

5 January 2022		ITEM: 6
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education		
Annual Report 2020-2021 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 Learning Inclusion and Skills		
Accountable Director: Shelia Murphy, Corporate 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 Accept this report as an accurate record of its work for the period September 2020 – July 2021**
 - 1.2 Requests that the Assistant Director Education and Skills continues to include discussions about RE provision in the scheduled discussions with senior leadership teams**
 - 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:**
 - **whether the level and quality of provision in academy schools is similar in breadth and ambition to that provided in LA maintained schools (i.e. through compliance with the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus including the knowledge, understanding specified and the standards for each key stage. This is the expectation of the DfE and Ofsted**
 - **If timetabling of RE in secondary schools ensures that those delivering RE are suitably trained/qualified to do so.**
 - **Whether RE is treated differently from other subjects on the secondary curriculum, such as being offered in tutor time, drop**

down days, taught by teachers who mainly teach other subjects etc.

- **the impact on pupil outcomes of the combination of subjects such as RE, RSE, Citizenship and PSHE**
- **the level of training provided to those teaching RE in all phases especially when they have no previous experience of teaching the subject**
- **the impact on pupil attainment of pupils being entered for a GCSE at the end of year 10**

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

- 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.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **David May**
Strategic Lead Finance, Corporate Finance

Funding for SACRE is provided by Department for Education through the Dedicated Schools Grant, Central Schools Services Block.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**
Deputy Head of Law

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: **Roxanne Scanlon**
Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer

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 Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, and Impact on Looked After Children

- Not applicable

8. Appendices to the Report

- Appendix 1 - Annual Report of The Thurrock Standing Advisory Council On Religious Education (SACRE) For 2019 – 2020

Report Author:

Deborah Weston

Associate Adviser for RE