

Government fails to act as the number of RE specialists teaching the subject fails to recover

The evidence

- OfSTED says: “The high proportion of non-specialist teaching of RE in secondary schools remains a problem. In around a third of the schools visited, a lack of subject expertise limited the effectiveness of the teaching of RE.” OfSTED *Realising the potential* published October 2013
- **Suggests there is a need for more highly qualified teachers in RE**
- “Schools Minister David Laws said more scholarships and bursaries would be available to help recruit the most talented graduates with the potential to be brilliant teachers in key subjects. This would help raise standards in schools and ensure all children were given a good education.” October 17th 2013
- **But the DfE has again excluded RE from the bursary and includes subjects which, according to their data, has more highly qualified teachers! WHY?**

The slides that follow present the evidence that the potential of Religious Education is being ignored in the drive to raise standards. The best Theology and Religious Studies graduates will inevitably be deterred from taking up a career in teaching RE.

- More than half of **teachers of RE** have not been trained* to teach the subject (twice as many as in History). 53.2% of teachers of RE had no post-A level qualification in the subject compared with 27.2% of History teachers (see table 11).
- Almost twice as many **lessons of RE** are taught by a teacher who has no relevant post-A level qualification in the subject. Compare History (14.5%) and RE (28.4%) (see table 14).

*no post-A level qualification in the subject – no degree nor teaching qualification in RE or a related subject

Government data proves that little has been done to address serious shortfalls in the number of teachers trained to teach RE in secondary schools

1. More than half of teachers of RE have not been trained* to teach the subject (twice as many as in History)
2. Almost twice as many lessons of RE are taught by a teacher who has no relevant post A level qualification in the subject. Compare History (14.5%) and RE (28.4%) Table 14
3. The methods for counting teachers of subjects has not been updated since the problems of counting individuals if they taught one lesson of a subject was exposed.

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*no post-A level qualification in the subject – no degree nor teaching qualification in RE or a related subject

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Table 11: Highest post A-level qualifications held by publicly funded secondary school teachers (head count) in the subjects they taught to year groups 7-13, 2013 (2012)

- This shows, for example, 46.8% of teachers of RE had a relevant post A-level qualification in RE. 72.8% of History teachers had this level of qualification.
- This shows that **53.2%** of teachers of RE had **neither** a degree in RS or a related subject nor completed their training in RS (PGCE,BA(QTS) etc). In comparison, only 27.2% of History teachers had no relevant post A-level qualification.

2013 (2012)	Degree or higher ⁵ %	Bachelor of Education %	Postgraduate Certificate of Education %	Other qualification %	ANY RELEVANT POST A-LEVEL QUALIFICATION %	NO RELEVANT POST A-LEVEL QUALIFICATION %
SUBJECT ³						
Mathematics	45.4(45.1)	5.3(5.7)	21.4(20.8)	5.5(5.4)	77.6(76.9)	22.4(23.1)
English	64.7(64.4)	3.1(3.4)	8.4(8.4)	3.7(3.7)	79.9(79.9)	20.1(20.1)
Physics ⁸	55.8(55.4)	1.8(2.0)	7.9(7.4)	1.0(1.0)	66.5(65.9)	33.5(34.1)
Chemistry ⁸	65.1(66.0)	1.6(1.7)	8.1(7.0)	1.3(1.0)	76.1(75.7)	23.9(24.3)
Biology ⁸	78.9(79.0)	2.3(2.5)	4.3(4.8)	0.8(0.9)	86.3(87.1)	13.7(12.9)
History	63.5(63.0)	2.0(2.4)	5.8(5.9)	1.5(1.5)	72.8(72.8)	27.2(27.2)
Geography	58.6(59.7)	2.1(2.4)	4.8(4.8)	1.1(1.2)	66.6(68.1)	33.4(31.9)
French	50.9(50.1)	3.2(3.6)	19.5(19.3)	2.3(2.3)	75.9(75.3)	24.1(24.7)
German	52.3(52.9)	1.4(1.7)	12.9(13.1)	1.6(1.6)	68.1(69.3)	31.9(30.7)
Spanish	34.1(33.3)	1.1(1.3)	12.8(12.8)	2.0(2.1)	50.1(49.5)	49.9(50.5)
Religious Education *	34.1(33.3)	2.4(2.5)	8.2(8.5)	2.1(2.0)	46.8(46.3)	53.2(53.7)

* Includes philosophy

Table 14: Hours taught in a typical week in 2013 (2012) to pupils in years 7 to 13 by highest post A-level qualifications of the teacher teaching the lesson.

- Far more lessons of RE are taught by a teacher with neither a degree in a related subject nor apparently a post graduate certificate of education in the subject. Compare History (75.5%) and RS (53.0%).
- Almost twice as many lessons of RE are taught by a teacher who has no relevant post A level qualification in the subject. Compare History (14.5%) and RE (28.4%)

2013 (2012)	Degree or higher	Bachelor of Education	PGCE	ANY RELEVANT POST A-LEVEL QUALIFICATION	NO RELEVANT POST A-LEVEL QUALIFICATION	TOTAL HOURS
	%	%	%	%	%	(Thousands)
SUBJECT						
Mathematics	48.3(48.0)	5.0(5.4)	23.5(23.0)	82.7(84.0)	17.3(17.9)	487.6(478.2)
English	69.7(69.6)	2.8(3.0)	8.6(3.0)	84.8(87.5)	15.2(15.3)	494.6(483.5)
Physics ⁷	63.7(63.4)	1.8(2.1)	7.9(2.1)	74.5(75.9)	25.5(26.1)	43.4(41.5)
Chemistry ⁷	70.8(70.5)	1.6(1.9)	7.2(1.9)	80.4(82.1)	19.6(20.2)	49.5(47.7)
Biology ⁷	78.6(78.4)	2.3(2.6)	4(2.6)	85.6(89.0)	14.4(13.8)	58.1(55.9)
History	75.5(74.7)	1.8(2.1)	6.5(6.6)	85.4(87.4)	14.5(15.1)	170.6(165.1)
Geography	73.2(72.9)	2.0(2.3)	5.9(5.8)	82.4(83.7)	17.5(17.7)	155.8(149.3)
French	50.4(49.3)	3.2(3.6)	19.5(19.2)	75.5(79.8)	24.3(25.4)	135.8(137.1)
German	56.9(57.4)	1.5(1.7)	13.0(12.4)	73.2(75.2)	26.8(26.4)	41.2(42.0)
Spanish	29.5(39.4)	1.1(1.4)	14.2(14.2)	57.5(59.8)	42.5(42.2)	61.6(21.9)
Religious education	53.0(52.0)	3.5(3.6)	12.2(12.6)	71.5(71.1)	28.4(28.9)	123(122.6)

Table 12: Head count of teachers and number of hours taught by subject and key stage to year groups 7-13 in all publicly funded secondary schools 2013 (2012).

Footnote 1 states: "1. Teachers were counted once against each subject that they were teaching, regardless of the amount of time they spend teaching the subject. Teachers were counted under each key stage they were recorded as teaching to; a Mathematics teacher who taught all years (7-13) would be included under Number of teachers of Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5." (2012)

In school X, the number of RE teachers might be 9 for Key Stage 3 (pupils age 11-13 years), but there might be only one person teaching RE full time, the rest being from other subject areas, teaching one or two lesson each. However, the statistics would record 9 RE teachers for KS3.

2013 (2012)	HEAD COUNT OF IN SERVICE TEACHERS (in thousands?)	NUMBER OF TEACHERS OF:			TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS TAUGHT (thousands?)	NUMBER OF HOURS TAUGHT TO:		
		Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4	Key Stage 5		Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4	Key Stage 5
SUBJECT								
Mathematics	33.3(32.8)	29.3(28.9)	27.5(27.1)	13.3(12.7)	487.6(478.2)	231.8(229.8)	193.0(188.3)	62.8(60.0)
English	37.5(36.6)	33.0(32.4)	29.1(28.7)	13.4(12.8)	494.6(483.5)	239.8(235.8)	201.3(195.9)	53.5(51.7)
Physics	6.2(6.0)	1.3(1.3)	3.5(3.3)	4.5(4.4)	43.4 (41.5)	3.6(3.5)	15.7(14.9)	24.2(23.2)
Chemistry	7.4(7.2)	1.3(1.3)	3.9(3.7)	5.6(5.5)	49.5(47.7)	3.3(3.3)	15.9(15.0)	30.3(29.5)
Biology	8.8(8.7)	1.5(1.5)	4.3(4.0)	7.8(6.9)	58.1(55.9)	4.5(4.3)	17.4(16.0)	36.2(35.6)
History	16.1(15.8)	14.5(14.1)	10.4(10.2)	6.4(6.2)	170.6(165.1)	86.1(83.5)	54.1(52.9)	30.4(28.7)
Geography	14.7(14.2)	13.5(12.9)	9.1(8.9)	5.2(5.0)	155.8(149.3)	84.6(81.8)	48.3(46.0)	22.9(21.5)
French	14.2(14.3)	12.8(12.9)	9.2(9.1)	3.7(3.6)	135.8(137.1)	83.2(85.6)	40.7(40.0)	11.9(11.5)
German	5.0(5.2)	4.3(4.4)	3.4(3.5)	1.7(1.7)	41.2(42.0)	20.6(21.1)	14.8(15.1)	5.8(5.8)
Spanish	7.2(6.8)	6.2(5.8)	4.7(4.5)	2.1(1.9)	61.6(58.6)	32.4(30.9)	21.7(20.6)	7.5(7.0)
Religious Education	15.4(15.4)	12.3(12.2)	9.9(10.1)	4.0(3.9)	123.0(122.6)	60.5(60.4)	46.3(46.7)	16.2(15.5)