



# 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.