

4 March 2020		ITEM: 7
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education		
Annual Report 2018/2019 – Thurrock SACRE		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key	
Report of: Deborah Weston, Associate Adviser for Religious Education		
Accountable Assistant Director: Michele Lucas Assistant Director Education and Learning		
Accountable Director: Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Health and Housing and Interim 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:**
 - 1.1 That SACRE accept this report as an accurate record of its work for the period September 2018 – July 2019**
 - 1.2 Requests that the Assistant Director Education and Skills writes to all schools to remind them of their statutory duties/ contractual obligations to provide religious education to all pupils on the school roll**
 - 1.3 Requests that the school effectiveness team include a review of schools’ provision for RE and Collective Worship as part of their annual conversations. Specifically, that they consider:**
 - **The impact on pupil outcomes of the combination of subjects such as RE, RSE, Citizenship and PSHE;**
 - **The impact on pupil attainment of pupils being entered for a GCSE at the end of year 10;**
 - **Whether or not the amount of time dedicated to RE on school timetables was sufficient for pupils to meet the aims of either the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus or, in the case of academy schools, either the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus or one that is ‘equally broad and ambitious’**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 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 and to advise the LA on RE given in accordance with the agreed syllabus, and on matters related to its functions, whether in response to a referral from the LA or as it sees fit.

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

- Not applicable

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

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: **David May**
Management Accountant DSG and Schools

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.”

The Committee is requested to accept the report, and also that it makes two decisions that are related to the report findings.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Smith**
Strategic Lead for Community Development and Equalities

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

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

- Not applicable

8. Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Annual Report of the Thurrock Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) For 2018 - 2019

Report Author:

Deborah Weston
Associate Adviser for RE