



THE ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CALL FOR EVIDENCE

The Supply of and Support for Religious Education Teachers



The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Religious Education is conducting an inquiry on the supply of and support for religious education teachers. This should be seen as an opportunity for all individuals and organisations concerned with RE to contribute to a major national project in the interests of the subject.

When my colleagues and I set up the APPG earlier this year, we wanted it to be a Group that both challenged and complemented Government policy on RE. The quality and importance of RE has been much enhanced in recent years. It should be a rigorous and academically challenging subject in every school including free schools and academies. We are informed that the quality of provision can be disparate, and some schools pay only a token effort in regards to the statutory obligation to teach it. We are also concerned that in some instances, Government policy could undermine the subject.

We would like to consult widely with all key RE organisations and stakeholders asking some specific questions below. In addition we want to invite any individual or group (e.g. a school) to present information that they feel will strengthen this inquiry. If you belong to an organisation that has already responded to the formal consultation, we would also welcome an individual response.

Your evidence might take a number of forms:

- statistical data e.g. a SACRE might provide information about the number of

secondary schools in the area with no RE specialist teachers

- research findings e.g. from academic research or a local survey
- case studies e.g. from an RE department
- personal experience e.g. from parents or students.

The Group is also holding two oral evidence sessions in the House of Commons on the 28th November (5pm – 7pm), and 16th January (5pm – 7pm).

I would like to thank the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, and Dr Barbara Wintersgill, for their support in helping the APPG establish this inquiry.

We are all absolutely determined to do what we can to support the subject. In today's divided world where children have access to a range of information streams, it is vital every pupil is taught RE to a high standard, so our children have an informed and comprehensive understanding of the world's different religions, cultures and viewpoints.

My colleagues and I are very much looking forward to receiving your evidence.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Lloyd MP

How to take part

Please answer Question 1 and in no more than 1,000 words in total please write about one or more of the following areas of evidence relating to the supply of and support for teachers of RE.

Question 1

- a. Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or as an individual?
- b. Please describe your or your organisation's relationship to RE (e.g. teacher, adviser, examiner, SACRE, governor...)

Areas of evidence

1. National and local evidence about the qualifications and training of those who teach RE in:
 - a. primary schools and/or
 - b. secondary schools
2. Evidence for any major changes in the staffing of RE in secondary schools over the last 2-3 years.
3. The extent to which the quality of RE provision is dependent on teachers' qualifications and training, or whether other factors contribute to the quality of RE teaching.
4. Where teachers of RE can go for help if they want to ask questions about RE (for example in relation to subject knowledge or the legal status of the subject), that cannot be answered in school.
5. The extent to which SACREs are able to carry out effectively their functions in relation to RE.
6. Key sources of continuing professional development (CPD) for RE teachers and their effectiveness in improving the quality of RE teaching
7. The most pressing CPD needs of teachers of RE (primary and/or secondary).
8. Other evidence relating to this inquiry not covered by 1-7 above.

Please send your responses by 14th December 2012 -

electronically to:

b.wintersgill@btinternet.com

by post to:

**APPG Inquiry
The Religious Education
Council for England & Wales
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