18 July 2018	ITEM: 5					
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education						
Monitoring Provision for RE in Thurrock Schools						
Wards and communities affected:	Key Decision: Non-Key					
Report of: Deborah Weston: Associate	e Adviser for Religious E	ducation				
Accountable Assistant Director: – M Inclusion and Skills	lichele Lucas, Assistant [Director Learning				
Accountable Director: - Rory Patterson, Corporate Director of Children's Services						
This report is Public						

Executive Summary

In order to discharge its legal duties, SACRE monitors provision for Religious Education in its local area where RE is delivered in accordance with the local Agreed Syllabus. Thurrock introduced a new Agreed Syllabus in 2016 and decided that the academic year 2017-2018 would be a reasonable time to begin a monitoring exercise to establish how effective the new syllabus has been in meeting its aim to raise standards of RE. At the last meeting of SACRE carried out a review of school websites to investigate provision for RE in Thurrock.

1. Recommendation(s) that SACRE:

That SACRE members

- Consider:
 - the report on provision for RE as recorded on school websites (Appendix A) alongside the school workforce report (Appendix B)
- Consider any follow up action that might be warranted
 - where good practice is identified
 - where there is no evidence that the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus are met
 - o where there looks to be limited or no provision.
- Consider writing to schools to inform them of the changes to DfE regulations and Ofsted practice (see 3.2 and 3.4 below) and appendix C

2. Introduction and Background

It has been possible in the past for SACRE to carry out its monitoring function using a variety of methods:

a. School visits and lesson observations

- b. The collation of comments on RE found in Ofsted inspection reports
- c. Analysis of data

Smaller education budgets and less staff capacity mean that specific visits to schools by specialist advisers for RE are no longer possible for most local authorities, Ofsted no longer report on RE in particular and therefore SACREs around the country largely rely on data and information that schools are prepared to share from their own self-evaluative work.

Revised DfE guidance on RE in academies

At the end of March 2018, minister for schools, Nick Gibb MP responded to a parliamentary question about RE. In the response he said the following: "Where academies are subject to the same statutory duties as maintained schools, the Secretary of State has powers to enforce compliance via the terms of the funding agreement." NATRE subsequently wrote to the DfE in an attempt to clarify what sort of matter might result in a Secretary of State using these powers in relation to RE. NATRE asked: 'Can you please provide us with some guidance about how you might judge a complaint about the failure of an academy to meet its funding agreement in relation to RE?'

The letter NATRE received in response included the following six points:

- 1. In most non-religiously designated academy funding agreements, the requirement to provide religious education is in line with S.375(3) of the Education Act 1996 religious education that reflects the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are Christian, whilst taking into account the practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain;
- 2. Academies may choose to use an agreed syllabus in full or part to meet their requirements to provide RE. They may also choose to develop their own syllabus that meets the requirements in their funding agreement (including S.375 above);
- 3. We would expect that all schools provide pupils with a curriculum that is high quality and promotes progression through the key stages, including in RE;
- 4. ... head teachers should ensure that "the subject is well led and effectively managed, and that standards and achievement in RE, and the quality of the provision, are subject to regular and effective self-evaluation;
- 5. If inspectors become aware that a school is not delivering the curriculum that it is expected to be offering, this will be reflected in the assessment of the leadership and management of the school, which in turn will inform the overall effectiveness of the school;
- 6. ...if the department is made aware of an academy that is not meeting the requirements for providing RE as outlined above, the complaint would be passed onto the operational team where the academy was located. The operational team would work with the policy team to understand the arrangements and specific situation in that school, and work with the school to resolve the matter.

Academy funding agreements

The DfE has raised the profile of Religious Education in the revised academy funding agreements. By placing RE alongside the core subjects that MUST be included in a 'balanced and broadly based' curriculum, no one can be in any doubt of the expectations.

The information on RE has been given more prominence and has moved into the first section of the document

Curriculum

- 2.1 The curriculum is the responsibility of the Academy Trust.
- 2.2 The Academy Trust must ensure that the curriculum provided in each Academy to pupils up to the age of 16 is balanced and broadly based. In respect of Mainstream, Special Academies, UTCs and Studio Schools, the Academy Trust must ensure that the curriculum includes English, mathematics, science and (subject to the provisions in clause 2.V of the Mainstream academy and free school: supplemental funding agreement), (subject to the provisions in clause 2.V of the UTC and Studio School supplemental funding agreement) and (subject to the provisions in clause 2.HH-JJ of the Special School: supplemental funding agreement) religious education. In respect of Alternative Provision Academies the Academy Trust must ensure that the curriculum includes English, mathematics and science.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-multi-model-master-funding-agreement

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 To comply with the School Information (England)
 (Amendment) Regulations 2012, all schools including academies and free schools must publish the content of the religious education curriculum for each academic year on their school website.¹²
- 3.2 The regulations above were updates above on 24th May 2018 as follows: "the content of the curriculum your school follows in each academic year for every subject, including for mandatory subjects such as Religious Education even if it's taught as part of another subject or subjects or is called something else"
- 3.3 A census of the school workforce is carried out annual and for secondary schools, this includes data about the number of hours of provision for each year group for each subject of the curriculum
- 3.4 Ofsted have announced (May 2018) that in future schools previously judged as good or outstanding will be subject to risk assessment to determine whether or not they require reinspection or not. This risk assessment will include the school workforce data referenced above (see appendix #)

¹ https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-maintained-schools-must-publish-online

² https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-academies-free-schools-and-colleges-should-publish-online

3.5 These two methods of collective information on provision for RE cannot be used in isolation but the results should complement GCSE data and the pilot survey that are already part of this year's SACRE workplan.

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.
- 4.2 It would be preferable for SACRE to inform schools if their published information does not meet the statutory requirements or the school workforce data is likely to give cause for concern than if Ofsted were to raise it in an inspection.
- 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.

This exercise falls under the third element of this programme.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: David May

Management Accountant, Corporate Finance

There are no financial implications to this report since the analysis of the data collected through this exercise will be conducted by the Associate RE Adviser as part of her work

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: Lucinda Bell

Education Lawyer

This report recommends that SACRE consider the report and appendices and considers taking recommended action to inform schools of findings it has made whilst carrying out its monitoring function.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: Becky Price

Community Development Officer

The aim of this review is to collect information about the provision for RE in Thurrock, to address concerns and to celebrate success. 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

- 8 **Background papers used in preparing the report** (Including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):
- 8.1 None
- 9 Appendices to the report
- 9.1 Appendix A SACRE Schools RE website survey 30 January 2018

Report Author:

Deborah Weston Associate Adviser for RE

Appendix A

SACRE schools RE website survey 30 January 2018

Grays Convent - secondary

Has the school published the content of RE curriculum for each academic year? YES

- Years 7-9 ICONS Programme of Study
- Year 10 2016 Edexcel GCSE Full Course
- Year 11 2009 Edexcel GCSE Full Course

Is this in line with the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus for RE? Not applicable

Grays Convent is a school with a religious character so is not required to follow the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus for RE

Is a GCSE course offered in Key Stage 4? Short Course or Full Course

Yes -Full Course (See above)

Secondary - Is there a non-GCSE KS4 RE curriculum shown? No – all pupils study GCSE

Does the website also include information about collective worship?

The inclusion of worship in the life of the school is reference in the Section 48 inspection report on the school website. Girls lead assemblies and mass every two weeks

Is there evidence that there is a nominated RE Leader – Yes

Woodside Academy - primary

Has the school published the content of RE curriculum for each academic year? YES

Follow SACRE programme of study

At Early Years Stage 4-5 year olds will encounter Christianity and other faiths as part of their growing sense of self, their community and their place within it.

At Key Stage 1 5-7 year olds are required to study Christianity and either Islam or Judaism.

At Key Stage 2 7-11 year olds are required to study Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Judaism.

In order to deliver the aims and expected standards of the syllabus effectively the expectation is that there is a minimum allocation of 5% of curriculum time for R.E – this is separate from collective worship

Is this in line with the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus for RE? YES

Does the website also include information about a RE policy? YES

RE policy published https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/woodside-academy/UploadedDocument/38effc02f6194ca89e5d2dedf02e6d2c/religious-education-policy-woodside-academy-2017.pdf

Does the website also include information about collective worship? YES

Assemblies

We have class assemblies every Wednesday morning at 9.00 a.m. until 9.30 a.m. in the school hall, parents are welcome to attend. You can find dates of forthcoming class assemblies in our newsletter and calendar.

There is a daily assembly at Woodside:

Monday Bible-based assembly from Open The Book

Tuesday Singing assembly or visitor's assembly

• Wednesday Class assemblies

• Thursday Separate infant and junior assemblies les by teachers or visitors

• Friday - Celebration assembly

Is there evidence that there is a nominated RE Leader – Yes

RE Lead Mrs Colson

Any events linked to RE (e.g. relevant visitors, Inter Faith week etc)? Describe below:

Holocaust Memorial Day

West Thurrock Academy -primary

Has the school published the content of RE curriculum for each academic year?

The school follows the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus for R.E. which provides opportunities for children to develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and to understand and respect other religions, beliefs, values and traditions.

In the Foundation stage, R.E. is included in the topic 'Knowledge and Understanding about the World'.

The school has close links with St Clements Chapel, West Thurrock, and visits are made as part of the R.E. work. Our Vicar also visits school regularly as part of the children's R.E. activities.

http://fluencycontent2-schoolwebsite.netdna-

ssl.com/FileCluster/WestHorrockPrimary/MainFolder/Files/Curriculum/Curriculum-Map-2017-2018.pdf Curriculum map

Is this in line with the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus for RE? Yes

School studies Christianity, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Humanists

Does the website also include information about collective worship?

Not found

Is there evidence that there is a nominated RE Leader?

Not visible

Does the website also include information about a RE policy?

No RE policy on website but RE mentioned in curriculum policy and the following statement appears:

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The school follows the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus for R.E. which provides opportunities for children to develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and to understand and respect other religions, beliefs, values and traditions.

In the Foundation stage, R.E. is included in the topic 'Knowledge and Understanding about the World'.

The school has close links with St Clements Chapel, West Thurrock, and visits are made as part of the R.E. work. Our Vicar also visits school regularly as part of the children's R.E. activities.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of R.E. if they prefer.

Gateway Academy

Has the school published the content of RE curriculum for each academic year?

Only references Humanities as a curriculum subject on the website and only one reference to Religious Studies or Religious Education. The curriculum plan states

that there are 6 hours of Humanities per fortnight so a nominal hour per week for RE. The Humanities pages include this reference:

The programme of study for religious education offers a range of opportunities for students to understand the principles of Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. Through such diversity students are encouraged to empathise with diverse religions, traditions and cultures. The teachings of such religious beliefs are explored through topical issues that are relevant in society and engage the student; topics consist of attitudes towards euthanasia, marriage, divorce,

Outline of study - KS3 Humanities

	Autumn 1 (6)	Autumn 2 (7)			
Year 7	Where do I come from?	Where are places in the world?			
	Stone Age Man	(Geographical location)			
	NCN	British empire			
		MEDC and LEDC			
		EU			
		Commonwealth			
		Slave trade – Abolition			
Year 8	Have advances in industrialisation and	Attitudes towards crime and punishment			
	technology led to higher standards of living?	SSW			
	NCN				
	Spring 1 (6)	Spring 2 (5)			
Year 7	Who has the power?	Settlements			
	Queen	Migration			
	MP	Urbanisation			
	Suffrage	Castles			
	Governments				
	Protest				
	Human Rights				
	DZE				

		1				
Year 8	How does globalisation impact on different cultures and national identity? Melting pot or the salad bowl	Social liberation – How have values changed over time? Sexual equality				
	Summer 1 (6)	Summer 2 (5)				
Year 7	What is more dangerous, Man or Environment? Volcanoes & earthquakes Natural disasters Conflict Multiculturalism Genocide HBE					
Year 8	The influence of religion on the world Transition (3)	Is medical progress always positive?				
Year 7	Research project on a topic from "what is more dangerous?" to achieve "certificate"					
Year 8	Research project on a topic from the two years to achieve "diploma"					

Is this in line with the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus for RE? No? It is not clear if this curriculum plan would lead to pupils having sufficient knowledge and understanding about religious beliefs and teachings to meet the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus or the funding agreement of the academy.

Mention of 'Tolerance in Faith and Beliefs' under British Values on website

Is a GCSE course offered in Key Stage 4?

The 2018 options booklet suggests Religious Studies GCSE (Edexcel) is a core subject at Key Stage 4. At Gateway, GCSE is taught over three years.

Secondary - Is there a non-GCSE KS4 RE curriculum shown?

No (see above)

Does the website also include information about collective worship?

Assemblies are mentioned but there is no reference to worship.

Is there evidence that there is a nominated RE Leader – No

There are 10 Humanities staff including a Head of Faculty and Heads of History and Geography but no Head of RE. Likewise there are trainees and NQTs for History and Geography but not RE.

Benyon Primary

Has the school published the content of RE curriculum for each academic year? Yes

RE listed under curriculum and states it teaches Locally Agreed Syllabus; link takes you to Quarry Hill Academy's (same Trust) detailed page of what is taught in each year group.

Is this in line with the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus for RE? Yes

What it lists is as defined in Appendix 1 of SACRE papers as Agreed Syllabus requirements.

Does the website also include information about a RE policy?

No RE Policy in list of policies on website

Is there evidence that there is a nominated RE Leader - No

No RE Leader named on website

Any events linked to RE (e.g. relevant visitors, Inter Faith week etc)? Describe below:

Charity events detailed in Newsletters

Aveley Primary

Aveley offer the Cornerstones Curriculum which is a commercially produced programme. This programme does include a set of projects called 'Love to Celebrate' that are designed to support RE provision but it is not clear if these have been purchased by the school or if they use the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus.

Love to Celebrate - Product list

The 39 ILPs, essential resources and supporting documents help you to develop a relevant, tailor-made religious education curriculum to meet the needs of your children both now and in the future. Want to find out more? Take a look on our website; www.cornerstoneseducation.co.uk



Our world	Year group	Theme	Season/term
Special people	Nursery and Re- ception	My family is special; My community is special; My faith is special; A special visitor; I am special	Any term
Special places	Nursery and Re- ception	My special places; Special places in my community; The world is a special place; Creating a special place; Looking after our world	Any term
Special times	Nursery and Re- ception	Special times of the day; Special times of the week; Special times of the year; A special celebration; Sharing a special time together	Any term
Christianity	Year group	Theme	Season/term
Harvest	1	Our wonderful world; Creation; Harvest hymns; Saying thank you; Feeding the 5000; Sharing; Foods around the world; The importance of water; Local church celebrations; Local harvest celebrations	Autumn
Christmas	2	Looking after a baby; The Advent wreath; The Nativity; Gifts; Celebrations; Joy; Religious and secular Christmas messages; The Christingle	Autumn

Is this in line with the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus for RE?

This is not clear due to lack of information. The school have published the Agreed Syllabus on their website which is not allowed because the document is copyright. I have informed the school.

Does the website also include information about collective worship? No

Is there evidence that there is a nominated RE Leader - No

Does the website also include information about a RE policy? No

Any events linked to RE (e.g. relevant visitors, Inter Faith week etc)? None visible

Belmont Castle Primary Academy

Has the school published the content of RE curriculum for each academic year?

Very difficult to assess the RE curriculum on the website. One reference to RE is in a year 6 curriculum overview for 2018. Topic news for year groups also reference R.E. but there is no complete overview for each age group.

Does the website also include information about collective worship?

Assemblies are mentioned but no evidence of collective worship

Is this in line with the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus for RE? No possible to assess

Is there evidence that there is a nominated RE Leader – No

Does the website also include information about a RE policy? No

Hathaway Academy

Has the school published the content of RE curriculum for each academic year? Yes*

Curriculum pages list RE as a Key Stage 3 subject. *No **current** curriculum map available. Most recent available is for 2015-16.

Is this in line with the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus for RE?

Unable to assess whether in line with Thurrock Agreed syllabus since there is no reference to a specific religion in the curriculum map e.g. Christianity, Judaism etc.

Does the website also include information about collective worship? Yes

A Collective Worship policy appears on the website http://hathawayacademy.attrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Collective-Worship-Policy.pdf dated June 2014 -due for review in May 2017

Is a GCSE course offered in Key Stage 4?

RS is offered at GCSE as an option for all pathways. Full course AQA A. This probably means all students study RS for GCSE but it is not clear if this is the current situation. The curriculum map however, refers to the previous specification so does not match what is currently taught. According to the 2014 document for Citizenship:

"At KS4 students will complete a GCSE course in Religious Studies. The community involvement section of the citizenship education programme will be delivered through dedicated community events organised by the Religious Studies subject area, and also through related activities of a cross curricular nature."

Secondary - Is there a non-GCSE KS4 RE curriculum shown?

No indication non- examined RE available but if all students study a GCSE this is unnecessary.

Is there evidence that there is a nominated RE Leader?

No reference to a direct leader for RE in humanities

Any events linked to RE (e.g. relevant visitors, Inter Faith week etc)? Describe below:

British Values poster indicates that through RE students are taught about mutual respect

Arthur Bulger Primary

Has the school published the content of RE curriculum for each academic year?

The school follows the cornerstones curriculum in the same way as Aveley mentioned above. No information about RE.

Is this in line with the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus for RE?

Not possible to assess

Does the website also include information about a RE policy?

RE policy available

Does the website also include information about collective worship?

Collective worship policy available

Is there evidence that there is a nominated RE Leader

No mention of who leads any subject leader

Any events linked to RE (e.g. relevant visitors, Inter Faith week etc)? No

Graham James

Has the school published the content of RE curriculum for each academic year?

Religious Education is taught from reception all the way through to year 6 covering religions such as Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. Our Religious Education lessons combined with PSHE lessons reinforce the messages of tolerance and respect for others. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. (Direct from British Values policy)

Is this in line with the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus for RE?

Does the website also include information about collective worship?

No collective worship policy

Does the website also include information about a RE policy?

No RE policy

Is there evidence that there is a nominated RE Leader

No nominated lead

St Clere's School

Has the school published the content of RE curriculum for each academic year?—YES

Is this in line with the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus for RE? - YES (probably).

A KS3 curriculum is provided, states that various faiths are studied but not explicit on exactly which ones. The KS4 curriculum covers Christianity and Buddhism and leads to a GCSE qualification.

Is a GCSE course offered in Key Stage 4?- YES.

GCSE Religious Studies A Full Course, AQA 8062.

Secondary - Is there a non-GCSE KS4 RE curriculum shown?— YES. States that that 'all pupils' / 'the vast majority' will receive R.S. in KS4.

Does the website also include information about collective worship?

YES. A detailed policy is published.

Is there evidence that there is a nominated RE Leader – Yes

Mrs A Jellicoe.

Any events linked to RE (e.g. relevant visitors, Inter Faith week etc)? Describe below:

YES. Contemplation space. Parish church and Gudwara links. Visiting faith representatives for collective worship.

Overall Impression of RE on site? – POSITIVE. Subject is given at least equal weight alongside others in the curriculum, SMSC has a page in the prospectus, information is clear, accessible, and engaging.

Giffards Primary School

Has the school published the content of RE curriculum for each academic year? YES.

Term-by-term RE content is given for every school year.

Is this in line with the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus for RE? - YES (probably).

KS1 and KS2 cover Christianity, Islam, and various non-specific sessions on other faiths and belief systems.

Does the website also include information about a RE policy? – YES (indirectly).

RE is covered under the 'Preparing pupils for a life in modern Britain' policy.

Does the website also include information about collective worship? YES. Very briefly mentioned under 'the school day'.

Is there evidence that there is a nominated RE Leader – NO.

No subject leaders are named.

Any events linked to RE (e.g. relevant visitors, Inter Faith week etc)? Describe below:

NOT KNOWN. Nothing visible on site.

William Edwards School

Has the school published the content of RE curriculum for each academic year? No

RE is grouped with sociology under subject links

Year 7- No RE curriculum

Year 8 has a published curriculum

Year 9 curriculum void of Islam & Christianity

Year 10 'have the option to choose to study RE'

Is this in line with the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus for RE? Unknown

Is a GCSE course offered in Key Stage 4? Yes

AQA Full Course 8062

Secondary - Is there a non-GCSE KS4 RE curriculum shown?

Not observed.

Does the website also include information about collective worship? No

Is there evidence that there is a nominated RE Leader – No.

Any events linked to RE (e.g. relevant visitors, Inter Faith week etc)? Describe below:

No

Overall Impression of RE on site? – ADEQUATE. Curriculum information is clear, minimal mention elsewhere.

Appendix B: School Workforce Data (DfE) 2016

School name:	Religious character:	School type:								% hours spent on RE
			% hours spent on RE Teaching 7	% hours spent on RE Teaching 8	% hours spent on RE Teaching 9	% hours spent on RE Teaching 10	% hours spent on RE Teaching 11	% hours spent on RE Teaching 12	% hours spent on RE Teaching 13	Teaching for years 7 to 13
The Hathaway Academy	None	Academy Sponsor Led	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	2.1	٠	•	0.7
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	None	Academy Converter	0.0	0.0	1.6	2.0	0.9	3.4	4.1	1.6
St Clere's School	None	Foundation School	2.8	2.6	2.0	2.4	0.0	•	•	1.8
William Edwards School and Sports College	None	Academy Converter	0.0	4.2	4.4	1.0	1.0	•	•	2.1
The Gateway Academy	Does not apply	ACADEMY SPONSOR LED	0.0	0.0	7.2	3.0	0.0		•	2.1
Gable Hall School	None	Foundation School	4.0	3.7	4.9	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4
Hassenbrook Academy	None	ACADEMY CONVERTER	4.4	4.5	4.4	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0
The Ockendon School	None	Foundation School	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.6	0.0	4.5	6.6
Grays Convent High School	Roman Catholic	VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOL	9.2	9.4	9.6	10.0	10.5	•	•	9.8

See also Monitoring Appendix C and Appendix D