

1. Concerns about RE in Academies and in particular about an Academy that might not be meeting its contractual duty to make provision for all students on the academy roll, may be addressed to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) which took over this responsibility from the Young People's Learning Agency on 1st April 2012.

2. NATRE contacted the Department for Education about their policy on Religious Education in Academies. Their policy is reproduced verbatim below:

“Academies must provide religious education in accordance with their Funding Agreements. The policy intention is for the model Funding Agreements to broadly reflect the provisions that apply to local authorities and schools in the maintained sector. The Funding Agreement requires that Academies with a religious designation provide religious education in accordance with the tenets of their faith and Academies that do not have a religious designation must arrange for religious education to be given to all pupils in accordance with the requirements for agreed syllabuses. In other words, a curriculum which reflects that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.

For foundation or voluntary controlled schools with a religious designation that convert to Academies, the intention is that they will arrange for religious education in accordance with the requirements for agreed syllabuses, as set out above, unless any parents request that their children receive religious education in accordance with any provisions of the school's trust deed or in accordance with the tenets of the school's faith. If any parents do request this, the Academy must make arrangements for those children to receive such religious education unless, because of special circumstances, it would be unreasonable to do so. The Funding Agreement sets this out. “

3. The EFA website describes its role in relation to academy funding agreements as follows:

“The EFA carries out certain functions in relation to open academies on behalf of the Secretary of State. One of its main responsibilities is to ensure that academies comply with the Funding Agreement entered into with the Secretary of State.” Complaints about Academies should be sent by email to academyquestions@efa.education.gov.uk or by post to Academies Central Unit (Academy Complaints), Education Funding Agency, Earlsdon Park, 53-55 Butts Road, Coventry, CV1 3BH . Further information about this process can be found at this address:
<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/p/academiescomplaintsprocedure.pdf>

4. NATRE asked the EFA's predecessor; the YPLA **what a teacher or concerned individual might do if an Academy had decided change their provision so that RE was no longer provided for all pupils.** This is the response:

“...if you or the teacher concerned would like to send a specific query stating the name of the Academy, please send it to academiesenquiries@ypla.gov.uk and I will forward this to the YPLA

Academies Lead Officer (ALO) responsible for dealing with issues relating to that specific Academy: the ALO will then liaise with either you or the teacher concerned. I would also like to point out that the teacher concerned can choose to remain anonymous during any discussions between the ALO and the Academy but considering the specific nature of the query, this may be problematic. However, the ALO could approach the Academy simply stating that the query is from a concerned member of the community who wishes to remain anonymous.”