

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: WHAT GOVERNORS NEED TO KNOW

In brief, legislation about RE requires that:

- in maintained community, foundation or voluntary schools without a religious character, RE is taught in accordance with the local Agreed Syllabus;
- academies and free schools must teach RE within the requirements for a locally agreed syllabus, set out in section 375 (3) of the Education Act 1996 and paragraph (5) of Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The requirements are that a syllabus must 'reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain';
- schools with a religious designation may prioritise one religion in their RE curriculum, but all schools must recognise diverse religions and systems of belief in the UK both locally and nationally.
- for foundation and voluntary controlled schools with a religious character, RE must be taught according to the Agreed Syllabus unless, parents request RE in accordance with the trust deed of the school; and
- in voluntary aided schools RE must be taught in accordance with the trust deed.

RE must be included in the curriculum for all registered pupils, including all pupils in reception classes and sixth form, but excluding:

- pupils in nursery schools or nursery classes in primary schools;
- any person aged nineteen or above for whom further education is being provided at school; and
- any person over compulsory school age who is receiving part-time education.

NATRE (National Association of Teachers of RE)

Doncaster GCSE entries in Religious Studies 2013-15:

Provider	2013 Full Course	2013 Short Course	2013 Total	2014 Full Course	2014 Short Course	2014 Total	2015 Full course	2015 Short course	2015 Total
A	0	131	131	0	0	0	0	1	1
B	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0
C	107	15	122	88	0	88	105	1	106
D	0	23	23	0	60	60	11	50	61
E	23	202	225	76	154	230	203	0	203
F	76	0	76	119	0	119	127	0	127
G	17	176	193	35	188	223	46	157	203
H	37	0	37	59	0	59	36	2	38
I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J	20	0	20	20	0	20	8	0	8
K	212	18	230	260	0	260	261	0	261
L	0	0	0	0	109	109	27	0	27
M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N	44	47	91	35	96	131	61	0	61
O	11	68	79	11	82	93	2	0	2
P	57	123	180	61	129	190	50	108	158
Q	125	70	195	126	54	180	127	64	191
Total	11 schs 729	10 schs 873	13 schs 1602	12 schs 891	9 schs 873	14 schs 1765	13 schs 1064	7 schs 383	14 schs 1447