

Religious Education Updates in England (Since July 2025)

Key Developments and Updates

New or Revised Curriculum / Directories

- Catholic Education Service (CES) has published a new RE Curriculum Directory **To Know You More Clearly**, to be implemented in Catholic schools from 2025 onward.
- Some schools (e.g., in Tameside) plan to introduce the new directory in September 2025.

National Review / Reform Proposals

- Curriculum and Assessment Review interim report (March 2025) highlighted the need for a refreshed, inclusive, and balanced curriculum, including RE.
- The Religious Education Council (REC) has called for a National Content Standard for RE.
- REC's **Consensus Call for Change** (2025) urged elevating RE to National Curriculum status.
- Faith education groups have urged safeguards for faith schools while supporting stronger RE standards.

Policy / Legislative Initiatives

- Education (Assemblies) Bill [HL] proposes removing the requirement for collective worship in schools without a religious character, replacing it with inclusive assemblies.
- Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill (2025) may affect inspection and curriculum standards.
- Debate continues around the 50% admissions cap in new faith academies.

Trends, Challenges, and Data

- Decline in A-level RS uptake in 2025 (England: -1.6%).
- Government's 2024 **Deep and Meaningful** subject report emphasised inconsistency and weak assessment in RE.
- Equity and quality of RE provision remains a major concern.

Observations and Implications

- Push for RE to gain stronger status and accountability.
- Trend towards 'religion & worldviews' approach.
- Implementation will be gradual, with transitional phases across 2025–26.
- Legislative outcomes remain uncertain (e.g., Assemblies Bill).
- Variation in provision persists due to local differences.

Timeline: Prospects for Statutory Changes in RE

2025 (March): Interim Curriculum and Assessment Review published, calling for reform.

2025 (May–June): New Agreed Syllabuses launched in Derby and Gloucestershire.

2025 (September): Catholic schools begin phased introduction of **To Know You More Clearly** directory.

2025–2026: Local authorities expected to roll out updated syllabuses with training for teachers.

2026 (Early): Final recommendations of the Curriculum and Assessment Review expected; government decision on statutory status of RE may follow.

2026–2027: Potential introduction of a National Content Standard for RE (if adopted).

2027 onward: If legislated, RE could be incorporated into a revised National Curriculum framework; implementation would depend on parliamentary timetable.