



Religious Education Council
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Working together to strengthen the provision of religious education in schools, colleges and universities

12th November 2012

Dear Colleagues,

RE Council RE Subject Review, England, Phase 1 Expert Panel Report

Thank you for your interest in this highly significant project concerning the future of RE in schools in England. Further information about the project as a whole is available on the [REC website](#).

Phase 1 of the review is currently entering an important stage of consultation and we invite you to read the draft report of the Expert Panel and to send us your thoughts and comments.

May I make a few points to help you place the report into context.

Background

1. This report seeks to summarise accurately and comprehensively the perceived state of play in RE and to make recommendations for future action. Phases Two and Three will be developmental and take the review process forward.
2. The [Scoping Report](#) commissioned for the RE review proposed four foci for the review. These are: Aims and Purposes; Curriculum; Exemplifications of Good Practice; and Assessment and Qualifications. The REC's Curriculum, Assessment and Qualifications Committee (CAQC) accepted the findings of the Scoping Report, with certain modifications, and it was also approved by the REC Board. These form the framework within which the REC RE Review operates.
3. The Phase 1 Expert Panel's report has been put to the REC CACQ Group, which acts as Steering Group for the project (Wednesday 31st October). A wider Reference Group, including members from all the REC member bodies, considered the report at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on Wednesday 7th November.

Wider Public Consultation Procedure

1. Please print or download [draft 2 of the Phase 1 Expert Panel report](#) and [Addendum](#).
2. We invite public responses to this report in writing, in one of 3 formats:



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- a. By letter, addressed to me as Chair of the Steering Group of the RE Subject Review for England, via the REC Offices.
- b. By [questionnaire](#), available on the REC website
- c. By questionnaire, following this link to Survey Monkey
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/REReviewSurvey12012>

There is considerable pressure of time on the RE review process, due in large part to the financial constraints within which the REC is working. The Government has refused to fund the RE Review in the way it is funding the review of the National Curriculum, so the REC has been entirely dependent upon voluntary donations to support the process. With regret, wider public consultation will take place electronically during a three week period from Monday 12th November – Friday 7th December during which we hope you and/or any organisation to which you belong will contribute your responses to the Report. Please play your part by inviting others, including pupils and students studying RE, to make their contribution.

Thank you in anticipation for your attention and response to the RE Review process.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Castelli
Chair of Steering Group
RE Subject Review, England