



Thurrock SACRE Annual Report 2013-14



Contents

Introduction	2
Forward by the Chair of SACRE – Rev. John Guest.....	2
The locally agreed syllabus.....	2
Meetings	3
Membership.....	3
The membership of Thurrock SACRE 2013-14	3
The changing profile of Thurrock in relation to affiliation to religions and beliefs.....	4
The Agreed Syllabus for RE	5
Discussions about National Developments in Religious Education.....	6
Standards in RE in Thurrock	6
GCSE and GCE A Level Results.....	6
Entries.....	6
Results.....	7
GCE A Level	8
Thurrock SACRE Youth Conference	8

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2013-14

Introduction

Introduction

Since 1988, it has been a requirement that every local authority (LA) has a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

Though legislation sets out both the structure and the remit of a local SACRE - principally, overseeing religious education (RE) and collective worship - in practice every SACRE has developed its own particular style and character.

Thurrock SACRE has over the years developed its own particular style and character as this report will testify.

It is a legislative requirement that each SACRE produces an annual report of its work and that this is published, sent the local authority, to local schools and to other interested parties.

Forward by the Chair of SACRE – Rev. John Guest

The locally agreed syllabus

For historical reasons, religious education (RE) is not part of the National Curriculum but is a local responsibility. It is for this reason that legislation requires that each local authority (LA) produces an agreed syllabus for RE. Legislation also requires that an agreed syllabus be reviewed every five years.

The current Thurrock Agreed Syllabus was published in 2009. It was published on the dedicated website along with supporting documentation.

Meetings

The following SACRE meetings were held during the year:

December 3rd 2013 (inquorate)

March 19th 2014 (inquorate)

July 16th 2014

Membership

Of the three meetings held by SACRE during the academic year 2013-14 only the final one in July was quorate. This was also the case for all but one of the meetings in the previous academic year so in fact the July 2014 meeting was the first quorate meeting of SACRE since late 2012. A new Chair was appointed during the year who was very proactive in helping SACRE to fill its vacancies.

During the meetings, SACRE considered a number of sources of evidence of the changing religious profile of Thurrock were discussed as well as the implications for the work of SACRE including the constitution of the various SACRE committees. Examples of this change included the slight reduction in the number of Christians within the authority and the doubling of the number of Muslims. SACRE noted that in both respects, Thurrock was atypical. The fall in the percentage of individuals describing themselves as Christian was smaller than the national figure and the growth in the percentage of the population describing themselves as Muslim was greater than the national average.

The membership of Thurrock SACRE 2013-14

Committee A

Mrs S Lawson – Free Church Member

Mrs Shepherd – Roman Catholic Member

Vacancy – Jewish Member

M A Rashid – Muslim Member

Ms A Ahmed – Muslim Member

Mr B Gill – Sikh Member

Vacancy – Hindu Member

Mr P Anderson – House Church Member

Dr O Soleye – Pentecostal Member
Vacancy – Buddhist Member

Committee B

Rev. John Guest – Chair (from July 2014) Church of England Member
Mrs Mary Taylor – Church of England Member
David Bates – Church of England Member

Committee C

Angela Jellicoe – Teacher representative
Paul Griffiths – Headteacher representative
Richard Epps – Headteacher representative
Hayley Gillman - Teacher representative
Nicola Fawell - Teacher representative

Committee D

Councillor Kerin
Councillor Gupta
Councillor Ojetola

The changing profile of Thurrock in relation to affiliation to religions and beliefs

Table one sets out the results of the census in 2001 and 2011 comparing the percentage of the population in terms of their answer to the question about their religion or belief

Table 1

Faith in Thurrock	Thurrock 2001 Census	Thurrock 2011 census	UK 2001	UK 2011
Christian	75.09%	63.30%	71.10%	59.30%
Buddhist	0.17%	0.40%	0.30%	0.40%
Hindu	0.55%	0.70%	1.10%	1.50%
Jewish	0.17%	0.10%	0.50%	0.50%
Muslim	1.07%	2.00%	3.00%	4.80%
Sikh	0.70%	0.80%	0.60%	0.80%
Other	0.21%	0.30%	0.30%	0.40%
No religion	15.51%	26.00%	14.80%	25.10%
Religion not stated	6.52%	6.30%	7.70%	7.20%

Green=greater than the national average Yellow=reflects national average Blue-smaller than the national average

The Agreed Syllabus for RE

Almost all the secondary and many of the primary schools in Thurrock had become academies which meant that although making provision for RE was a contractual responsibility, these schools were not obliged to follow the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus. SACRE decided to conduct some research to determine whether or not the syllabus was commonly used. The results were that 70% of schools who were not obliged to follow the agreed syllabus chose to do so. This information led to the decision to invite all academies to be involved in the review of the Agreed Syllabus.

Abbots Hall Primary Academy	TAS
Beacon Hill Academy	Own syllabus
Belmont Castle	TAS
Benyon Primary School	TAS
Dilkes Academy	TAS
East Tilbury Infant School & East Tilbury Junior School	TAS
Gable Hall school	TAS
Gateway Academy	Own Syllabus
GLC Academy	TAS
Graham James Primary Academy	Own syllabus
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	TAS
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	TAS
Hassenbrook Academy	Own syllabus
Hathaway Academy	TAS
Herringham Primary Academy	TAS
Kenningtons Primary Academy	TAS
Lansdowne	TAS
Ockendon Academy	TAS
Purfleet primary Academy	TAS
Quarry hill Academy	TAS
Shaw Primary Academy	Own syllabus
St Cleres	TAS with some adaptation
Stanford -le - Hope as part of St Cleres Multi Academy Trust	TAS and own syllabus
Thameside Primary School	Essex

West Thurrock Academy	TAS
William Edwards	Own syllabus
Woodside Academy	TAS

Discussions about National Developments in Religious Education

During the year, SACRE heard reports about developments in RE locally and nationally. These included:

- The OfSTED Report 2013 – Realising the Potential
- GCSE and A level examination reform
- The RE Review
- Questions raised by senior leaders about RE

School workforce data

SACRE examined material collected by the Department for Education on the school workforce. The data provided some evidence of the level of provision for RE in Thurrock. It was noted that Some academies had not reported any teaching of RE to the Department of Education and members were advised that if this was correct, the academy would be in breach of their funding agreement. The associate adviser suggested that this information along with the information from the academy website be included in a letter to academy principals to investigate the situation.

Members expressed concern that children were leaving school without the understanding of beliefs of others in their communities and he agreed to raise this with the Leader and the Portfolio Holder of Education and would try to raise the concerns at Children’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and possibly submit a motion to Full Council requesting that schools in Thurrock prioritise religious education.

Standards in RE in Thurrock

GCSE and GCE A Level Results

The tables below indicate the entries and results for the exams held in 2013 and 2014. There is no Short Course data available currently for 2014 due to changes in reporting, this affects our ability to monitor the delivery of RE in the authority. The tables for GCSE are sorted and shaded according to positive or negative changes, green for positive, red for negative.

Entries

The table below indicates that for seven out of ten schools in the authority Full Course entries have remained with 10% of the 2013 figure. For Harris and Grays Media and Arts College (Hathaway Academy) the reduction in entries has been greater and for St Clere’s the number of

student taking Full Course GCSE has increased quite dramatically, possibly at the expense of Short Course but without further data it is not possible to tell.

For six schools in the authority Full Course entries remain low, in the 7%-14% range. In keeping with national trends, short course entries have fallen over the last three years, probably because these results no longer count in performance measures. Most worryingly, six of the ten secondary schools/academies appear either not to be offering Religious Studies to all pupils as required by their funding agreement or to be offering a course which is unaccredited or minimal in content.

GCSE	2013 Short Course % Roll Entry	2013 Full Course % Roll Entry	2014 Short Course Roll Entry	2014 Full Course % Roll Entry	Total % roll entered for a GCSE	Change full course entry 13-14
St. Clere's School	54%	40%	6%	86%	92%	46%
The Gateway Academy	0%	0%	0%	7%	7%	7%
The Ockendon Academy	0%	97%	1%	99%	100%	2%
Gable Hall School	0%	4%	0%	6%	6%	2%
Hassenbrook Academy	0%	9%	1%	8%	9%	-1%
Ormiston Park Academy	0%	13%	0	8%	8%	-5%
Grays Convent High School	4%	95%	9%	87%	96%	-8%
William Edwards School	0%	19%	7%	10%	17%	-9%
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	0%	30%	0	14%	14%	-16%
Grays School Media Arts College > Hathaway Academy	1%	98%	1%	74%	75%	-24%

Results

As the table below indicates, five schools have increased the percentage of students entered for the Full Course exam achieving A*-C grades. At Gateway, Ormiston and Harris this is for quite a small number of students (see table above) but for Grays School > Hathaway and St. Cleres this represents an increase in attainment for a significant percentage of the school roll and in the latter case is made more impressive because the entries have also risen dramatically.

The table also indicates that for five schools attainment of A*-C grades has reduced, significantly so for Hassenbrook and William Edwards although it has to be borne in mind that the number so students entered in each of these cases is quite small, 8% and 10% of roll respectively.

In 2014 six out of ten Thurrock schools achieved results lower than the national mean of 70%, in 2013 four schools fell into this category. Since the majority of schools are entering only a small number of pupils for Full Course RE drastic changes in results are more likely. Those schools entering a higher number of pupils are indicated in the table above.

GCSE	2013 Short Course A*-C	2013 Full Course A*-C	2014 Short Course A*-C	2014 Full Course A*-C	Change full course A*-C
National	0%	72%	57%	70%	-2%
The Gateway Academy	N/E	N/E	N/E	92%	92%
Ormiston Park Academy	N/E	22%	N/E	57%	35%
Grays School Media Arts College (Hathaway Academy)	N/E	46%	0%	62%	16%
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	N/E	87%	N/E	96%	9%
St. Clere's School	7%	37%	28%	44%	7%
The Ockendon Academy	N/E	67%	0%	65%	-1%
Grays Convent High School	40%	85%	60%	81%	-4%
Gable Hall School	N/E	100%	N/E	93%	-7%
Hassenbrook Academy	N/E	93%	0%	42%	-51%
William Edwards School	N/E	100%	25%	42%	-58%

GCE A Level

The table below illustrates A level results for the Harris Academy where entries doubled in 2014 over 2013 but A*-B attainment reduced from 100% to 90%

GCE A level	Entries 2013	2013 A*-A	2013 A*-B	2013 A*-E	Entries 2014	2014 A*-A	2014 A*-B	2014 A*-E
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	5	40%	100%	100%	10	40%	90%	100%

Thurrock SACRE Youth Conference

Funding from the Culham St Gabriel's Trust allowed Thurrock to offer a free youth conference during Interfaith Week in 2013. The event was well attended and the visiting Ambassadors from Redbridge Sixth Forms were well received. Many students had opportunities to talk to young people from Protestant and Catholic traditions of Christianity, Islam, Sikh, Hindu, Pagan as well as atheists.



*** 1:Pupils learn about moral decision making**



*** 2:Thurrock pupils demonstrate their creativity**



*** 3:Thurrock pupils paper the walls with their wisdom**



*** 4:Ambassadors of faith and belief help pupils to find similarities and differences between religions**



*** 5:Learning to speak in public about religion and belief**



*** 6:Teachers of RE learn about strategies used on the day**