

<b>6 January 2021</b>		<b>ITEM: 9</b>
<b>Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education</b>		
<b>Annual Report 2019-2020 Thurrock SACRE</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Non-Key	
<b>Report of:</b> Deborah Weston, Associate Adviser for Religious Education		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Michele Lucas, Assistant Director Learning Inclusion and Skills		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Shelia Murphy, Corporate 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. Recommendation(s):**

- 1.1 That SACRE accept this report as an accurate record of its work for the period September 2019 – July 2020**
- 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:**
  - **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 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**

- **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’ as expected by the DfE and Ofsted**

## **2. Introduction and Background**

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**

Members are requested to accept, amend or reject the report.

## **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

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: **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, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

- 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

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE THURROCK STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) FOR 2019 - 2020

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## 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 to the local authority, to local schools and to other interested parties. One important element of the report is performance data and an analysis of the extent to which schools are meeting their legal duties in relation to RE. GCSE data, including the short course was not available until this month, hence the delay in the publication of the report. More recently, other datasets have been made available by the DfE, most significantly the school workforce data that supports the monitoring of the level of provision in secondary schools.

## Foreword by the Chair of SACRE – Rev. John Guest

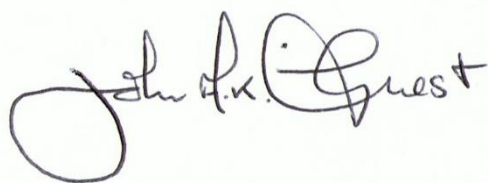
As I enter my fifth year of leading Thurrock SACRE, I am delighted to have been elected once again to serve the schools of our borough in guiding our group in its oversight of the provision of RE and collective worship. It was both moving and inspiring to attend the recent education awards at Blackshots to celebrate all that is good in our local schools and to showcase the achievements of our teachers and the advances made by our authority in improving our schools and learning institutions. I take this opportunity to pay my personal tribute to them now!

You will see from this report that, once again, our excellent adviser, Deborah Weston, has been hard at work serving our borough's schools and guiding and help helping me and my faith, education and Civic colleagues in the tasks of SACRE. I draw your attention to the concerns we have raised regarding the decline of RE provision and the recruitment and inadequate training of RE specialists. We also note significant challenges in the provision of Collective Worship, especially in secondary schools. This last has particular resonance for me and I commend it to your attention with the hope that 2019 will see significant improvement.

I am pleased to see the RE Quality Mark being applied for faith and community schools and academies with bronze silver and gold standards recognising levels of good practice. I congratulate Ockendon Academy and the Dilkes Academy on achieving a silver award.

Finally, we have been challenged and encourage by 3 members of our youth cabinet who made us a very stimulating presentation on the effect of RE and Collective Worship on their own appreciation of school life. It is good to hear from our young people and reminds us to reorder and focus away from what we are doing to who we are doing it for.

With very best wishes for 2019 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John A. Guest". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a distinct 'A'.

<b>Membership of Thurrock Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education 2019-2020</b>						
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Nominating Body</b>	<b>No. of Reps</b>	<b>Names of Reps.</b>	<b>Date Appointed</b>	<b>Date due for re-election</b>
A	Christian Denominations & other RE Denominations		9			
A	Free Church Christian	Free Church Federal Council	2	Mrs S Lawson	June 2019	May 2023
A		Free Church Federal Council		Mr P Anderson	June 2019	May 2023
A	Roman Catholic	Diocese of Brentwood	1	Mrs M Shepherd	June 2019	May 2023
A	Muslim	Thurrock Islamic Education & Cultural Association	2	Mr J Hussein	October 2019	September 2023
A		Thurrock Islamic Education & Cultural Association		Miss A Ahmed	June 2019	May 2023
A	Sikh	Local Sikh Guru Gudwara Committee.	1	Ms H Kaur Takhtar	May 2018	June 2022
A	Pentecostal		1	Mr T Ojetola	July 2018	June 2022
A	Buddhist	Buddhist Society	1	Mr A Kariyawasam	June 2019	May 2023
A	Jewish	Board of Deputies of British Jews	1	Ms S Perlmutter	June 2019	May 2023
A	Hindu	Vacancy	1	Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy

Committee	Representing	Nominating Body	No. of Reps	Names of Reps.	Date Appointed	Date due for re-election
B	Church of England		4			
B	Church of England	Diocese of Chelmsford		Rev.J Guest	June 2017	May 2021
B	Church of England	Diocese of Chelmsford		Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy
B	Church of England	Diocese of Chelmsford		Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy
B	Church of England	Diocese of Chelmsford		Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy

Committee	Representing	Nominating Body	No. of Reps	Names of Reps.	Date Appointed	Date due for re-election
C	Teachers' Associations (pref. Primary, Secondary & Special Schools)		6			
C	Teachers' Associations Primary	Professional Associations Group		Mrs R Gedalovitch	September 2017	September 2021
C	Teachers' Associations, Primary	Professional Associations Group		Ms H Martins	May 2018	June 2022
C	Teachers' Associations, Secondary	Professional Associations Group		Ms A Harris	May 2018	June 2022
C	Teachers' Associations Secondary	Professional Associations Group		Ms J Culloty	May 2018	June 2022



C	Teachers' Associations	Professional Associations Group		Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy
C	Teachers' Associations	Professional Associations Group		Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy

Committee	Representing	Nominating Body	No. of Reps	Names of Reps.	Date Appointed	Date due for re-election
D	Local Education Authority		3			
D	Local Education Authority	Thurrock Council		Councillor M Kerin	May 2018	May 2022
D	Local Education Authority	Thurrock Council		Councillor G Collins	May 2019	May 2023
D	Local Education Authority	Thurrock Council		Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy

Committee	Representing	Nominating Body	No. of Reps	Names of Reps.	Date Appointed	Date due for re-election
(non-voting)	Co-opted Member		1			
	Vacancy	SACRE		Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy

## **SACRE Meetings Held**

The following SACRE meetings were held during the reporting period:

6<sup>th</sup> November 2019

4<sup>th</sup> March 2020

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

All meetings were held at the Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Thurrock, Essex

## **Membership and attendance**

Two of the three meetings of SACRE during the reporting period were inquorate. The constitution requires that at least one representative attends from each of the committees and for one meeting, no teacher was present and for one meeting no councillor was represented.

### **ADVICE:**

***SACRE wishes to advise the council that it is not possible for SACRE to discharge its legal duties if meetings are not quorate. SACRE has therefore requested that the changes to the terms of reference providing flexibility for elected members to substitute is noted. See appendix 1***

## **Work Plan 2019-2020**

The work plan for 2019-2020 is reported as appendix B

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

### **The responsibility of SACRE**

According to government guidance<sup>1</sup>, SACREs should monitor the provision and quality of RE taught according to its agreed syllabus, together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus. Ofsted inspection reports do not systematically include information on RE so cannot be relied on as a source of information about provision in schools.

Thurrock SACRE offers both the syllabus and schemes of work free of charge to academies via a password protect section of the website. <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/religious-education/syllabus-for-religious-education>. This decision was made based upon the principle enshrined in law that all children in all types of school are entitled to receive religious education and to be prepared for life in modern Britain. School requests for the password to

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<sup>1</sup> Religious Education in English Schools (2010) p12

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/190260/DCSF-00114-2010.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190260/DCSF-00114-2010.pdf)

these resources indicate that most academies use the syllabus. However, there is no mechanism by which to require academies to comply with the requirements of the syllabus since their funding agreement simply requires them to 'make provision for RE'.

### **Standards in Thurrock Schools.**

SACRE undertakes a number of activities annually to fulfil its responsibilities including the monitoring of:

#### **School websites**

Schools are required to publish their curriculum for each subject for each school year. This includes Religious Education, even when it is called something else. SACRE investigated school websites in order to learn more about how RE, including the Thurrock Agreed Syllabus was being used. Some schools presented a comprehensive RE programme and were clearly using the Agreed Syllabus and accompanying scheme of work. Others failed to report on RE or reported a curriculum that did not appear to comply either with the Agreed Syllabus or, in the case of some academies, their funding agreement.

#### **School Workforce Data (Secondary)**

Schools complete the school workforce census every November and this allows SACRE to discuss the number of teaching hours each secondary school reports for RE. Unfortunately, not all schools appear to complete the census accurately, especially when the subject is combined with another on the timetable. SACRE has taken steps to encourage schools to report their provision for RE accurately.

Appendix C below sets out what schools reported.

#### **GCSE Entries and Results**

The Thurrock Agreed Syllabus requires that all students in all schools follow a course in Religious Education leading to a GCSE qualification. The publication of results therefore is another tool that helps us monitor levels and quality of provision. However, the DfE made a decision in the summer of 2020 that because qualifications such as GCSE and A were awarded based on school assessment, it would not be reasonable to use them in national performance tables. Data about the number of entries would be available, however. See appendix D

#### **ADVICE**

***SACRE wishes to advise the council of its agreed view that where SACRE has identified strengths or areas for development in relation to Religious Education in specific schools, the subject should form part of the annual conversations conducted by the School Effectiveness Team. This we believe is consistent with School Support Strategy 2019 and***

***the aim that by 2022, there will be an effective process to 'challenge and support all schools to increase quality and standards of education'.<sup>2</sup>***

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<sup>2</sup> Thurrock Council Education Support Strategy 2019-2022

<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/education-support-strategy-2019-v02.pdf>

**GCSE provision awaiting data from data team**

Two schools; Grays Convent and the Gateway offer GCSE for all pupils at Key Stage 4 and The Ockendon, Gable Hall, Harris Academy Chafford Hundred and the Hathaway all offer the subject as an option. Pupils at Grays Convent, the Ockendon, Gable Hall, Harris Academy Chafford Hundred and the Hathaway all achieved results at 9-4 that were above the national average. Special congratulations should be offered to the Ockendon Academy where the number of pupils achieving grades 9-4 rose from 41.3% when the course was taught to the whole cohort and 88% when it was taught as an option group.

Secondary Schools – **Table 1 2020 data to replace this**

School	% of timetable RE					GCSE 2019 (2018)				Pupil Premium	
	Seven	Eight	Nine	Ten	Eleven	KS4 Full Course Entries%	Short KS4	Percent age 9-4 FC	Percent age 9-4 Short Course	Percent of pupils entitled	Relative to national average
Grays Convent High School	7.5	7.5	7.4	10.5	8.5	94.7% (98%)	3.5	86% (85.2%)	75	22%	Low
The Gateway Academy <sup>3</sup>	4*	4*	7	15.2	3.7	96% (74.8%)	0	44% (49.2%)		42%	Medium
Ormiston Park Academy <sup>4</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			43%	Medium
Harris Academy Ockendon	7.3	7.4	6.9	6.9	7.1	39% (100%)	0	88%(41.3%)		34%	Low
Ortu Gable Hall School <sup>5</sup>	2.7	1.6	3.2	1.4	0	24% (24.2%)	0	79% (63.8%)		21%	Low
William Edwards School <sup>6</sup>	0	4.2	4.1	0	1	0.4% (3%)	0	0% (71.4%)		16%	Very Low
St Clare's School <sup>2</sup>	4.8	4.9	2.7	2.3	0	0	28.6		87.7	24%	Low
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred <sup>7</sup>	0	0	0	0	1.5	6% (12.2%)	0	100% (77.3%)		14%	Very Low

<sup>3</sup> At both the Gateway and St Clare's, pupils sit the examination at the end of Year 10

<sup>4</sup> Ormiston Park: RE is combined with Citizenship and Personal Education at Key Stage 3 and 4

<sup>5</sup> Ortu Gable Hall: RE is combined with PSHRSE Key Stage 3 and 4 but no specific RE content is visible in the online plan. There is an option for RS at KS4

<sup>6</sup> From 2019, William Edwards provides one hour per week in Y7 and an option group in KS4 but no discrete provision for those who do not opt for RS GCSE

<sup>7</sup> Harris Academy Chafford Hundred In KS3 RE is combined with Citizenship and PSHE. RE an option at GCSE and A Level but there is no provision for remaining pupils

The Hathaway Academy <sup>8</sup>	0	0	0	1.9	2.9	19% (13.7%)	0	75% (47.1%)		34%	Low
Hassenbrook Academy <sup>9</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			35%	Low

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<sup>8</sup> Hathaway offers core RE in Years 7,8 and 9 and an option group but no provision for those who do not opt for RE

<sup>9</sup> Hassenbrook: RE is combined with Personal, Social, Health, Relationships and Sex Education at Key Stage 3. There is no GCSE option provision for RS at KS4

## **Youth SACRE report to SACRE**

Thurrock's Youth Cabinet is a group of 11 to 19 year-olds, who work to make Thurrock a better place for young people. The Youth Cabinet was set up to give the young people of Thurrock a voice. Youth Cabinet members regularly meet with councillors, council officers and other decision makers to give their views on a number of issues including the school curriculum.

As part of their monitoring work therefore, SACRE invited representatives of the Youth Cabinet to attend a SACRE meeting. Members informed the representatives that SACRE had invited the Youth Cabinet to their meeting as they felt it was important to seek their views about their experiences of Religious Education in Schools and the importance of Religious Education in Thurrock today. The representatives reported enjoying RE lessons more at secondary School than in primary. They felt the material they studied in secondary Religious Education was particularly interesting because it relates to real life scenarios and everyday life. The representatives also reported appreciating the visits they were offered to places of worship. They agreed unanimously that RE should be taught in schools especially as it was important for all young people to know about people from other cultures.

### **ADVICE**

***SACRE wishes to thank all those involved in the Youth Cabinet for their contribution to the monitoring of RE and Collective Worship in Thurrock Schools***

### **SACRE discussion of National Developments in RE**

- i. [NATRE:- Spirited Arts](#): This competition, which has been running for more than 15 years was commended to SACRE and it was agreed to promote entry vigorously.
- ii. Theos Report on [Worldviews in Religious Education](#) was discussed and it was agreed the topic should form the focus of an extended discussion at SACRE
- iii. Publication of updated guidance on the statutory provision for RE in Academies and Free Schools from the [Department of Education](#)

### **New OFSTED Framework for the Inspection of schools**

SACRE discussed the implications of the final versions of the 2019 Inspection Framework and analysis of the first set of [reports here](#). Members heard that the pre-September 2019 framework had offered a degree of accountability to schools, for example with references in Ofsted reports to schools achieving the RE Quality Mark. A small number of schools had been criticized for failure to provide RE at all. This framework did not lend itself to a thorough examination of the curriculum, especially because inspections could last only one day. One of the effects of this was that schools that are non-compliant with their Agreed Syllabus or in the case of academies, their funding agreements, appeared to be inspected and not challenged about these failings at all.

The 2019 framework reverses this trend. Inspections will last two days and there will be a much greater emphasis on the curriculum. It is likely that a small number of subjects, possibly four, will be chosen as a focus for examining the curriculum and this could just as easily be RE as any other subject. A bonus from this approach is that over time, the information collected about each individual subject could (and should) be collated to create subject reports that identify national trends. SACRE welcomed this information and looked forward to reading specific information about RE in inspection reports of Thurrock schools in due course

## Other matters discussed that fall under the remit of SACRE

### Acts of Worship

SACRE discussed coverage in national media [here](#) regarding two children who had been withdrawn from Collective Worship in a primary school in Oxfordshire. The school concerned was a community primary. Although it had joined the Oxford Diocesan MAT, Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST), this did not change the status of the school. It was still required to provide daily collective worship of a ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’ in line with current legislation. One family, supported by Humanists UK, chose to withdraw their children from this Collective Worship, as is their right. The parents were seeking a judicial review because they felt that during Collective Worship, the school should provide an alternative of equal educational worth for their children to attend. Before the Judicial Review took place the family and the school [agreed](#) an [out of court settlement](#). The DfE have clearly stated that this case has no immediate implications for SACREs or schools.

SACRE has a legal duty to monitor provision for collective worship in schools in its local area. SACRE collated policy documents from local schools in order to conduct a review. Thanks are due to the following for uploading their policies to their school websites:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harris Academy Ockendon</li> <li>• Bulpham Primary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grays Convent</li> <li>• Kenningtons Primary</li> </ul>
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Members agreed that the most helpful policies included some or all of the following:

- A statement about the legal requirements around collective worship including the parental and teacher right of withdrawal
- The aims of collective worship in the school including links to school ethos and values, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, fundamental British Values and the taught curriculum
- Objectives or intended outcomes for the programme of collective worship
- Practical arrangements about how Collective Worship is organised in the school:
  - Groupings (e.g. year groups, classes/tutor groups, houses, whole school)
  - Timings, including links to the school timetable, calendar and local and national occasions and festivals
  - Leaders and their roles in collective worship – e.g. visitors, senior and middle leaders, individual and groups of pupils



- A clear statement about the nature of collective worship; what it is and what it is not. How collective worship may link to but is distinct from ‘assembly’
- A statement about how the effectiveness of the policy will be reviewed, by whom and when

### Thurrock SACRE Youth Conference – Values through Religious Education June 2020 -

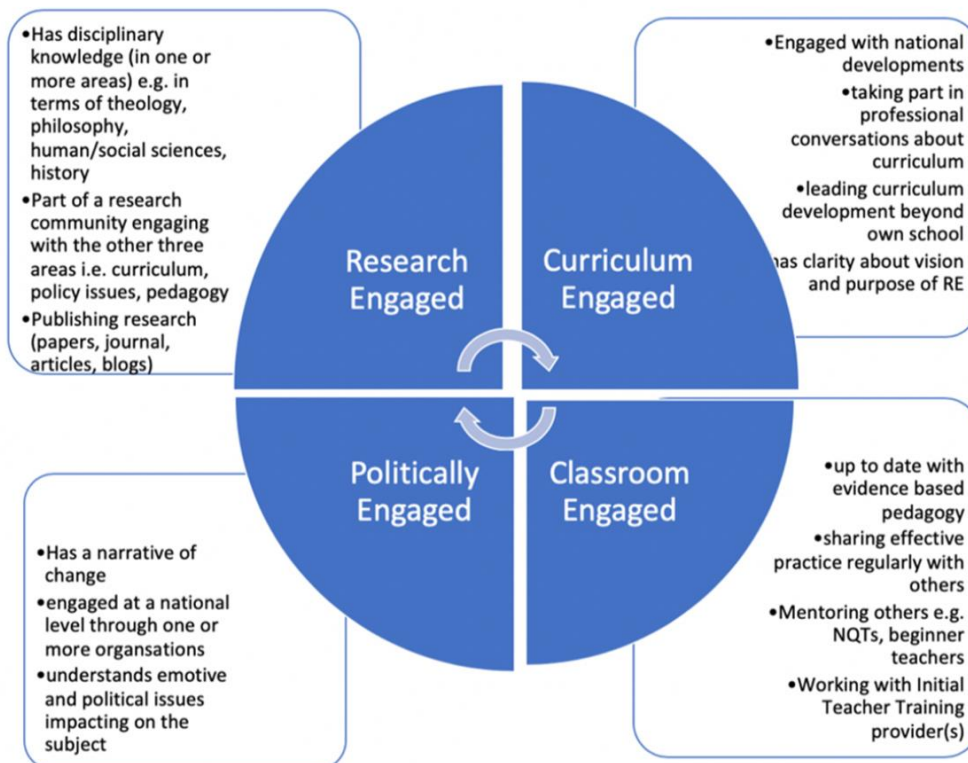
Thurrock SACRE planned to host a Youth Conference in June 2020 but this had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The aims of the conference were as follows:

- To encourage pupils to learn from each other through dialogue and shared experience
- To provide an interesting and exciting experience in RE to pupils from Thurrock schools
- To develop pupils’ creative and expressive talents
- To promote the place of excellent, open-minded RE in Thurrock

#### Teacher Recruitment and training

SACRE continued to monitor opportunities for training and to circulate these to teachers in Thurrock. These included:

- [Farmington Scholarship](#): This funded opportunity for a teacher to be seconded from school to carry out research was agreed to be an exciting opportunity and the adviser was asked to ensure all teachers were informed about the offer and encouraged to apply.
- Culham St Gabriel’s [Leadership Programme](#) which was provided free of charge to serving teachers



Appendix A

**THURROCK STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**(SACRE)**

**CONSTITUTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

THURROCK STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
(SACRE)  
DRAFT CONSTITUTION  
*REVISED January 2020*

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 In accordance with the Education Act 1996 and circular 1/94, Religious Education and Collective Worship, the Local Authority (“LA”) has a duty to establish and set up a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (“SACRE”) and an Agreed Syllabus Conference.
- 1.2 If there is a conflict between these Terms of Reference and the law, the SACRE shall comply with the law.

**2. Functions and Responsibilities**

- 2.1 To advise the Local Authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in community schools or in foundation schools which do not have a religious character and the religious education to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus. This may include, in particular, methods of teaching, choice of teaching material and the provision of training for teachers.
- 2.2 To publish an annual report on its work specifying any matters on which it has advised the Local Authority, broadly describing the nature of that advice, and setting out the reasons for offering advice on any matters which were not referred to it in the first place by the Local Authority.
- 2.3 To publish its annual report by the end of the academic year and send to local schools and other persons and organisations it sees fit.
- 2.4 To encourage the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus and in this regard to monitor the production of teaching resources and support material.
- 2.5 To support the Local Authority in reviewing provision for religious education and collective worship in schools within the Borough.
- 2.6 To disseminate an understanding of the educational role of religious education and collective worship and to encourage the active involvement of local religious groups and organisations.
- 2.7 To keep under review the effectiveness and appropriateness of the Agreed Syllabus until such time (and no later than 5 years after the publication of the last agreed syllabus) it decides to require the Local Authority to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to institute a formal review.

### **3. Membership and composition of SACRE**

3.1 SACRE will comprise members of four representative groups appointed by the Local Authority as follows:

**Group A      Christian Denominations & other RE denominations**  
10 members

2 Free Church Christian members (nominated by the Free Church Federal Council)

1 Roman Catholic member (nominated by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brentwood)

1 Jewish member (nominated by the Board of Deputies of British Jews)

2 Muslim members (nominated by the Muslim Council of Britain)

1 Sikh member (nominated by the Local Gurdwara)

1 Hindu member (nominated by the National Council of Hindu Temples)

1 Pentecostal member (nominated by the Local King's Family Centre)

1 Buddhist member (nominated by the Buddhist Society)

**Group B      Church of England**

4 members nominated by the Diocese of Chelmsford

**Group C      Teachers Associations**

6 members nominated by the Professional Associations Group representing as far as is practicable, primary, secondary, special schools and academies.

**Group D      The Local Authority**

4 members nominated by Council.

4 substitute members nominated by Council.

### 3.2 Co-Opted Members/Attendees

- 3.3. SACRE shall have the right to co-opt additional non-voting members who shall remain co-opted for as long as SACRE deems necessary or until such time as the co-opted member resigns.
- 3.4. Co-opted members may resign at any time and may be removed by the representative groups at any time or the LA.
- 3.5. It shall be open to SACRE to invite people of expertise or special interests to attend on an occasional basis.

### 4. Term of Office

- 4.1. Members of Committees A, B, C and D are appointed for a period of four years, but shall thereafter be eligible for re-nomination by their nominating bodies.
- 4.2. A member shall cease to be a member of SACRE if:
- a) They reach the end of their term of office
  - b) They write to the SACRE or the Clerk and tender their resignation;
  - c) They were appointed by virtue of being representative of the religion, denomination or associations which they were appointed to represent, but in the opinion of the LA, they cease to be such a representative, or to be representative of the authority;
  - d) The other members of their representative group notify the LA that the member should no longer act as one of its representatives on the SACRE and the LA agrees to their removal;
  - e) The LA determine, on reasonable grounds, that the member is unable, unwilling or an unsuitable person to continue these duties.
- 4.3. Any member of SACRE may at any time resign his/her office and a replacement be sought from the relevant nominating body.
- 4.4. The SACRE shall review the membership annually at their Autumn Term meeting.
- ### 5. Chair and Vice Chair
- 5.1. The Chair and Vice Chair of SACRE shall be appointed by Members in attendance at the first meeting of each Academic Year, or any meeting during the year when the position is vacant. The voting will be by a simple majority.
- 5.2. Each of the representative groups A, B, C and D shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the respective representative group. Each representative member having one vote. These chairs will be appointed annually at the Autumn Term meeting (or first meeting of the Academic Year).

5.3 In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson will take the chair and in the absence of both of these a member will be elected for one meeting.

5.4 The Chair will be responsible for:

- a) The management of meetings;
- b) Representing the SACRE to other bodies;
- c) Such other duties as the SACRE considers appropriate.

5.5 The Vice-Chair will be responsible for:

- a) Deputising for the Chair as required;
- b) Representing the SACRE to other bodies in the absence of the Chair or by agreement with the Chair;
- c) Such other duties as the SACRE considers appropriate.

5.6 The LA shall appoint a Clerk to:

- a) Attend the meetings of SACRE
- b) Take appropriate minutes and notes at meetings;
- c) Maintain and update the records of SACRE and its meetings;
- d) Perform any other necessary administrative duties; and
- e) Provide a copy of the minutes to the Members of the SACRE and LA.

## **6. Vacancies**

6.1 In the event of a vacancy on the SACRE the Clerk shall:

- a. Advise the relevant appointing body of the vacancy;
- b. Where appropriate, refer any nomination to the LA; and
- c. Where such nominations are agreed, record the person as a member of SACRE.

6.2 In the absence of nominees from a representative group, the LA may nominate and appoint any person that it considers to be representative of that group and it deems appropriate, to fill the vacancy.

## **7. Arrangements for Meetings**

7.1 Meetings will be convened by the Local Authority.

7.2 Special meetings may be called by the Chair and the Local Authority acting jointly.

7.3 There will be 3 meetings of SACRE held each academic year, normally one per academic term, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Chair.

7.4 Matters for the Agenda of any meeting shall be sent to the Clerk at least 21 days in advance of the meeting.

7.5 The draft minutes of the previous meeting shall be circulated to Members no later than one week before the next meeting takes place.

7.6 The Clerk will no later than 5 working days before the meeting, circulate the agenda and supporting papers to the SACRE members.

## **8. Attendance at meetings**

8.1 The membership of any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without good cause will be considered to have resigned their position from SACRE and a replacement or reinstatement be sought from the nominating body.

## **9. Quorum**

9.1 For the purposes of meetings, the SACRE will be deemed quorate when at least one member of the four representative groups are represented and not less than a third of the total membership are present.

9.2 If the meeting is not quorate, either business shall not be transacted or the meeting could continue but decisions would have to be ratified at the next SACRE meeting.

## **10. Voting Rights**

10.1 Each representative group within SACRE shall have one vote. Groups are to determine their own internal voting arrangements. Decisions within a group about how that vote is to be cast do not require unanimity. Individual representative members cannot vote separately. Co-opted members are not entitled to vote. Each group is to regulate its own proceedings including provision for resolving deadlock.

10.2 A proposal shall not be deemed to be carried unless it has been approved by at least three of the representative groups unless otherwise required by law or guidance.

10.3 In the interests of achieving consensus SACRE should only take a vote of the four groups when it is necessary to make a formal record of a decision, or if there are opposing views.

## **11. Access to meetings and documents**

11.1 Meetings of the SACRE will be held in public and members of the public will be encouraged to attend meetings as observers except where matters under discussion are considered by SACRE to be confidential. Members of the public cannot take part in discussions nor have any voting rights.

11.2 Copies of agendas and reports for meetings of SACRE will be made available for inspection on the Committee Management Information System found on the Local Authority's website.

## **12. Constitutional Change**

12.1 The Local Authority can alter these terms of reference but must consult SACRE before do



**SACRE WORK PLAN**  
**To meet the statutory duties of a SACRE**  
**2019-2020**

Objective	Action	Responsibility	Date	Success criteria
1. SACRE meetings are planned and dates published annually	Agenda planning Liaison with relevant council departments Meeting preparation Report writing Meeting attendance Minute taking Publication of meeting agendas and minutes	Clerk, Chair, Adviser LA representative, members	Termly SACRE meetings	Meetings are effective meetings with actions followed up between meetings Members have a working knowledge of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• issues affecting RE in the area</li> <li>• the Agreed Syllabus for RE</li> <li>• an understanding of the responsibilities of SACRE</li> </ul>
2. SACRE have the opportunity to consider national developments in relation to RE in Thurrock	Consider relevant material from National organisations (AREAIC, NATRE, NASACRE as well as the DfE, Ofsted and Thurrock Council departments	Adviser	As information is published	Items on the Agenda for each meeting, Attendance at relevant meetings e.g. NASACRE AGM Minutes record discussions and actions
3. Produce annual report of the work of SACRE including advice to the council.	Collate information, source data and draft report Ensure final report presented to LA Send copy to Department for Education and to NASACRE	Adviser to draft Chair to write introduction Clerk to circulate. Elected representative to present to council	Spring Term (to account for data publication dates)	Completed draft in time for Spring meeting Report presented to council Copies sent to all schools Copy acknowledged by DfE

4. Engage with local schools and Academy Trusts to understand how Religious Education and Collective Worship are provided in Thurrock	Officers to identify schools to host visits Members undertake school visits Committee considers school reports	SACRE members at least one per year	Up to 4 school visits - 2 per term	Meaningful visits or discussion completed, and reports discussed at SACRE meetings.
5. Provide information on the RE curriculum to schools including through training	Update schools on current developments in RE (NATRE and other material requested by SACRE) Host a SACRE Youth Conference to model high quality provision to teachers of RE	Adviser  Adviser and RE Today	Termly  Annually -Summer Term subject to funding	Schools in receipt of material Teachers respond to material received Teachers raise questions to the adviser
6. Monitor provision for RE and Collective Worship	Source and present national and local data as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– GCSE validated and unvalidated results and entries (local and national)</li> <li>– School workforce data (local and national)</li> <li>– Surveys of provision and of issues such as withdrawal, use of agreed syllabus, who teaches RE etc (local)</li> <li>– Review school websites</li> <li>– Write to schools about findings</li> <li>– Sample collective worship policies</li> </ul>	Adviser All SACRE members LA representative	Annually	LA respond to advice offered on strengths of RE and collective worship, and areas in need of development Schools respond to feedback on their websites and policies
7. Evaluate SACRE work and establish priorities	Item at summer term meeting	All SACRE members	Summer term meeting	Evaluation identified success criteria are met

Schedule 2019/20

Date of meeting	Subject	Objective (note – objectives 1 and 2 apply to all meetings)	Success Criteria
<b>Autumn 2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National developments - update</li> <li>• Ofsted Framework on RE – Autumn 2019</li> <li>• Monitoring provision via school workforce data</li> <li>• Review of membership and attendance</li> <li>• Monitoring the use of the right of withdrawal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6</li> <li>• 6</li> <li>• 7</li> <li>• 2</li> <li>• 6</li> </ul>	
<b>Spring 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring provision via GCSE and A level results</li> <li>• Annual report approval</li> <li>• Relationships:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Schools and Academies</li> <li>○ the Council</li> <li>○ Governors</li> <li>○ Communities of religion and belief</li> <li>○ Thurrock work on Community Integration</li> <li>○ NASACRE</li> <li>○ Youth Cabinet</li> <li>○ Regional Schools Commissioners</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6</li> <li>• 3</li> <li>• 4+5</li> </ul>	

<b>Summer 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standards and Achievements in RE in schools</li> <li>• Review of SACRE website</li> <li>• Review of Collective Worship</li> <li>• Review of SACRE Conference</li> <li>• Annual report including GCSE results</li> <li>• Evaluation of work plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6</li> <li>• 6</li> <li>• 6</li> <li>• 5</li> <li>• 4</li> <li>• 7</li> </ul>	
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Appendix C: School workforce Data Nov 2019 – reported summer 2020

School	Type	Percent of timetable allocated to RE					GCSE					Ofsted Rating	Pupil Premium	
		Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	GCSE Full Course Entries %	GCSE Short Course Entries %	Percentage 9-4 Full Course	Percentage 9-4 Short Course	Total ACP Percentage		Percentage Secondary	Secondary Premium
Beacon Hill Academy												Outstanding	30%	Low
Olive Ap Academy - Thurrock										0		Special Measures	67%	High
Treetops School							0	0					39%	Low
Grays Convent High School	Voluntary aided school	8.33	8.63	8.28	11.16	10.42	94.7	3.5	85.2	75	84.8	Good	22%	Low
The Gateway Academy	Academy sponsor led	4.2	4.48	14.56	12.51	0	74.8	0	49.2		49.2	Requires improvement	42%	Medium
Ormiston Park Academy	Academy sponsor led	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				Good	43%	Medium
The Ockendon Academy	Foundation school	6.87	6.66	7.46	7.45	7.25	100	0	41.3		41.3	Good	34%	Low
Ortu Gable Hall School	Foundation school	0	2.51	2.96	0.7	0	24.2	0	63.8		63.8	Requires improvement	21%	Low
William Edwards School	Foundation school	2.6	4.49	4.53	1.19	0	3	0	71.4		71.4		16%	Very Low
St Clare's School	Foundation school	4.55	5.13	2.5	0	0	0	28.6		87.7	87.7	Good	24%	Low
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	Foundation school	0	0	0	0	0	12.2	0	77.3		77.3	Outstanding	14%	Very Low
The Hathaway Academy	Academy sponsor led	0	0	0	2.13	2.11	13.7	0	47.1		47.1	Good	34%	Low
Hassenbrook Academy	Academy converter	3.37	3.57	3.17	0	0	0	0					35%	Low
Harris Academy Riverside													29%	Low