

<b>16 July 2014</b>		<b>ITEM: 8</b>
<b>Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education</b>		
<b>Thurrock SACRE – Annual Report 2011-2012</b>		
<b>Report of:</b> Deborah Weston, Associate Adviser for Religious Education		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Non-key	
<b>Accountable Head of Service:</b> Vivien Cutler –Strategic Lead, School Improvement, Learning & Skills		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Carmel Littleton, Director of Children’s Services		
<b>This report is public.</b>		

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report presents the Annual Report to members of SACRE for approval.

#### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**1.1 That SACRE accept this report as an accurate record of its work in the year 2011-2012.**

#### **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** The recommendations arise from the legal responsibilities of SACRE set out in 2 above.

**5. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

5.1 Not applicable.

**6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

6.1 None.

**7. IMPLICATIONS**

**7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**  
Telephone and email: **kgoodacre@thurrock.gov.uk**  
**01375 652466**

There are no financial implications to this report.

**7.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Lucinda Bell**  
Email: **Lucinda.bell@BDTLegal.org.uk**

S391 of the Education Act 1996 requires Thurrock SACRE to publish an annual report on its activities.

**7.3 Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**  
Telephone and email: **01375 652472**  
**Sdealyn@Thurrock.gov.uk**

This report has implications for the Council's approach to Diversity and Equality. If, as the data suggests, a number of local schools are not making provision for Religious Education for all of its students, there is a risk that children and young people leaving school in Thurrock may not have sufficient knowledge and understanding of religion and belief to be fully equipped to take their place in a diverse society.

**7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

None.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):**

- Report 2 for SACRE : GCSE results 2012 <http://goo.gl/T6yJC>

**APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:**

Appendix A: Thurrock Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Annual Report – 2011-2012

**Report Author Contact Details:**

**Name:** Deborah Weston

Associate Adviser for Religious Education



# Thurrock Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

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## **ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12**

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## **The Functions of SACRE**

The Education Reform Act 1988 places a duty on every Local Authority to constitute a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

Thurrock SACRE has four main functions:

1. To advise the LA upon matters connected with school worship in community schools and religious education to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus. These matters can be referred by the Authority or may be determined by the Thurrock Council. Matters such as teaching methods, teaching materials and teacher training are mentioned in the Act. SACRE is an advisory council and advice offered carries no statutory force.
2. To receive and determine whether applications from Governors to vary the requirement for worship of a broadly Christian nature, for the whole school or for groups of pupils, are appropriate.
3. To publish an annual report on its work. This should outline advice given by SACRE to the LA
4. To require the LA to set up a statutory conference to review the Agreed Syllabus every five years and if, in the opinion of the SACRE, this becomes necessary, sooner.

## Officer's Statement

This has been a year of significant change for Thurrock SACRE, especially as most of the secondary schools in the authority made the transition to Academy status and are no longer being maintained by the local authority. Academies have different requirements in relation to Religious Education and Acts of Worship. They are not obliged to follow the local Agreed Syllabus but are still required to make provision for RE for all students. Early indications are that the Thurrock Academies are choosing to continue to use the published syllabus and standards. The council has met twice during the academic year; the third meeting was postponed until the start of the Autumn term for administrative reasons.

A number of appointments were made to support the efficient management of SACRE meetings. Mr Misra (a teacher representative) was appointed as Chair of SACRE. Chairs of committees were also appointed: Mr Gill (the representative of the Sikh Community) for Committee A; Ms Taylor (a representative of the Church of England) for Committee B and Mr Griffiths (a teacher representative) for Committee C and Councillor Anderson for Committee D.

The third annual Thurrock SACRE Youth Conference was held in November 2011. The event aimed to encourage pupils to find out about people's religions and beliefs through a mixture of lively discussion, creative activities and quiet reflection and was well attended by students from 20 Thurrock primary and secondary schools.

The event was planned again to coincide with the National Interfaith Week. SACRE produced a press release and the event was reported on the website of the Interfaith Network UK. More than 80 young people attended from year 5 in primary school and year 8 in secondary schools and their teachers. This event was led by RE Today advisers Lat Blaylock and Deborah Weston supported by members of SACRE including representatives of local communities of religion and belief and teachers. Grants towards the conference were secured from the RE Council of England and Wales and the St Gabriel's Trust.

Members were involved in supporting religious education by inviting schools to pay visits to places of worship or by speaking in the classroom and helping children to understand their religion or belief.

I would like to express my gratitude to each member of SACRE for so generously giving of their time to support the teachers and others involved in the delivery of Religious Education in Thurrock.

**Ruth Brock**

Principal Officer, Pupil Achievement

## Achievement and Standards

GCSE entries	2010	2010	2011	2011	2012	2012	2010	2011	2012
	% Roll Short Course Entries	% Roll Full Course Entries	% Roll Short Course Entries	% Roll Full Course Entries	% Roll Short Course Entries	% Roll Full Course Entries	% Roll Entries Total	% Roll Entries Total	% Roll Entries Total
Grays Convent High School	2%	90%	2%	95%	2%	93%	93%	97%	96%
Grays School Media Arts College	91%		95%		95%		91%	95%	95%
Ockendon Academy		92%		94%		99%	92%	94%	99%
St. Clere's	79%	7%	45%	43%	6%	81%	86%	89%	86%
William Edwards School and Sports College				28%		39%		28%	39%
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred		17%		13%		14%	17%	13%	14%
Gable Hall School				4%		4%		4%	5%
Hassenbook						8%			8%
Ormiston Park Academy					1%				1%
The Gateway Academy									
Total number of entries	362	309	265	389	182	580	671	654	762

Authority wide, the entries for GCSE RE have increased by 17% from 2011 and 14% from 2010, this is particular pleasing since entries in 2011 fell from 2010 by 3% so the trend has reversed.

Furthermore, there has been a significant shift from Short Course to Full Course RE, in 2010 46% of all entries were Full Course, in 2011, 59% and in 2012 76%.

Significant factors contributing to these trends are:

- the appearance of entries for William Edwards School and Sports College over the past two years, now at 39% of the cohort taking GCSE RE Full Course
- the shift in emphasis from Short Course to Full Course RE at St Clere's School, where the percentages of students taking each course have reversed since 2010
- the take-up of GCSE RE Full Course at Gable Hall this year and at Hassenbrook this year and last year

GCSE results	2010	2010	2011	2011	2012	2012
	% Short Course A*-C	% Full Course A*-C	% Short Course A*-C	% Full Course A*-C	% Short Course A*-C	% Full Course A*-C
Grays Convent High School		81%	50%	86%	33%	89%
Grays School Media Arts College	53%		44%		32%	
Ockendon Academy		47%		56%		64%
St. Clere's	52%	100%	47%	55%	9%	42%
William Edwards School and Sports College				43%		26%
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred		77%		95%		96%
Gable Hall School				67%	100%	100%
Hassenbrook						75%
Ormiston Park Academy					100%	
The Gateway Academy						

Although these trends are positive for the subject area, it should not be overlooked that in five out of ten schools within the authority which we have data for, the number of students taking GCSE RE in any form is either zero or negligible.

When considering GCSE attainment the picture is similarly mixed.

Grays Convent High School for example continues to achieve excellent results for Full Course RE whilst attainment at Short Course has declined. However, it should be borne in mind that a tiny percentage of students at this school take Short Course.

It is possible that students who were not able, for a particular reason to complete the full course, were entered for the short as an alternative and were therefore less likely to achieve a high grade.

Grays School Media Arts College is also an area for concern, as despite consistently high percentages of entries for Short Course RE, standards of attainment are declining year on year. The pattern is broadly similar at St Clere's where attainment has declined for both Short and Full Course.

Although the fact that William Edwards has increased entries quite significantly is positive, it should be noted that this year's results have declined from 2011.

On a more positive note, attainment at the Ockendon Academy continues to rise year on year for Full Course RE with practically the whole cohort being entered. The Harris Academy and Gable Hall also continue to attain excellent results however it should be noted that the percentage of the cohort taking the exam is limited, very much so in the case of the latter school.

The attainment of the small number of students entered for GCSE at Hassenbrook's is also excellent, particularly in light of the fact that of the last three years this is the first where there have been any entries at all.

#### GCSE A Level Palmers' College

2010 AS Level Entries		2010 A Level Entries		2011 AS Level Entries		2011 A Level Entries		2012 AS Level Entries		2012 A Level Entries	
14		8		7		9		16		11	
2010 AS Level A* - B	2010 AS Level A* - E	2010 A Level A* - B	2010 A Level A* - E	2011 AS Level A* - B	2011 AS Level A* - E	2011 A Level A* - B	2011 A Level A* - E	2012 AS Level A* - B	2012 AS Level A* - E	2012 A Level A* - B	2012 A Level A* - E
7%	64%	25%	100%	14%	86%	22%	100%	6%	69%	64%	100%

A level entries at Palmers college have increased from 2011 after a decrease in that year from 2010. Of those entries, A\*-B attainment continues to rise for A level whilst the same measurement for AS level displays a decline from 2011 and also marginally from 2010.

**Deborah Weston**  
Associate Adviser for RE – Thurrock

## **SACRE Advice**

As in previous years, SACRE has provided advice to the Council and to schools. A number of senior leaders requested advice on matters to do with RE and Collective worship, especially in relation to the change to Academy Status. Some of this advice relates to questions about the curriculum, resources for the classroom, schemes of work but also includes questions about contentious issues in the classroom and how to respond to children's' queries. The number of schools requesting advice and support on Religious Education has continued to increase again this year.

A number of training sessions were offered, continuing to support the introduction of the Agreed Syllabus. Separate group sessions were organised for subject leaders in primary schools including those supporting RE in the Early Years Foundation Stage and teachers of RE in secondary schools.

SACRE has provided schools with advice on matters to do with Religious Education and Collective worship by sharing information and published material on subjects such as the National Religious Education Review and the RE Quality Mark. Schools have received regular newsletters and information about opportunities for professional development as well as new RE Guidance from the Department for Education and publications related to RE from NATRE (The National Association of Teachers of RE).

## **Collective worship**

SACRE received a presentation about Collective Worship from Ms Rosemary Privett; a Church of England Representative and this led to a collection of material being sent to schools as advice on how they might meet this requirement in a flexible way.

No schools applied for a determination to waive the requirement for Acts of Worship to be wholly or mainly of a broader Christian character.

Governors interested in determination should follow the procedures outlined in the SACRE constitution. A copy of the constitution is available on the SACRE website.

## Membership of SACRE

<b>Committee A</b>	
Free Church Christian	Mrs S Lawson
Roman Catholic	Mrs M Shepherd
Jewish	Ms R Juett
Muslim	Ms N Quereshi
Sikh	Mr J Jasset
Hindu	Vacancy
Pentecostal	Dr O Soley
<b>Committee B</b>	
Church of England	Ms R Privett
	Mrs C Fuller
	Ms M Taylor
<b>Committee C</b>	
Teachers	Mr P Griffiths (until December 2011 – Vacancy thereafter)
	Mr J Misra
	Ms A Jellicoe
<b>Committee D</b>	
Council*	Mr Ojetola
	Mr P Anderson
	Mr M Healy

\* Cllrs Anderson, Ojetola and Healy were appointed in June 2010 for a term of 4 years.

Thurrock SACRE is supported by:

Mrs D Weston, RE Consultant (Advisor to SACRE)  
 Ms V Freeman, Senior Democratic Services Officer  
 Ms Ruth Brock - Principal Officer, Pupil Achievement