

<b>17 October 2018</b>		<b>ITEM: 6</b>
<b>Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education</b>		
<b>Commission on Religious Education</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Non-Key	
<b>Report of:</b> Deborah Weston: Associate Adviser for Religious Education		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Michele Lucas, Assistant Director Learning Inclusion and Skills		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Rory Patterson, Corporate Director of Children's Services		
<b>This report is</b> Public		

## **Executive Summary**

The Executive summaries of the commission on RE is attached as appendices to this report:

### **1. Recommendation(s) that SACRE:**

#### **That SACRE Members**

- **Discuss the recommendations of the report**
- **Considers its response to each recommendation**

### **2. Introduction and Background**

#### **Commission on RE**

The Commission on Religious Education has been established to review the legal, education, and policy frameworks for religious education (RE). This review will be a wide-ranging, inclusive and evidence-based process designed to inform policy makers. The ultimate aim will be to improve the quality and rigour of religious education and its capacity to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain.

Remit of the Commission:

1. To consider the nature, purposes, and scope of religious education.
2. To identify the enabling factors that currently promote high quality RE, and the barriers that currently limit it.
3. To identify what changes are needed to ensure the highest quality provision of RE.

4. To ensure that recommendations focus on realistic and specific proposals aimed at both immediate and long-term implementation in the context of continuing educational reform.

In considering the above four tasks, the REC has identified the following areas for the Commission to consider:

- a) The quality of teaching and learning in RE
- b) The legal and structural arrangements
- c) The public and professional profile of the subject
- d) Recruitment, Initial Teacher Education and Continuous Professional Development
- e) The range of school settings in which RE should be required
- f) The age range for which RE should be required
- g) The right to withdraw (parents or carers, pupils and teachers)
- h) Whether or not there should be a common entitlement in RE, and if so what the entitlement should be

The commission has made eleven recommendations for improving Religious Education in England.

### **3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 1.1 The Commission on RE has just produced its final report.
- 1.2 SACRE now has an opportunity to consider the recommendations

### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 The findings of the Commission on RE are likely to have a significant impact on the future direction of RE in England, not least on the work of SACREs. For this reason, it is vital that SACRE members make their views known.

### **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 report includes material that is pertinent to all three aims of this programme.

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**

**Finance Manager Corporate Finance**

There are no financial implications to this report

### **7.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Lucinda Bell**

**Education Lawyer**

Members are not asked to make any decisions. They are asked to consider the report and their responses. There are no further legal comments.

### **7.3 Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren.**

**(Community Development & Equalities  
Manager)**

The final report from the Commission on RE aims to highlight some of the challenges schools face in meeting their legal/contractual requirements in relation to RE but also to encourage them to do better. If the levels and the quality of provision for RE improves then SACRE believes schools will be better equipped 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

## **8.0 Appendices to the report**

### **8.1 Appendix A - Executive Summary Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward**

#### **Report Author:**

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Associate Adviser for RE