

5 June 2019		ITEM: 8
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education		
Work Plan 2019-2020		
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: Rory Patterson, Director of Children's Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

In 2010, the Department for Education produced a document called, "Religious Education in English Schools" to help guide SACREs and Agreed Syllabus Conferences discharge their duties. This document is non-statutory but is the most recent publication for SACREs produced by the Department of Education. The details of those tasks a SACRE must complete, should complete and may complete are included in Appendix A of this report. They are offered as guidance to SACRE in creating a work plan for the next academic year.

1. Recommendation(s) that SACRE Members:

- **Consider:**
 - **The Non-Statutory Guidance (Appendix 1)**
 - **The workplan from 2018-2019**
- **Develop a workplan for 2019-2020**

2. Introduction and Background

The 2010 non-statutory guidance replaced Circular 1/94 in respect of Religious Education, but not Acts of Collective Worship. According to the introduction, the purpose of the publication, "*...is to support the provision of high-quality religious education (RE) in maintained schools in England. It provides clear non-statutory guidance about RE in the curriculum and the roles of those who have a responsibility for, involvement in or interest in the subject.*"

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 The scope of work plan must take account of the current SACRE budget which comes from the CSSB (central schools services block) of funding which is allocated to each local authority.
- 3.2 National and local developments in RE or in education more generally may require SACRE to edit the plan during the year.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 A well designed workplan specifies goals for a **committee**, strategies to meet the goals and timelines for completion of the goals.

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.

This exercise falls under all three elements of this programme.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

There are no financial implications to this report since the analysis of the data collected through this exercise will be conducted by the Associate RE Adviser as part of her work

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**
Deputy Head of Legal Social Care & Education

The legal duties on the advisory council are set out in section 391 Education Act 1996. The main one is to advise the local authority on such matters connected with the 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 an agreed or other syllabus as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
Strategic Lead Community Development & Equalities

SACRE will continue to dedicate time for the discussion of the way in which religious education can help improve the level of community cohesion in Thurrock. The Agreed Syllabus is specific about the expected outcomes of teaching of religious education in this respect. The teaching of RE should 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. Appendices

- Appendix 1 - The role and responsibility of a SACRE
- Appendix 2 – Proposed Work Plan

Report Author:

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