

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT KEY STAGE 4

Isobel Short  
RE Adviser

*Altogether better*



## KEY STAGE 4

- Students in Years 10 – 11 (age 14 – 16)
- Students in Years 9 – 11 (age 13 – 16)
- GCSE courses with exams at the end of Year 11
- Religious Studies Full Course GCSE
- Religious Studies Short Course

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## RE compulsory at this age

- age 5 to 18
- age 5 – 16 or 18 if the school has a sixth form

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## What RE in schools?

- Compulsory RE often called CORE RE
- Academic RS (GCSE) – leading to a qualification (exam)

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## Durham Agreed Syllabus 2006, 2012

"This syllabus requires that all students aged 14-16, should be taught through a course in Religious Education or Religious Studies leading to an accredited qualification approved under Section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000"

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## Short Course – 2 birds with one stone

- Compulsory RE (Core)
- A qualification in RE

*Altogether better*



### Changing picture in schools

- Short Course RS no longer counts in school results and so is 'fading'
- Pressure around schools about ensuring students perform well in 8 GCSEs (Progress 8 / Best 8)
- Introduction of English Baccalaureate which does not include Religious Studies
- Introduction of much more rigorous GCSEs

*Altogether better*



### Where does this all leave RE?

- Cinderella
- Identity crisis
- Senior leaders making decisions
- RE leaders
- Guidance paper from Durham and RE Adviser

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### How to ensure RE in schools:

- allows for academic rigour and a qualification
- enables all students to continue to develop and deepen their own religious literacy (the distinctiveness of RE)
- strongly supports students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (their personal development)
- makes a contribution to the active promotion of fundamental British values
- takes place

*Altogether better*



### How do we support schools?

- Advise senior leaders
- Advise and support RE leaders and teachers
- Support students to ensure they gain their entitlement to high quality RE and where required, strong academic RE and qualifications.

*Altogether better*

