

The OfSTED report has been described as ‘a gift for RE’.

What use have you made of its publication in your school and networks?

Ten Suggestions:

1. Have you put a copy of the report, with executive summary on top in your Headteacher and line manager’s pigeon hole? Are they aware of the new guidance offered to OfSTED inspectors? tinyurl.com/omxf9ka
2. Maintained Schools: Have you asked your SACRE about what advice they plan to offer to the local authority as a result of the publication of the report?
3. Academies in a chain or other partnership: Have you asked the management group what advice they plan to offer to the schools in the chain or partnership?
4. Do you have a supportive Head/ Principal who might be prepared to put the report on the Agenda of a local Head’s Consultative Group?
5. Is the report on the Agenda of a NATRE affiliated local group or other meeting of teachers of RE? Can you share ideas about how to improve RE on the basis of the recommendations?
6. If you work with an examination board, have you asked how they plan to respond to the report in the review of their specifications and how you can help?!
7. How will you incorporate the recommendations and main messages of the report into your next subject/departmental/faculty development plan?
8. Put the topic on the agenda for a staff/ departmental/management/governors’/ faculty meeting. Present the findings and discuss the following:
 - a. Primary focused question: To what extent do each of the elements in finding 6 apply to our school?
 - i. The teaching of RE in primary schools was not good enough because of weaknesses in teachers’ understanding of the subject, a lack of emphasis on subject knowledge, poor and fragmented curriculum planning, very weak assessment, ineffective monitoring and teachers’ limited access to effective training.
 - b. Secondary focused question: To what extent do each of the elements in finding 7 apply to our school?
 - i. The quality of teaching in the secondary schools visited was rarely outstanding and was less than good in around half of the lessons seen. Common weaknesses included: insufficient focus on subject knowledge; an over-emphasis on a limited range of teaching strategies that focused simply on preparing pupils for assessments or examinations; insufficient opportunity for pupils to reflect and work independently; and over-structured and bureaucratic lesson planning with a limited focus on promoting effective learning.
9. Write to your MP to ask why there has been no Department for Education response to the previous (2010) OfSTED report and urge them to take action in response to this 2013 report? Encourage them to make contact with the All Party Parliamentary Group for RE (Stephen Lloyd MP)
<http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/appg>
10. Encourage your union to campaign on RE. See e.g. here from ATL <http://www.atl.org.uk/policy-and-campaigns/policies/curriculum-re.asp> Draft an article for their magazine that highlights good practice in RE.
<https://www.facebook.com/NATREupdate>