

1 March 2017		ITEM: 5
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education		
Excellent Religious Education		
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 Lead, School Improvement, Learning and Skills		
Accountable Director: Rory Patterson, Director of Children's Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report presents the 'Excellent RE' programme to members for information and invites them to be involved in its monitoring.

1. Recommendation(s) that SACRE:

1.1 That SACRE Members visit the schools involved in this project to monitor the impact.

2. Introduction and Background

In order to continue to raise standards in the teaching of RE we need to build our capacity for sharing good practice throughout Thurrock. The 'Excellent RE' scheme is an ideal model for achieving this aim. It is a grant funded scheme including the cover costs for teachers involved in the project.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Members are requested to consider how they might make the most of a visit to one of more schools involved in the Excellent RE project during this academic year to learn more about the project.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 One of the responsibilities of a SACRE is to monitor provision for RE to be given in accordance with its Agreed Syllabus

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

5.1 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: **Shaj Sivadasan**
Management Accountant Schools & Education

The Excellent RE programme is funded from a grant via RE Today, who is in turn funded by School Improvement of £10K per year.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Matthew Boulter**
Deputy Monitoring Officer

The legal implications are set out in the body of the report. Any visits to schools by SACRE would fulfil the responsibilities of the committee to take an active role in the performance of RE in Thurrock schools.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
Community Development & Equalities Manager

By providing training for the teachers in 11 primary schools in Thurrock the Excellent RE project aims to increase capacity for the sharing of good practice in the borough. Higher standards in the teaching of RE will help schools to fulfil their statutory duty to promote community cohesion and to encourage better respect and tolerance for those with different religions and beliefs.

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

- Not applicable

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report**

- Not applicable

9. **Appendices to the report**

- Appendix 1 – Initial flyer for the project
- Appendix 2 – Draft Visit Schedule
- Appendix 3 – Draft Visit Proforma

Report Author:

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Associate Adviser for RE