

School workforce census November 2023, published in 2024.

Source: DfE school census Nov 2023 published June 2024

Methodology:

The School Workforce Census allows the DfE to collect curriculum information from a large sample of secondary schools. Curriculum information is requested from all secondary, middle deemed secondary and all-through schools, including relevant academy schools, with the timetabling software that interfaces with their Management Information System. The information collected relates to teaching for a selected week in autumn each year. The default requirement is the week in which the Census Date falls. However, if this week or cycle was unrepresentative of the normal timetable, then the guidance specifies that another week or cycle should be chosen. If a school operates a timetable cycle covering two or more weeks an average figure, representative of one week's teaching should have been entered. If the school timetable is structured so that an average was not readily obtainable then a figure to represent a typical week should have been entered.

Not all schools provided complete curriculum information. Where returned information on curriculum is mostly incomplete, the data for these schools has been removed from published analysis. **In 2023, 2,860 secondary schools (82.0%) provided usable curriculum information.**

Memorandum of Understanding

The National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) has been reporting on the school level data from the school workforce census for the last nine years. The Memorandum of Understanding with the DfE has allowed us to share this information to school providers, SACREs and Academy Trusts.

Specific findings:

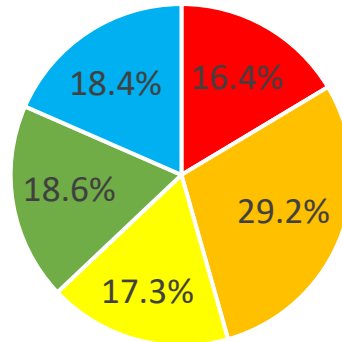
1. There has been a decrease in the number of schools reporting **offering zero hours of RE in year 11 from 20% in 2022 to 15% in 2023**. If this is found to be accurate, these schools are breaching their statutory duty to provide RE for all pupils in all year groups. We need to be cautious about this finding because the number of schools reporting other subject data but not RE has increased and SACREs will need to use a different means of checking levels of provision in those schools as well as those who did not report curriculum data at all this year.
2. In 2023, almost **46% of state funded secondary schools** reported offering less than 3% of curriculum time in year 11. Disappointingly, this is **an increase from 42%** in 2022. When this data is cross referenced with GCSE entries, it suggests that where schools report a small percentage of provision, this equates to a small GCSE option group. Again, this practice represents a breach of statutory duties because those pupils who do not opt for the GCSE course are entitled to their statutory RE.
3. The gap between levels of provision in schools with a religious character and those without has been widening each year. **83% of schools and academies with a religious character offer more than 3% of curriculum time in year 11** for Religious Education compared to **25.1% of schools and academies without a religious character**. This level of provision is not a big ask for a core subject of the basic curriculum. In a 30-period week this represents a meagre 45 minutes approximately each week. The time recommended to fulfil the requirements of most local agreed syllabuses is 5% i.e. about 75 minutes.

Levels of Provision in different types of school

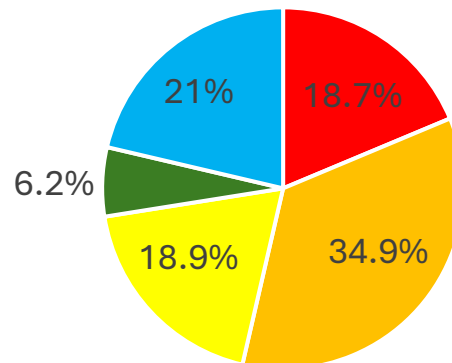
Key

Level of provision as a % of the weekly timetable	
	No RE at all
	Greater than 0% and less than 3%
	Greater than 3% and less than 6%
	Greater than 6%
	Hours reported for other subjects but not RE

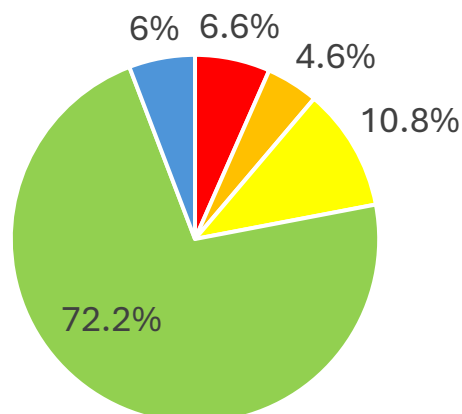
% all schools



% Schools and Academies without a religious character



% Schools and Academies with a religious character



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