school based tasks and implement new ideas. Up to £180 per day will be paid to each school to go towards the cost of supply cover for their attending teacher(s) during the 3 ½ days.

What will we do?

We will create a core group of 10 Thurrock schools where an enthusiastic RE Subject Leader has the support of senior managers for involvement in the project.

We intend the project will show positive outcomes for many children that include, but are wider than, RE achievement: these wider outcomes can be characterized as to do with SMSCD. This was a new priority for the Inspection Framework from Ofsted in 2012 and has continued to be a priority.

Many teachers, whether new to the profession or established in their teaching careers, have had little or no training in the teaching of RE, and have more concerns about teaching RE than they do of other subjects. In many schools HLTAs and TAs are involved in teaching and, in some cases, managing the subject. This project intends to increase confidence in the teaching of RE in those schools involved.

Working with these schools over 10 months, we will meet at least termly to develop planning and resourcing for better RE and respond to needs, problems and

opportunities. RE Today advisers will use their experience and catalogue of resources to enable teachers to develop better RE in the schools with a focus on collaborative working, creative engagement and learning from diversity. Between main meetings, participants will work on RE improvement tasks in school, with frequent contact with advisers.

We will explore with the partner schools the best ways of enabling high-quality RE learning for pupils, and develop numerous examples of better practice in doing this.

What will you need to do?

- Participating schools need to show a commitment to this project over a period of 10 months.
- Allow a participant to attend all 4 of the face-to-face meetings
- Release costs for teachers (3.5 days at up to £180 pd) will be paid by the project as long as teachers attend and complete the school based tasks and related reports
- Support participants to complete the school-based tasks

All training days will be free for schools to attend. The dates are: Thursday September 15th 2016 (half day); 13th October 2016 (full day); 27 February 2017 (full day); 28 June 2017 (full day).

The project

Starting with a half-day conference in Autumn 2016, three further day-long termly meetings 2016-17 will energise and resource good practice in the ten project schools. Ongoing support (online and face-to-face) will enable improved RE to be securely built into the practice of participant schools.

We will meet termly to develop planning and resourcing for better RE and respond to needs, problems and opportunities. RE Today advisers will use their experience and catalogue of resources to enable teachers to develop better RE in the schools with a focus on collaborative working, creative engagement and learning from diversity. Between main meetings, participants will work on RE improvement tasks in school, with frequent contact with advisers.

We will explore with the partner schools the best ways of enabling RE and SMSC development for pupils, and develop numerous examples of better practice in doing this.

Questions we will explore

- How can we improve teaching and learning in RE and cascade this throughout the school?
- How can we create a manageable method of sharing with children realistic next steps in learning?
- How do we ensure children are making appropriate progress in all aspects of RE?
- How can we organise the curriculum for engaging and effective learning in RE?

- How can improving RE have a wider impact on schools in helping pupils to take up opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development?
- What thinking and pedagogies can energise teachers in a plural setting to make the most of RE's potential for SMSCD?

Fiona Moss, Stephen Pett
& Julia Diamond -Conway

E: exec@natre.org.uk

W: www.natre.org.uk

Schools involved

	School	Participating Teacher
1	Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	Angela Smith
2	Dilkes	Bodun Laosebikan
3	Little Thurrock Primary School	Ruth Gedalovitch
4	Orsett C of E	Lola Olajide
5	Tilbury Pioneer Academy	Natasha Oswald
6	Belmont Castle Academy	Nicola Fawell
7	Kenningtons Primary Academy	Louise Blaber
8	Benyon Primary School	Christelle Gostling
9	Herringham Primary Academy	Kathryn Gallaher
10	Treetops School	Joanne Masheder
11	Stanford-le-Hope Primary School	Lisa Butler

7 December 2016	ITEM: 10
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education	
Thurrock SACRE Annual Report 2016	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key
Report of: Deborah Weston, Associate Adviser for Religious Education	
Accountable Head of Service: Roger Edwardson, Strategic Lead, School Improvement, Learning and Skills	
Accountable Director: Rory Patterson, Director of Children’s Services	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

This report presents the Annual Report to members of SACRE for approval

1. Recommendation(s)

That SACRE accept this report as an accurate record of its work for the period September 2014-July 2016

2. Introduction and Background

It is a legal requirement that SACRE submit an annual report of its activities to the local authority.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Members are requested to accept, amend or reject the report.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 In order that SACRE fulfils its statutory duty to publish an annual report.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 Not applicable

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

6.1 The Local Authority reviews its Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education on a regular basis;

- Publishes an Annual Report of its work;
- Offers guidance on resources and methods of teaching and in consultation with Thurrock Schools;
- Monitors the quality of provision for RE and Collective Acts of Worship in Thurrock.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**
Finance Manager, Corporate Finance

There are no financial implications for this report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lucinda Bell**
Education Lawyer

SACRE is asked to accept, reject or amend the report. S391 of the Education Act 1996 requires SACRE to publish a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by representative groups on the council during the last year. The section states that “The council’s report shall in particular -

- a) specify any matters in respect of which the council have given advice to the authority,
- b) broadly describe the nature of the advice given, and
- c) where any such matter was not referred to the council by the authority, give the council’s reasons for offering advice on that matter.”

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**
Community Development Officer

Although there are no direct diversity implications, the Annual Report demonstrates how the work of SACRE continues to promote an understanding of different religion in education therefore promoting cohesion.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

- Not applicable

Background Papers Used In Preparing This Report (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- None.

Appendices to This Report:

- Appendix 1 - Annual Report Of The Thurrock Standing Advisory Council On Religious Education September 2014 - July 2016

Report Author:

Deborah Weston
Associate Adviser for RE

This page is intentionally left blank

**Annual Report Of The Thurrock Standing
Advisory Council On Religious Education
(SACRE)**

September 2014 - July 2016

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Forward by the Chair of SACRE – Rev. John Guest	3
The membership of Thurrock SACRE 2014-16	4
SACRE Meetings Held	5
National Items Discussed By SACRE.....	6
National Religious Education Review (October 2014).....	6
Report on the Inquiry into the Supply of and Support of Teachers of RE in England. All Party Parliamentary Group on RE (October 2014).....	6
The OFSTED Report - Realising the Potential.....	6
A New Settlement: Religion and Beliefs in Schools	6
Judicial Review R (Fox) v Secretary of State for Education [2015] EWHC 3404	7
Review of the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus 2009.....	8
School Workforce Data – Who Teaches RE in Thurrock.....	10
Thurrock SACRE Youth Conference	12
Standards in RE in Thurrock.....	13
GCSE and GCE A Level Results	13
Entries	13
Results	13
GCE A Level.....	13

Introduction

Since 1988, it has been a requirement that every local authority (LA) has a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

Though legislation sets out both the structure and the remit of a local SACRE - principally, overseeing religious education (RE) and collective worship - in practice every SACRE has developed its own particular style and character. Thurrock SACRE has over the years developed its own particular style and character as this report will testify.

It is a legislative requirement that each SACRE produces an annual report of its work and that this is published, sent the local authority, to local schools and to other interested parties.

Thurrock SACRE has customarily discussed its annual report in the summer term meeting following publication of validated GCSE data after the spring meeting. It had been previously agreed that publishing invalidated data might be considered inappropriate by schools in case there were errors that misrepresented their provision. Over time, SACRE has reached the conclusion that this practice was problematic since by the time the report reached schools, the validated data was almost a year old.

This report therefore covers two academic years and includes invalidated GCSE data in order that the advice to Thurrock Council and to its schools can be as immediately relevant as possible.

Forward by the Chair of SACRE – Rev. John Guest

The membership of Thurrock SACRE 2014-2016

Committee A

Mrs S Lawson – Free Church Member
Mrs Shepherd – Roman Catholic Member
M A Rashid – Muslim Member
Ms A Ahmed – Muslim Member
Mr B Gill – Sikh Member
Mr P Anderson – House Church Member
Dr O Soleye – Pentecostal Member
Mr A Kariyawasam – Buddhist Member
Vacancy – Jewish Member
Vacancy – Hindu Member

Committee B

Rev. John Guest – Chair (from July 2014) Church of England Member
Mrs Mary Taylor – Church of England Member
David Bates – Church of England Member

Committee C

Angela Jellicoe – Teacher representative
Paul Griffiths – Headteacher representative
Hayley Gillman - Teacher representative

Committee D

Councillor Gupta (Until April 2016)
Councillor Kerin
Councillor Ojetola

SACRE Meetings Held

The following SACRE meetings were held during the two year period:

- 15 October 2014
- 15 January 2015
- 15 July 2015
- 14 October 2015
- 2 December 2015
- 3 February 2016
- 22 March 2016
- 18 April 2016

National Items Discussed By SACRE

National Religious Education Review (October 2014)

Members discussed draft documentation related to the review and shared their comments with the Religious Education Council of England and Wales.

Report on the Inquiry into the Supply of and Support of Teachers of RE in England. All Party Parliamentary Group on RE (October 2014)

Following a discussion on the supply of and support for teachers of religious education SACRE determined to carry out its own research into the practice of using teaching assistants rather than teachers to deliver the RE curriculum in primary schools.

They were informed by a Headteacher colleague member of SACRE that within Catholic primary schools all teachers are expected to teach RE, training is offered and paid for by the school.

The OFSTED Report - Realising the Potential

SACRE was disappointed to learn that the extent to which RE was not being taught well, especially in secondary schools. They decided to share this report with schools and to publicise its findings in the Headteacher's briefing.

A New Settlement: Religion and Beliefs in Schools

During the Committee's discussion the following points were highlighted:

- It was felt that organised religion appeared to be less important, with an increase in interest in matters of spirituality;
- The Chair informed the Committee that he was to have a meeting with the Headteachers within his area of the boroughs to discuss Collective Worship and would report back to the council;
- The associate adviser pointed out that the research of Professor Linda Woodhead had demonstrated that because a person reported themselves as having no religion on the census did not make them atheist, it meant that they did not consider themselves to be part of an organised religion;
- The Chair suggested that it seemed that collective worship was a normal part of daily life within schools but once it was made compulsory it appeared to decline;
- A teacher representative on the council, stated that collective worship still took place within schools as thoughts, prayers and reflection this was usually undertaken during assemblies. It was felt that by doing collective worship in this way it wouldn't offend anyone with or without a faith.

Judicial Review R (Fox) v Secretary of State for Education [2015] EWHC 3404

This judicial review was held in the High Court of Justice following a challenge to the legality of the Department for Education's GCSE Subject Content for Religious Studies. In his judgment, Justice Warby upheld the claim that a section of the content contained an error of law.

The judge found that the section of the content might mislead those responsible for the provision for RE in schools without a religious character into believing that irrespective of which specification they chose or route through that specification they would automatically be fulfilling their legal requirements in relation to Religious Education and that this was not necessarily true.

During discussions it was agreed to share the outcome of the judicial review Schools with Thurrock

Review of the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus 2009

SACRE carried out its statutory duty to review the agreed syllabus. Members considered their options for carrying out this review: (i) to revise their current syllabus (ii) to adopt a neighbouring authority's syllabus. (iii) to adopts the RE Today Model Syllabus.

After consulting with all schools SACRE invited a RE Today adviser to make a presentation about the RE Today model syllabus and subsequently decided to adopt it for Thurrock Schools. It was agreed that if local Academies agreed to formally adopt the syllabus, that the Council would pay for a licence for these schools too on the basis that good RE would benefit all the children in the area and there for the local community. All Academies were consulted and it was discovered that 80% of these had chosen to adopt the local agreed syllabus.

Almost all the secondary and many of the primary schools in Thurrock had become academies which meant that although making provision for RE was a contractual responsibility, these schools were not obliged to follow the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus. SACRE decided to conduct some research to determine whether or not the syllabus was commonly used. The results were that 70% of schools who were not obliged to follow the agreed syllabus chose to do so. This information led to the decision to invite all academies to be involved in the review of the Agreed Syllabus.

Details of which syllabus schools had chosen to use as of December 2014 can be found on the following page.

Syllabus Choices of Thurrock Schools	
Abbots Hall Primary Academy	TAS
Beacon Hill Academy	Own syllabus
Belmont Castle	TAS
Benyon Primary School	TAS
Dilkes Academy	TAS
East Tilbury Infant School & East Tilbury Junior	TAS
Gable Hall school	TAS
Gateway Academy	Own Syllabus
GLC Academy	TAS
Graham James Primary Academy	Own syllabus
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	TAS
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	TAS
Hassenbrook Academy	Own syllabus
Hathaway Academy	TAS
Herringham Primary Academy	TAS
Kenningtons Primary Academy	TAS
Lansdowne	TAS
Ockendon Academy	TAS
Purfleet primary Academy	TAS
Quarry hill Academy	TAS
Shaw Primary Academy	Own syllabus
St Cleres	TAS with some adaptation
Stanford le Hope as part of St Cleres Multi Academy Trust	TAS and own syllabus
Thameside Primary School	Essex
West Thurrock Academy	TAS
William Edwards	Own syllabus
Woodside Academy	TAS

School Workforce Data – Who Teaches RE in Thurrock

SACRE continued its practice of reviewing all forms of data that might help them to monitor provision for RE. The number and characteristics of teachers, teaching assistants and other non-classroom-based school support staff, collected through the annual school workforce census.

The statistics include:

- the curriculum subject taught
- whether teachers have qualifications in the subjects they teach
- the hours spent teaching by subject

SACRE noted that although non-specialist teachers were teaching RE within schools in some cases these teachers would become specialists in RE through experience of teaching the subject. They were nonetheless concerned at the high proportion of lessons being taught by teachers whose main specialism and timetable focused on a different area and also that the data appeared to show that some secondary academies did not appear to be fulfilling the terms of their funding agreement to make provision for all pupils on the roll.

SACRE wrote to schools where there were concerns to ask for further information and explanation about why they are not making provision for all pupils and to draw attention to OfSTED's findings on the impact of over use of non-specialists and to ask for their comments.

In December 2014 SACRE examined the results of a survey showing who, at that time, was teaching RE in Thurrock Primary Schools. See the following page for tabulated results

Who delivers RE in Thurrock Primary Schools?	Teachers	General Teaching Assistants	PPA Cover Teachers	Higher Level Teaching Assistants
1. Abbots Hall Primary				
2. Arthur Bugler				
3. Aveley Primary	✓			
4. Beacon Hill Academy	✓			
5. Belmont Castle	50%	33% by teachers+HLTA	16%	
6. Benyon	✓	✓ (during PPA cover or in the teacher's absence)		
7. Bonnygate	✓		✓	
8. Bulphan C of E	✓			
9. Chadwell St Mary				
10. Chafford Hundred				
11. Corringham	✓			
12. Deneholm				
13. Dilkes Academy	✓			
14. East Tilbury				
15. Gateway	✓			
16. Giffauds				
17. Graham James				
18. Herringham Primary	✓			✓(4)
19. Holy Cross	✓			
20. Horndon on the Hill				
21. Kenningtons				
22. Landsdowne	✓			
23. Little Thurrock				
24. Manor				
25. Orsett	✓			
26. Olive AP Academy	✓			
27. Quarry Hill				
28. Shaw Primary	✓			✓
29. Somers Heath				
30. St Joseph's Catholic Primary	✓			
31. St Mary's	✓			
32. St Thomas'	✓			
33. Stanford le Hope	✓			
34. Stifford Clays	✓			✓
35. Thameside	✓			
36. Treetops	✓			
37. Tudor Court	✓			
38. Warren	✓			
39. West Thurrock Academy	✓			
40. Woodside	✓			✓ 2 classes out of 18 for 1 term for PPA

Thurrock SACRE Youth Conference

Funding from the Culham St Gabriel's Trust allowed Thurrock to offer a free youth conference during Interfaith Week in 2015. The event was well attended and the visiting Ambassadors from Redbridge Sixth Forms were well received. Many students had opportunities to talk to young people from Protestant and Catholic traditions of Christianity, Islam, Sikh, Hindu, Pagan as well as atheists.

Youth Conference was taking place on Thursday 10th December being held at the Culver Centre, commencing at 9.30am – 3.00pm

Standards in RE in Thurrock

GCSE and GCE A Level Results

The tables below indicate the entries and results for the exams held in 2015 and 2016.

Entries

To Follow

Results

To Follow

GCE A Level

The table below illustrates A level results for the Harris Academy where entries doubled in 2014 over 2013 but A*-B attainment reduced from 100% to 90%

This page is intentionally left blank