

## MODULE 9: RE POLICY AND POLITICAL DIMENSIONS

RE's history since 1944 is a history of evolving aims. The subject, originally Religious Instruction, has shifted and developed with social and political changes over time. The aims of the subject in 1944 are no longer the same aims. In our current phase is the move towards 'religion and worldviews education'. At each phase who decides the new shape, where are these conversations had, and how does this thinking make its way to the classroom? This is the political dimension.

### Over the course of this module you will:

- Consider recommendations about religious education from recent national reports
- Find out about the political dimensions of religious education as a curriculum subject
- Explore the workings of the RE community in the public sphere

### Outcomes

A subject of the curriculum is a multidimensional entity, affected by academic or educational aims, the wider educational culture and moral or political questions in wider society. RE, or religion and worldviews, is particularly affected by wider conversations in the public sphere because it is a subject about people, identity, commitment and morality.

In this module you will explore a variety of sources to gain a rich sense of the conversations that happen outside the classroom and ultimately have an impact on the classroom. Who decides? Based on what? The policy or national dimension of the subject is an essential dimension to grasp, yet it can be hard to detect in the rush and bustle of the classroom.

### What topics will I cover?

You will read a variety of blogs, articles and national reports to gain a rich and multidimensional understanding of what happens when issues become policy and how this process affects the classroom.

### What tasks will I complete?

You will complete 5 tasks. Each is submitted to your tutor for feedback, but only the final task is formally assessed. Templates are given to record your findings and reflections.

**Task 1:** Choose two recent national reports and two blog posts to comment on

**Task 2:** reflect on three recommendations of the Commission on RE Report (2018)

**Task 3:** choose one wider educational or social issue and consider its connection with RE

**Task 4:** either invite a local MP to your school or work with pupils to present a vision of RE [NB is social distancing makes this difficult you will be supported to find a creative solution].

**Task 5:** present your thoughts as to the shape of RE, or religion and worldviews, in the years to come (1,000 words)

### Apply for a module