



## THE ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### The 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.

### News and Updates

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 - Parliamentary meeting to discuss the launch of the APPG report RE: The Truth Unmasked**



Parliamentary members of the APPG met with various stakeholders from key national RE organisations to discuss findings and recommendations of the report which was delivered to the Department for Education. APPG chair, Stephen Lloyd MP hosted the event and reiterated the importance of the initiative in safeguarding the future of RE teachers. Other parliamentarians included Jim Dobbin MP, the Bishop of Oxford, the Bishop of Coventry, Mike Crockart MP, Sir Peter Bottomley MP, Sir Bob Russell MP and Sir Tony Cunningham MP.

If you would like a hard copy of the report please send a request to [appg@religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk](mailto:appg@religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk).

It is available online on the website of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales at [www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk](http://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk).

### Future dates for the group

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 dining room A at 4 pm until 6 pm – APPG summer reception**

This will be a celebratory event recognising the achievements of five schools awarded the gold standard of the RE Quality Mark. Representatives will talk about what they have done to make RE a high profile and successful subject. The meeting will also be the official launch of the Young Ambassadors for RE scheme, involving school students aged 11 – 19 who are advocates for RE in their own schools and beyond. They will make presentations about their activities to generate enthusiasm for RE and are excited about the prospect of meeting MPs and talking about their new roles.

### Initiatives for the group

#### Sign up and support RE in our schools

The REC has launched its 'REThinkRE' campaign aimed at ensuring every young person in every school is given access to good quality RE. You can receive campaign updates by signing up at [www.rethinkre.org](http://www.rethinkre.org) as well as following the Twitter feed ([@rethinkrenow](https://twitter.com/rethinkrenow))

#### Unqualified teachers media coverage

Recent reports have highlighted growing concern about the proportion of lessons in secondary schools taken by teachers without relevant qualifications in the subjects they are teaching. The APPG on RE's own report shows that the situation is worse in RE than in any other subject except Spanish and needs urgent action to ensure pupils are taught by well qualified subject specialists.

- [The Mirror "Number of headteachers paid £100,000 hits record high while average teachers' pay drops"](#)
- [The Telegraph "More state school head teachers paid £100,000 salaries"](#)
- [The Independent "Rising numbers of state school headteachers paid £100,000 salaries"](#)
- [The Times "Fear for pupils as thousands of teachers lack qualifications"](#)

### Constituency visit

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



If you would like the APPG secretariat to organise an RE constituency visit, please contact [Benjamin@pbpoliticalconsulting.com](mailto:Benjamin@pbpoliticalconsulting.com).

If you have any comments with regard to the group, its development and future activities, please contact [appg@religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk](mailto:appg@religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk).

### 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

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