

HSACRE



HILLINGDON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MEETING TO BE HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 5 - CIVIC CENTRE, UXBRIDGE

Date:	Thursday 3 November 2022	Members
Time:	6.00 pm	Sumen Starr (Chairman) Carole Jones Ninette Fernandes-Viana Dorothy Sadlik Balmukund Prasad Joshi Alice Vahdat Alavari Jeevathol Angela Lount Amir Ahmed (Syed Amir Ahmed) Jasvir Singh Rayat Pauline Byles
Venue:	Committee Room 5 - Civic Centre Uxbridge, High Street, UB8 1UW	Melanie Dring MA BA(Hons) PGCE Keith Lunn Councillor Shehryar Ahmad-Wallana Councillor Kishan Bhatt Councillor June Nelson Councillor Jagjit Singh Councillor Colleen Sullivan
Meeting:	This meeting is open to Members of the Public or Press	Advisor to HSACRE Elenor Paul

Steve Clarke - Email: sclarke2@hillington.gov.uk
Clerk to HSACRE
London Borough of Hillingdon,
Civic Centre
High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW

Agenda

HSACRE Membership

Chairman's Announcements

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting 3 - 6
- 3 Hillingdon School Workforce Data 2021 (NATRE) 7 - 10
- 4 ReThink RE: The 2022 RE Report Card 11 - 18
- 5 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Hillingdon SACRE meeting is currently scheduled for Tuesday 28 March 2023.

ORGANISATION	NAME
GROUP A	
Bahai	Alice Vahdat
Baptist	<i>Vacant</i>
Buddhist	<i>Vacant</i>
Hillingdon Area Salvation Army	<i>Vacant</i>
Hindu	Balmukund Prasad Joshi
Humanists UK	Alavari Jeevathol
Jewish	Dorothy Sadlik
Methodist	Angela Lount
Muslim	Amir Ahmed
Quaker	<i>Vacant</i>
Roman Catholic	Dr Ninette Fernandes-Viana
Sikh	Jasvir Singh Rayat
United Reform Church	<i>Vacant</i>
GROUP B	
Church of England	<i>Vacant</i>
	<i>Vacant</i>
	Pauline Byles
	Melanie Dring
	Keith Lunn
GROUP C	
National Association of Headteachers	Carole Jones / Sumen Starr
National Association of School Masters / Union of Women Teachers	<i>Vacant</i>
National Education Union	<i>Vacant</i>
Association of Secondary School & College Leaders	<i>Vacant</i>
GROUP D	
Local Authority Councillors	Cllr Shehryar Ahmad-Wallana
	Cllr Kishan Bhatt
	Cllr June Nelson
	Cllr Jagjit Singh
	Cllr Colleen Sullivan
ADVISER	
SACRE Consultant for Hillingdon	Elenor Paul

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Minutes

HILLINGDON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

15 June 2022

Meeting held in Committee Room 5 - Civic Centre,
High Street, Uxbridge



	<p>Committee Members Present: Councillor Colleen Sullivan Councillor Shehryar Ahmad-Wallana Councillor Kishan Bhatt Councillor June Nelson Councillor Jagjit Singh Dorothy Sadlik Pauline Byles Keith Lunn Sumen Starr Alice Vahdat Jasvir Singh Rayat Melanie Dring</p> <p>Also Present: James Jones (Democratic Services Apprentice) Rani Dady (Education Manager – Education Improvement and Partnerships) Steve Clarke (Democratic Services Officer)</p>
1.	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (<i>Agenda Item 1</i>)</p> <p>The Committee discussed Agenda Item 4 of the previous meeting's minutes with regard to the review of HSCARE representative groups. Officers provided clarification on the intended purpose of the prospective review and, as a result, no changes were made to the minutes.</p> <p>Councillor Nelson also noted her apologies for the previous meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2022 be agreed as a correct record.</p>
2.	<p>ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR (<i>Agenda Item 2</i>)</p> <p>The Committee were informed that the long-standing Chair, Carole Jones, would be stepping down from the position for the 2022/23 municipal year. The Committee were subsequently made aware of the protocol for the election of Chair and Vice-Chair; that any member from groups A, B, C or D was welcome to make a suggestion/ self-nominate for the now vacant position of Chair as well as for the position of Vice-Chair.</p> <p>The Committee were also informed that the previous Vice-Chair, Father Desmond Banister, had stepped down from his position on HSACRE and a new Vice-Chair</p>

	<p>should be appointed for the 2022/23 municipal year. This matter was highlighted at the previous meeting which was the final meeting of the municipal year 2021/22 however, and as the Chair was present at that meeting, this did not necessitate the appointment of a Vice-Chair. Thus, the Committee agreed to defer this item to the following meeting which would see the appointment of both a new Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2022/23 municipal year.</p> <p>Following a discussion, the Committee agreed to appoint Sumen Starr as the new Chair and Keith Lunn as the Vice-Chair for the 2022/23 municipal year. These positions would last until the June 2023 meeting of HSACRE.</p> <p>RESOLVED That HSACRE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Elected Sumen Starr as Chair of HSACRE for the 2022/23 municipal year; and 2) Elected Keith Lunn as Vice-Chair of HSACRE for the 2022/23 municipal year.
3.	<p>FORTHCOMING BUDGET PLANS (<i>Agenda Item 3</i>)</p> <p>Officers reminded the Committee of its previously expressed interest in holding a CPD training conference for the Borough’s RE teachers and associates at the Civic Centre in Uxbridge. The Committee scrutinised this proposal and discussed whether it should relate to the teacher’s survey (as detailed in the previous HSCARE meeting’s minutes) as well as the potential costs of such an initiative. An officer responded to the Committee’s queries regarding the CPD proposal with an estimated breakdown of the costs attached to the proposition. It was noted that the HSACRE Adviser could lead the CPD training. The Committee went on to commend the advisor for their continued work external to HSACRE which involved sustained efforts towards the promotion of Religious Education throughout the Borough.</p> <p>It was also suggested by the Committee that interfaith events could be arranged to promote religious diversity and increased cooperation between different faith groups. The Committee noted that similar events had previously been held in the Borough and that these could potentially be revisited.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That HSACRE discussed and commented on its proposed budget plans for the forthcoming year, 2022-23.</p>
4.	<p>HOCOLAUST MEMORIAL DAY UPDATE (<i>Agenda Item 4</i>)</p> <p>The Committee’s Jewish representative informed HSACRE about Holocaust Memorial Day, which took place on Thursday 27 January earlier this year, and discussed its theme of ‘Ordinary People, Extraordinary Journeys’ as well as the lesser known Greek Jewish Community. The members of the Committee were invited to look into this event and any other related events. Members asked a variety of questions relating to this matter and how the schools in the Borough engaged with the event.</p> <p>Officers noted that the schools are made aware of these events, and it is generally left to them to decide on how their respective schools interact with such occasions. The Committee accepted these comments but hinted that more should be done to commemorate such events in the Borough and mentioned how neighbouring Boroughs involve their schools in these events which could be examined and potentially looked at</p>

	<p>for inspiration as to how to instigate such change in approach.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That HSACRE noted the update and analysed the significance of Holocaust Memorial Day and how HSACRE can improve its salience within the Borough with various initiatives.</p>
5.	<p>AOB (Agenda Item 5)</p> <p>The Committee noted the upcoming celebrations to be held at Gurdwara's across the Borough on Thursday 16 June and were invited to attend these.</p> <p>The HSACRE Adviser, Elenor Paul, had sent additional remarks prior to the meeting which were declared to the committee; namely that Members were updated that an Agreed Syllabus Conference and review of the Hillingdon Religious Education Syllabus was to be held in the 2023/24 municipal year; and that, should HSACRE be minded to, the Adviser could put together a proposed timetable for CPD training in the Autumn term. The Committee were supportive of this.</p>
6.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda Item 6)</p> <p>It was noted that the next meetings of HSACRE were due to take place at 6pm on Thursday 03 November 2022 and Tuesday 28 March 2023.</p>
	<p>The meeting, which commenced at 6.00 pm, closed at 6.23 pm.</p>

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact James Jones on 01895 250420. Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.

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HILLINGDON SCHOOL WORKFORCE DATA 2021 (NATRE)

Committee name

Hillingdon SACRE

Papers with report

Hillingdon School Workforce Data 2021

SUMMARY

This report summarises the notes accompanying the release of school level data from the 2021 Department for Education (DfE) School Workforce Census. Hours taught for years 7 to 13, in subjects RE and Philosophy, reported by a sample of state-funded secondary schools with electronic timetabling software, School Workforce Census 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

That HSACRE note the Hillingdon School Workforce Data 2021.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. The School Workforce Data for 2021 was reported by schools to the DfE as part of the school census in November 2021. The national data trends were published in June, but this dataset was extracted from the data as part of a memorandum of understanding between the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) and the DfE. 2,928 are included in the sample which includes the majority of state funded secondary schools, but not all; some have not reported any data this year for a variety of reasons.
2. HSACRE should note that the Hillingdon data appended to this report is for information only. The information reported pertains to secondary schools in the Borough, of which, only Harlington School and Oak Wood School are maintained by the London Borough of Hillingdon.
3. It is unknown why Swakeley's School for Girls and Parkside Studio College, both academies, are not included in the data.
4. Notes from the NATRE Research Officer:
 - This data is a conversation starter, not a definitive indicator of what schools are doing, therefore SACREs need to treat the information alongside other information such as the school website, public examination results (where available) and school visits. I always write to schools to ask them to clarify, if there is no data or if the data suggests they are non-compliant.

- Possible reporting issues – where RE is either possibly not reported or under reported but Philosophy is reported. This can easily happen if the lesson on the timetable is ‘Philosophy and Ethics’ or ‘Philosophy, Religion and Ethics’. The timetabling software often looks at the first part of the title and makes a judgement about which code to allocate. Some schools do report RE and Philosophy separately.
 - Please note that schools where the data is recorded as a dot have reported their teaching hours for other subjects, but have not reported RE. It should not be assumed that these schools teach or do not teach RE.
5. The next step for a SACRE might be to use its statutory remit ‘to advise the local authority’ to formally report the fact that schools in their area have reported data to the DfE that suggests they are non-compliant with the law in relation to RE and in the case of academies, their funding agreements. The local authority can be asked to investigate and report their findings back to SACRE after a conversation with a school leader.

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RETHINK RE REPORT CARD 2022

Committee name

Hillingdon SACRE

Papers with report

ReThink RE Report Card 2022

SUMMARY

The report card looks at the value of the subject, RE's impact on society, school performance, and how the Government has acted. It also includes recommendations for the future of the subject, in line with ReThink RE's campaign messaging.

RECOMMENDATION

That HSACRE note the ReThink RE Report Card 2022.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. ReThink RE have graded the performance of schools, government and the subject itself in a comprehensive review of five years of data. The data comes from a variety of sources, including an Ofsted subject report, public surveys, school workforce data, freedom of information requests, and interviews with teachers and students. It is the biggest 'state of RE' report for five years.

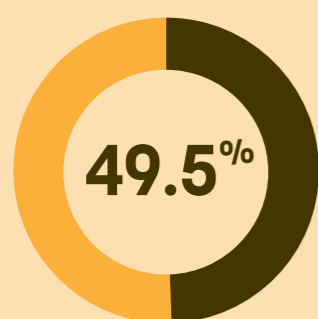
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A REVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



VALUE
OF THE QUALIFICATION

IN THE LAST DECADE THE NUMBER OF PUPILS IN ENGLAND ENTERING A FULL GCSE RS COURSE INCREASED BY **29.7%**



INCREASE IN A-LEVEL ENTRIES FOR RS

SINCE 2003 BEATING GEOGRAPHY, LAW AND HISTORY²



*RE IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS ENABLES PUPILS TO TAKE THEIR PLACE WITHIN A DIVERSE MULTI-RELIGIOUS AND MULTI-SECULAR SOCIETY. AT ITS BEST, IT IS INTELLECTUALLY CHALLENGING AND PERSONALLY ENRICHING.*³

OFSTED RE RESEARCH REVIEW MAY 2021



HIGHER ATTAINMENT **8 SCORES ON AVERAGE** IN SCHOOLS WITH HIGHER RATES OF ENTRY FOR GCSE RS⁴



95% of teachers say that the subject is more or equally relevant than ten years ago⁵

ACADEMICALLY RIGOROUS AND CHALLENGING, RE STUDENTS GO ON TO STUDY AT THE UK'S TOP UNIVERSITIES AND ENTER CAREERS IN LAW, MEDICINE, POLITICS AND JOURNALISM⁶



¹ <https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/news/call-for-national-plan-as-religious-studies-gcse-entries-slip/>

² <https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/news/news07-20-2/>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-religious-education/research-review-series-religious-education#conclusion>

⁴ <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/does-studying-rs-gcse-improve-your-overall-academic-attainment/>

⁵ <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/how-satisfied-are-re-teachers/>

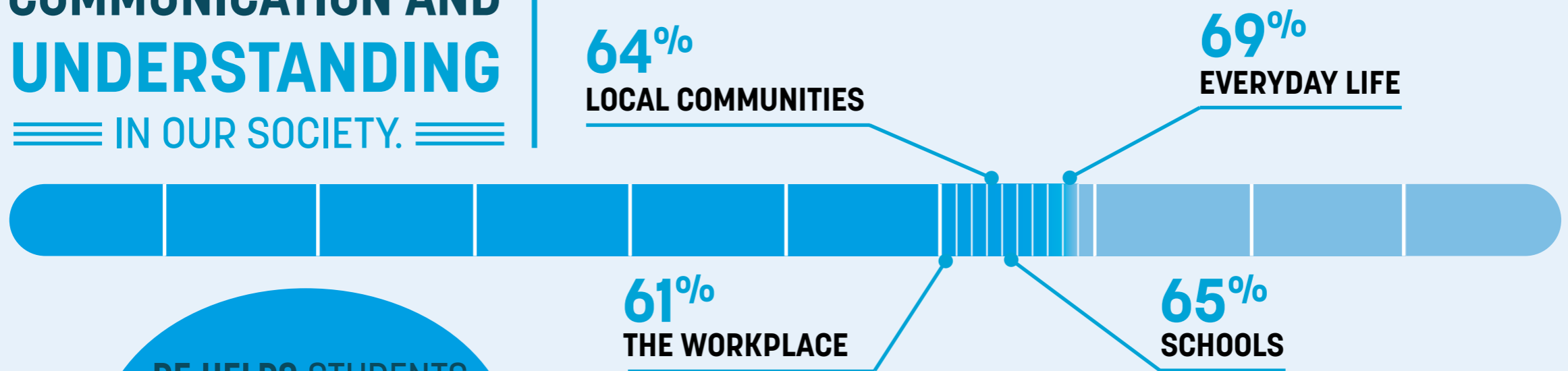
⁶ <https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2021/08/04/encourage-students-with-a-humanities-background-to-become-doctors/>

RE IN SOCIETY

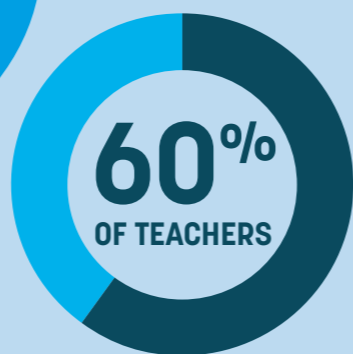
64% of the **UK adult population** think an education in **religion and worldviews** (or RE) is an important part of the **school curriculum**.⁷

HIGH-QUALITY RE IS THE BACKBONE OF COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING IN OUR SOCIETY.

AROUND TWO-THIRDS OF UK ADULTS SAY IT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE BELIEFS OF OTHERS IN:



RE HELPS STUDENTS UNDERSTAND AND DEBATE THE BIGGEST ISSUES OF THE DAY⁸



DRAW INSPIRATION FROM DISCUSSING TOPICS IN THE NEWS

The public also recognises RE's positive impact on society. In a 2021 survey a majority believed RE can:

- 69%** Help young people gain a better understanding of their own beliefs
- 71%** Foster mutual understanding of different beliefs among young people
- 65%** Provide young people with the opportunity to learn more about other people

GOOD RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CREATES INDEPENDENT AND CRITICAL THINKERS, PREPARED FOR THE DIVERSITY OF BELIEF IN MODERN BRITAIN AND THE WIDER WORLD.



⁷ Religion & Worldview survey by Savanta on behalf of Culham St Gabriel's Trust, June 2021

⁸ <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/how-satisfied-are-re-teachers/>

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE


 Time spent on the subject is **improving in some areas:**

OVER 95% of primary teachers report time spent on teaching RE has increased or stayed the same

46% of academies without a religious character have reported an increase in time to teach RE⁹



The 2021 Ofsted Research Review identified barriers to high-quality RE teaching in schools including:¹⁰

Insufficient time to teach an ambitious RE curriculum 

A lack of a 'scholarly approach'

Insufficient professional development for teachers of RE

Some teachers embedding **unhelpful misconceptions**



Gaps in teacher subject knowledge



However, **too many schools** are breaking the law by not teaching RE

34% of academies report no timetabled RE¹¹



Around 500 secondary schools still report **zero hours** of RE provision in Year 11¹²

RE also continues to be neglected on the school timetable in favour of **EBacc** subjects: **On average 5 hours** of RE are allocated to each 'teacher of RE' at **Key Stage 3** as opposed to **7** for history¹³



SCHOOLS MUST DO MORE TO ENSURE THEY PROVIDE THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF HIGH-QUALITY RE PROVISION FOR ALL STUDENTS ACROSS THE YEAR GROUPS



⁹ <https://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/over-95-of-primary-teachers-report-time-spent-on-teaching-re-has-increased-or-stayed-the-same/>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-religious-education/research-review-series-religious-education>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-religious-education/research-review-series-religious-education>

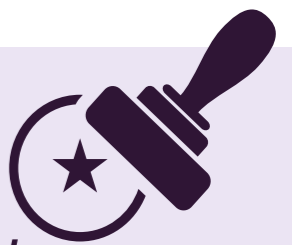
¹² <https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/NSS%202021%20Infographic.pdf>

¹³ www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/documents/288/theology-religious-studies.pdf



GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

“ **THE GOVERNMENT FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT RE IS IMPORTANT. GOOD QUALITY RE IS ESSENTIAL IN DEVELOPING CHILDREN’S KNOWLEDGE OF BRITISH VALUES AND TRADITIONS, AND THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES. RE IS A VITAL PART OF FOSTERING UNDERSTANDING AMONG DIFFERENT FAITHS AND BELIEFS...** ”



MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCHOOL STANDARDS, ROBIN WALKER



YET DESPITE THIS...

£0 SPENT ON RE PROJECTS BETWEEN 2016-2021

AT A TIME WHEN:¹⁴

ENGLISH:
£28.5 MILLION

MUSIC:
£387 MILLION

MATHS:
£154 MILLION

SCIENCE:
£56 MILLION

AMIDST A DECADE LONG CRISIS IN ATTRACTING NEW TALENT:

The 2021-22 teacher training bursary for RE was scrapped despite RE teacher recruitment targets not being met for nine of the last ten years.¹⁵



AND A LACK OF RE SPECIALISM IN SCHOOLS:

25% of RE lessons are taught by teachers with no post A-level qualification in the subject. Three times as many as history (8%).¹⁶



AND A FALL IN GCSE ENTRIES

Progress made in GCSE entries since 2010 is starting to unravel. Between 2016 and 2021 entries for the full course fell by almost 20%.¹⁷

WORDS NEED TO BE BACKED UP WITH ACTION



¹⁴ <https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/NATRE%20News/REPU%20March%20Roundtable%20Report.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/NATRE%20News/REPU%20March%20Roundtable%20Report.pdf>

¹⁶ DfE School workforce census (NATRE Freedom of Information request 2019)

¹⁷ <https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/GCSE%20results%20media%20release%20FINAL%202012-08-21.pdf>

THE FUTURE OF RE



WE WANT A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION
IN RELIGION AND WORLDVIEWS
FOR ALL PUPILS IN ALL SCHOOLS,
TAUGHT BY WELL-QUALIFIED AND
TRAINED TEACHERS

WE CAN ACHIEVE THIS BY:

1

REINSTATING THE
TEACHER TRAINING
BURSARY FOR RE



2

SCHOOLS ENSURING HIGH-QUALITY
PROVISION BY ADOPTING THE
VISION FOR RE SET OUT IN THE 2018
CoRE REPORT RELIGION AND WORLDVIEWS:
THE WAY FORWARD

3

OFSTED WORKING WITH THOSE
SCHOOLS NOT CURRENTLY
TEACHING SUFFICIENT RE
TO ENSURE THEY COMPLY
WITH THE LAW

4

GOVERNMENT RECOGNISING PUBLIC,
PARENT AND PUPIL SUPPORT
FOR THE SUBJECT BY PROPERLY
FUNDING IT IN LINE WITH THE
REST OF THE CURRICULUM

I've really enjoyed the last two years studying RE, for not only the deeper understanding of life it intends, but the analytical mind it encourages.

NAT, YEAR 9

WHAT PUPILS SAY:



RE is the one time in school where you can talk, listen and try to make sense of people, events and beliefs in the world.

SHREYA, YEAR 10

THE FINAL WORD:

In neglecting religious education, we leave a gaping hole in our school curriculum. It leaves young people unprepared for the ethical, moral and religious debates that influence life in modern Britain and the wider world. Put simply, we miss an opportunity to positively enhance our children's and our society's future.

SIR PETER BOTTOMLEY MP, FATHER OF THE HOUSE

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