



A small investment, a big impact: Save RE teacher training

Your voice matters - help stop the decline in RE teacher training

Policy Precedents

Other vulnerable subjects—Classics, MFL, Physics—have received targeted support. RE deserves the same protection.

Graduate Earnings

Theology & RS graduates earn only marginally less than STEM graduates, disproving the rationale for unequal bursary treatment.

Course Closures

University-led RE courses have fallen from 49 to 32 in six years. Bursary withdrawal makes small HEI courses more vulnerable.

Diversity Gains

Global majority trainee numbers 36% to 41% when bursaries were reintroduced - strongest gain among humanities subjects.

Recruitment Impact

Recruitment rose by 36% in bursary years (2024/25 & 2025/26). Removing it now risks reversing the recovery.

Regional Gaps

Only 18% of local authorities have a university offering RE PGCE training. Most trainees train near home; school-led routes can't fill the gap.

Fairness and Cost

Protecting RE costs under 1% of the total bursary budget yet safeguards a statutory subject taught in every school.

Non-Specialist Teaching

Over half of secondary RE is taught by teachers who mainly teach another subject. Pupils deserve trained specialists.

Recommendations

- 1. Restore the £10,000 RE bursary for 2026/27
- 2. Reinstate DFE-funded Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE for RE)
- 3. Create a Strategic Subject Protection Fund for small HEI RE courses.
- 4. Support regional HEI-school partnerships to rebuild training capacity.
- 5. Monitor equality impacts to sustain diversity in RE teaching.