**[INSERT MP FIRST NAME & SURNAME] MP**

Houses of Parliament

London

SW1 0AA

**[INSERT MONTH]** 2024

Dear **[INSERT MP FIRST NAME & SURNAME]** MP,

**Meeting Request: Religious Education**

I hope this letter finds you well – congratulations on your **[election / re-election delete as relevant]** as Member of Parliament for **[INSERT CONSTITUENCY].**

I am writing, as a local constituent based in **[INSERT LOCATION],** to express my concerns surrounding the standards of Religious Education in England and **[INSERT CONSTITUENCY]**.

I am supporting **the Religious Education Policy Unit (REPU)** in their work to improve the standards of RE across England, and would appreciate it if you would take the time to meet with the REPU to discuss the following concerns, and/or to meet them at the **Labour Party Conference at Stand F12.**

**A postcode lottery in the provision of RE currently exists in the UK.** Some of our children are receiving a comprehensive, well taught education in RE. They appreciate the place of religion in our culture and have been supported as they develop their own worldview. Religious education will help them take their place in society; support them in being effective and engaged in the workplace, their community and in discussing and debating issues related to religion and belief.

Other children, however, receive tokenistic religious education and leave school without the knowledge and understanding of their own worldviews and those of others necessary for life in modern Britain. **They are consequentially ill-prepared to play their part in modern Britain with all the opportunities created by its diversity; especially in relation to religion and belief.**

* **There is a crisis in the recruitment and retention of expert teachers of RE.** Only 44% of RE teachers have a post-A Level qualification in a linked subject, in fact, most teachers of RE spend most of their time teaching another subject entirely. In April, the DfE also announced the removal of funding for Subject Knowledge Enhancement courses for RE, meaning there is little incentive for teachers to train in RE.
* **There is currently no statutory or non-statutory guidance on the appropriate standards for Religious Education in schools.** The 2024 Ofsted Subject Report on Religious Education highlights the need for a clear expectation for how schools should develop a robust and informative curriculum for teaching and learning in RE. The RE Council has published a [National Content Standard for RE in England](https://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/resource/national-content-standard-1st-edition-2023/) which can be used to begin to address this issue.
* **There is no clear framework and standard for how schools should go about a robust and informative provision of teaching and learning for RE.** Ofsted have called for the Government to “urgently update guidance for schools about its statutory expectations for RE. The last guidance was published in 2010. The government should also ensure that there is appropriate clarity about what is taught in RE, and when and where it is taught.”
* **The need for warmer interfaith and belief community relations, including promoting and protecting freedom of religion or belief has never been greater.** The recent rise in antisemitism and Islamophobia shows the need for schools and the wider community to work pro-actively together to ensure that all children, young people and adults can live well together.

Congratulations again on your **[election / re-election]**. If a meeting with the REPU would be of interest, please contact sebastian@politicommsconsulting.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

**[INSERT NAME]**