

15 July 2015		ITEM: 7
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education		
Who Delivers RE In Thurrock Primary Schools		
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 Leader, School Improvement, Children, Education & Families		
Accountable Director: Carmel Littleton, Director of Children's Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report was originally commissioned at the summer term 2014 meeting of SACRE in response to concerns raised by a report from the All Party Parliamentary Group on RE with the support of the RE Council of England and Wales that suggested that RE in primary schools was increasingly being delivered by adults other than teachers.

At the time of writing, almost 30% of primary schools in Thurrock had responded to a request for information about provision for RE and of those, no school reported that their entire RE provision was being delivered by adults other than teachers but almost 50% of those that responded did report that some lessons of RE were delivered by teaching assistants. SACRE resolved to continue to seek responses to this survey in order to collect a more representative sample of data.

By June 2015, 65% of Thurrock schools had responded. 25% of those reported using teaching assistants at all but none used Teaching Assistants or Higher Level Teaching Assistants for all their classes.

- 1. Recommendation(s) that SACRE:**
 - 1.1 That SACRE Discuss the potential impact of using adults other than teachers to deliver RE on the quality of provision and consider their response to schools in relation to this matter.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Thurrock SACRE discussed the report, "RE: The Truth Unmasked" during its meetings in 2014 and launched an enquiry into the delivery of RE in Thurrock Primary schools in an attempt to discover whether or not the issues identified in this report were also the case in Thurrock. According to the report, almost one in four primary pupils were taught RE by teaching assistants.

Who Teaches RE in Thurrock Primary Schools? - December 2014

(numbers in brackets are the number of lessons where supplied)

	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. Giffaids				
17. Graham James				
18. Herringham Primary	✓ (10)			✓(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. <i>St Mary's</i>	✓			
32. <i>St Thomas'</i>	✓			
33. Stanford le Hope	✓			
34. Stifford Clays	✓ (21)			✓ (4)
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

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 It is difficult to draw conclusions when only 30% of the data has been returned but early indications are positive. SACRE might opt to continue to encourage schools to respond to the request for information or decide to act on this sample of data.
- 3.2 The risk of writing to schools with incomplete data is that the conclusions might lack credibility in the minds of those who we wish to influence. However, the challenge of increasing the response-rate must not be under-estimated due to demands on the time of Headteachers.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 It is a statutory duty of SACRE to monitor the provision for RE to be given in accordance with its agreed syllabus and to advise the council of any concerns.

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

- 5.1 Not applicable

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

6.1 Not applicable

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

There are no Financial Implications within this report.

7.2 Legal

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

This report invites a discussion on the subject of who delivers RE in the area. No decision is requested and there are no further legal comments to be made.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

The implications of this report are that there is a risk that some pupils in Thurrock are being taught RE by those who have had no training in the teaching of the subject potentially leading to inequality of opportunity in terms of access to accurate knowledge and understanding.

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

Not applicable

Report Author:

Deborah Weston

Associate Adviser for RE