



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
LONDON
SW1P 3BT

Chair: Bill Moore

6th December 2010

Dear Secretary of State,

RE: including religious education as part of the humanities component of the EBacc

You may recall that I wrote to you at the beginning of October and I would like to express my thanks that the issue about SACRE annual reports has been resolved. In my letter, I emphasised to you the value of good religious education and the role of SACREs in their local communities. I await your response with interest.

I genuinely believe that you value the contribution that RE makes to developing rounded and well-educated individuals, equipped with relevant, challenging and academic knowledge, and with the ability to think, argue and understand complex concepts, all of which are so important for the future of our communities and national and global societies.

I am sure, therefore, that you will appreciate my concern that your most recent statement in the 'Document of intent' sent out to schools, in which RE, which till now has always been considered a strong humanities subject, will not be designated as such for the purposes of the English Baccalaureate. This may well present Headteachers with the problem of how they ensure that they keep to the statutory provision for RE at Key Stage 4 whilst also giving their pupils the best chance of gaining the necessary GCSEs to qualify for the EBacc. At the moment, many, if not most, secondary schools ensure that pupils at KS4 have their entitlement to RE by entering them for a Short Course GCSE, which contributes to the school's overall performance. The question arises, then, if RE is not part of the EBacc, how will schools comfortably ensure that their pupils get their entitlement? It will also potentially give Headteachers the additional problem of existing staff imbalance in meeting the time-tabling requirements of the proposal.

SACREs have worked hard in recent years to improve the take-up, quality and standards of RE at KS4. Many are now concerned that this work may well be undone. I am writing, therefore, to ask you to reconsider the inclusion of RE as part of the Humanities EBacc. In our view, it is educationally, pragmatically and statutorily the most appropriate thing to do.

Yours sincerely

Bill Moore, Chair, NASACRE

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