

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:

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Associate Adviser for RE