

RE REVIEW NEWSLETTER



Quarterly

Asserting the value of RE as a subject on the curriculum

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Project manager's report

This is my final report as Project Manager of the RE Review for England undertaken by the Religious Education Council for England and Wales (REC).



Dr. Janet Orchard, RE Review Project Manager

The Review report will be launched in Westminster on 23rd October 2013, an event involving many of the contributors to the Review including teachers, advisers and consultants, faith community

representatives and MPs with an interest in RE. Further dissemination events will take place during November in London, Oxford, Liverpool, York and Bristol – see details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thanks to the gifts of time and talent made by many contributors, we kept to the very tight deadline we had set ourselves and realised the main ambition behind the project as a whole. This was to create a curriculum framework for RE that parallels the national curriculum documentation for

other subjects. What we have produced should help teachers and other local curriculum developers to develop and sustain high quality RE in schools. Furthermore, the final report discusses major issues that the RE subject community will need to address if RE is to be sustained successfully.

During the summer two specialist writers, Lat Blaylock and Barbara Wintersgill, took on the job of writing up the materials produced by the task groups for the final document. Theirs was a challenging task, but we felt fortunate to have RE experts of this

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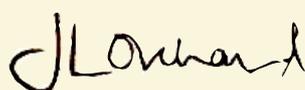
calibre to prepare the work for publication. We have also provided some exemplification material that demonstrates progression in RE but the Review has made less progress than we had hoped in the area of assessment. This is due in part to the limited resources at the REC's disposal

but more significantly to the absence of advice on assessment in other national curriculum subjects which the Review process has been following. This is an important task for the RE community to take forward. Given that the issue is a substantial one, a brief pause may help to clear the way for productive work on this in the future.

Disagreement is a healthy part of curriculum review in a democratic society. Throughout the Review, we have reminded ourselves that 'every argument must be a constructive argument'. Resources have not been in place to support lengthy deliberation; but anyway the need to compromise for the greater good of the subject is also a political fact. The outcomes of the Review may fall short of perfection but they are a remarkable achievement, far greater than the sum of their parts.

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A downloadable copy of the Review report will be available from 23rd October on the [REC website](#), in both the full version and a short version which contains the RE curriculum framework on its own. Earlier documents such as a final version of the Phase One report, as well as a full analysis of the responses received during the consultation period, can also be found on the website.



Publication and launch of the Review

After eighteen months of concentrated work, consultation, reflection and revision involving contributions from a large number of people, the final document was agreed by the REC Board on 2nd October. As noted above, it will be launched on 23rd October at a meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group on RE, introduced by APPG Chair, Stephen Lloyd MP.



A noteworthy feature of the report is that its Foreword has been signed by Michael Gove, who admitted in July that he had perhaps been guilty of 'neglecting' RE. We must all hope that his willingness to endorse the Review means he now intends to do more to support the subject.

Speakers at the launch will include John Keast OBE (Chair of the REC), Kate Christopher (a teacher of RE), Rev'd Jan Ainsworth (C of E Chief Education Officer) and Professor Adam Dinham (Professor of Faith and Public Policy, Goldsmiths, University of London) as well as me in my final duty as project manager.

The launch will follow hard on the heels of the release of Ofsted's RE: realising the potential and should bring RE to public attention for a second time in little over a fortnight. Some of the material contained in the Review should help to address some of the issues raised by the Ofsted report.

Dissemination events

A series of dissemination events will be taking place round the country in November. Each session will feature four speakers who will respond to the Review report from their own perspective, whether that be an RE professional and/or faith community representative; someone who has been closely involved with the Review process, or somebody coming to it with fresh eyes. The events will help to clarify the significance of the Review's contents for those reading it for the first time, and will lay the ground for the panel discussion to follow based on questions from the audience. We are very pleased that each event will start off with a presentation from a team of Young Ambassadors for RE from a school in the region. All who attend one of the events will receive a free printed copy of the report.

You would be very welcome at one of these events. Each will run from 17.30 to 19.30 and refreshments will be served. They are free but ticketed. Please contact: sophie@religiouseducationcouncil.org if you would like to register for a place.

Dates and venues are as follows:

Date	Venue and Chair
Tues 5 Nov	Institute of Education, London John Keast OBE
Wed 6 Nov	York St John University Prof. Julian Stern
Tues 19 Nov	Oxford University Press, Oxford John Keast OBE
Thurs 21 Nov	Liverpool Hope University Joy Schmack
Thurs 21 Nov	University of Bristol Dr Janet Orchard

Update on Funding

We were delighted that three organisations agreed in September to support the printing and dissemination of the Review report. Culham St Gabriels and the Jerusalem Trust, both of which had already been generous in their support of the Review process, agreed to make further grants to help with the costs of dissemination.

The National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers (Catholic) also made a very welcome grant towards this final stage.

The Oxford University Press has sponsored the Review by offering to host one of the dissemination events, and we are also grateful to Liverpool Hope, York St John and Bristol universities and the Institute of Education in London for making venues available. All those involved with the Review very much appreciate this help. We now have almost exactly the amount we needed to cover the final costs of design, proof reading, printing and dissemination.

Those who have made grants towards the Review are acknowledged and thanked in the Review report. When the process started we were all disappointed not to receive any government funding; however the silver lining of that cloud has been the generosity of all those trusts and organisations who have chosen to make contributions. We thank them all for this act of service to the RE community.

-£110,000
-£100,000
-£90,000
-£80,000
-£70,000
-£60,000
-£50,000
-£40,000
-£30,000
-£20,000
-£10,000
-£ 5,000
-£ 1,000



The REC now has a Facebook Page which will to help you keep up to date with the RE Review and other REC matters in between newsletters.

<http://www.facebook.com/religiouseducationcouncil>

For those who use Twitter, follow the REC on Twitter: @RECouncil. For specific information about the RE Review, we will be using the hashtag #REReview.



Whatever your medium, you can keep in touch with and contribute to the Review.