Your postal address [in the constituency]

Email address [optional]

Date

Dear [name of your Labour MP]

**Request for you to meet with representatives of the Religious Education Policy Unit *at Labour Party Conference***

I hope you are well. I’m writing as one of your constituents to invite you to a meeting to discuss the provision of Religious Education in «Constituency» and across England more broadly at Labour Party Conference. You will have an opportunity to meet with the Chair or Vice Chair of NATRE which is the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education who are representing the RE Policy Unit at Conference.

I would be grateful if you would take the time to discuss the role that Religious Education can play as part of a modern curriculum that equips our children and young people to engage in diverse and international workplaces and communities, here in the UK and aboard. This view is supported by nearly two thirds (64%) of the UK population who think that an education in religion and worldviews (or RE) is an important part of the school curriculum today.

As a teacher of Religious Education, I am concerned that the reality of Religious Education in schools falls well short of this aspiration. Research has found that:

The Department for Education has **missed its recruitment target for secondary RE teachers in 13 of the last 14 years. The consequence of this is:**

1. **51% of secondary teachers of RE, mainly teach another subject**
2. **Only 44% of secondary teachers of RE have a post A-Level Qualification in a relevant subject.**
3. **On average, primary teachers receive an average of 0-3 hours of training to teach RE in their initial teacher education**

 **In addition, there is no clear framework and standard for how schools should go about a robust 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 government should also ensure that there is appropriate clarity about what is taught in RE, and when and where it is taught.”*

**This is why the Religious Education Council has developed a** [**National Content Standard for RE in England**](https://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/resource/national-content-standard-1st-edition-2023/) **which has been welcomed by the government and endorsed by all the major faith school providers as well as many Academy Trusts.**

**I** would be delighted if you could offer a time slot to meet to discuss this further at the Labour Conference, REPU would like to share how this national picture maps against our constituency, and what steps we’d recommend to **secure** high quality RE in English Schools. **The RE Policy Unit have access to the Heathrow Lounge at Conference, so please let me know your availability so that I can arrange a meeting for you.**

**About the REPU**

The Religious Education Policy Unit is a strategic partnership between the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE), the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC), and RE Today.

 With regards

[Your name]