



All Party Parliamentary Group on Religious Education

To provide a medium through which parliamentarians and organisations with an interest in religious education can discuss the current provision of religious education, press for continuous improvement, promote public understanding and advocate rigorous education for every young person in religious and non-religious world views.



The APPG report '*RE: the Truth Unmasked*'

The group has launched a report on the supply of and support for religious education teachers. The report sets out the group's recommendations after a 3 month inquiry.

Some of the key findings and recommendations in the report include:

- In more than half of the 300 primary schools that took part in our survey, some or all pupils were taught RE by someone other than their class teacher, with a quarter saying that lessons were taken by a teaching assistant.
- More than half the RE teachers in secondary schools did not have a qualification to teach the subject.
- Teachers should be required to receive some training in subjects they teach and schools should ensure that all RE teachers get the chance to develop their confidence and expertise.
- Academies should be required to follow their locally agreed RE syllabuses.

Oral Evidence Sessions

28th November 2012 and 16th January 2013
The group held two oral evidence sessions to contribute to the report. They were chaired by Stephen Lloyd MP and Fiona Bruce MP.



Oral evidence was submitted by:

- Deborah Weston** – National Association of Teachers of RE
- Mike Castelli** – University Lecturers in Religion and Education
- Dr Mark Chater** – Culham St Gabriel's
- Lesley Prior** – National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on RE
- Audrey Brown CBE** – Department for Education – statistician
- John Keast OBE** – Religious Education Council of England and Wales
- The Reverend Janina Ainsworth** – Church of England National Society
- Father Timothy Gardner OP** – Catholic Education Service
- Joy Schmack** – Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants
- Linda Whitworth** – Religious Education Department, Middlesex University
- Professor John Howson** – DataforEducation.info
- Alan Brine HMI** – Ofsted, National Adviser for RE

APPG report media launch – 18 March 2013

Chair Stephen Lloyd MP and vice-chair Mary Glindon MP celebrated launching the report by attending a photo shoot outside of Westminster and the DfE along with RE supporters.



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The REC has launched a new campaign in order to build greater support for RE in schools. Support the campaign by visiting www.rethinkre.org as well as following the Twitter feed (@rethinkrenow)

APPG on RE on the web

The RE Council of England and Wales, which provides the secretariat for the APPG, launched its new website on 1 May. It has a dedicated section for the APPG which will include minutes of meetings, media releases, updates and accounts of activities. To see it please click [here](#).

Future dates for the group

Monday 25th March 2013 dining room b from 4 pm until 6 pm - APPG Parliamentary report launch & reception

This will be an opportunity for members of the group to meet with stakeholders from key national RE organisations as well as RE teachers and other experts. The report's key findings and recommendations will be discussed and will be delivered to the DfE.

Monday 24th June 2013 dining room a from 4 pm until 6 pm - APPG summer reception

This will be a celebratory event combining the achievements of schools awarded the gold standard of the RE Quality Mark along with launching the RE Young Ambassadors scheme, involving school students aged 10 – 19 who are acting as advocates for RE in their own schools and beyond.

Constituency visit

We are organising opportunities for members of the APPG to visit local schools that have been found to have a high standard of teaching RE. This will be an chance to witness excellent RE in your constituency, as well as providing a photo opportunity with teachers and pupils in the RE department.



Initiatives for the group

Thought for the Day - Rev Andrew Martlew

An excellent insight into what high quality RE ought to be and the benefits it offers. The BBC Radio 4 episode can be heard here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p014pn33>

If you have any comments with regard to the group, its developments or would like to organise an RE constituency visit, please contact Benjamin@pbpoliticalconsulting.com

Sign up and support RE in our schools

All Party Parliamentary Group on Religious Education Chair - Stephen Lloyd MP, Vice-Chair - Baroness Brinton, Fiona Bruce MP, Mary Glendon MP and Mike Crockart MP