



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.

Annual General Meeting

Monday 8th July, 2013
Committee Room T, Portcullis House, House of Commons

The Group held its AGM to discuss future activity. The meeting was attended by chair - Stephen Lloyd MP, Mary Glendon MP, Annette Brooke MP, and Sir Peter Bottomley MP.

Stephen Lloyd MP suggested a short inquiry into the contribution made by RE to good community relations. Stephen proposed three evidence gathering sessions with the outcome to produce 'ten top tips' for best practice.

RE Summer Reception

Monday 24th June, 2013
Dining Room A, Palace of Westminster



This was a celebratory event combining two important developments in RE. The first was to recognise the achievements of certain schools awarded the RE Quality Mark gold standard. The second was to formally launch the RE Young Ambassadors scheme. Students aged between 12 and 16 years old made presentations as advocates of RE in schools.

The event was chaired by Stephen Lloyd MP and was attended by 16 Parliamentarians, both APPG members and non-members. There were seven presentations from schools celebrating their achievements across the country including Broughton Business and Enterprise College, Francis Holland School, Lower Peover CE School, Perins School, Redhill Academy, St Lawrence School and Venerable Bede CE Academy.

Early Day Motion 272 Religious Education and Tolerance



Stephen Lloyd MP tabled EDM 272 on 18th June. The motion asks the House to note the academic rigour of RE as a subject that allows young people to expand their knowledge of a range of religious and non-religious beliefs as well as the subject's role in fostering mutual understanding. The EDM currently has 26 signatures; please contact the secretariat if you wish to support this motion.

Mike Freer MP visit to Manorside Primary School



On Monday, 1st July Mike Freer MP visited the Manorside Primary School in Finchley. Mike met with staff and pupils in the RE department which has an excellent reputation for good quality RE.

The Manorside School also welcomed pupils from Akiva Primary School to learn about different faiths. The collaboration of a single faith and multi faith school is one of the important activities which have contributed to excellent outcomes in RE for Manorside Primary.

APPG member attends seminar with Education Secretary Michael Gove



The Archbishop of Canterbury hosted a seminar at Lambeth Palace on Wednesday 3rd July, 2013 entitled "Church of England: Education and our Future". APPG member, the Bishop of Oxford was present as Secretary of State; Michael Gove told an audience that RE has suffered in schools nationwide from government action.

Mr Gove mentioned a new strategy was needed to improve the quality of lessons following a fears over a decline in the number of children studying RE to a high level.

Initiatives for the group

Sign up and support RE in our schools

The Religious Education Council's campaign to build greater support for RE in schools is growing strongly. Support the campaign by visiting www.rethinkre.org as well as following the Twitter feed ([@rethinkrenow](https://twitter.com/rethinkrenow)).

Constituency Visits

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 a chance to witness excellent RE in your constituency, and will provide a photo opportunity with teachers and pupils in the RE department.



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

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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