

YouGov Survey Results

Sample Size: 1825

Fieldwork: 9th - 12th March 2012

Total	Gender		Age					Social Grade		Region					
Base	Male	Female	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55+	ABC1	C2DE	North	Midlands	East	London	South	Wales

For the following questions, by Religious Education we mean the study of a range of religious and non-religious beliefs. At present Religious Education is a compulsory subject meaning it is a legal requirement to be taught in all state funded schools up until the age of 16

Which ONE of the following statements comes CLOSER to your view?

	Unweighted Base	1786	804	982	180	223	278	335	770	1002	784	497	296	182	214	502	95
Base: All English and Welsh adults excluding those who ticked 'Don't know'		1784	876	908	212	284	312	329	647	933	851	475	325	186	249	450	99
I think that Religious Education <u>should</u> be a compulsory subject in all state funded schools up to the age of 16	53%	48%	58%	63%	49%	45%	46%	57%	54%	51%	52%	55%	53%	49%	52%	56%	
I think that Religious Education <u>should not</u> be a compulsory subject in all state funded schools up to the age of 16	32%	38%	27%	27%	39%	42%	33%	27%	33%	31%	34%	28%	32%	35%	33%	33%	
No preference	15%	15%	15%	10%	12%	13%	21%	16%	13%	17%	13%	17%	15%	16%	15%	10%	

Thinking about the teaching of Religious Education in schools today...

Which ONE of the following statements comes CLOSEST to your view?

	Unweighted Base	1763	798	965	180	220	267	332	764	989	774	491	291	182	207	497	95
Base: All English and Welsh adults excluding those who ticked 'Don't know'		1758	867	891	212	280	298	326	642	919	839	469	319	186	241	445	99
I think it is beneficial to pupils to study Religious Education in schools	58%	54%	63%	63%	59%	55%	54%	61%	60%	57%	58%	61%	60%	57%	57%	58%	
I think it is neither beneficial nor harmful to pupils to study Religious Education in schools	33%	34%	31%	31%	34%	34%	36%	30%	32%	33%	31%	32%	32%	32%	37%	31%	
I think it is harmful to pupils to study Religious Education in schools	9%	12%	6%	6%	7%	11%	10%	9%	8%	10%	12%	7%	9%	11%	6%	11%	

YouGov Survey Results

Sample Size: 1825

Fieldwork: 9th - 12th March 2012

Total	Religion								
Base	None	Church of England/Anglican/Episcopal	Roman Catholic	Presbyterian/Church of Scotland	Methodist	Baptist	United Reformed Church	Free Presbyterian	Brethren

For the following questions, by Religious Education we mean the study of a range of religious and non-religious beliefs. At present Religious Education is a compulsory subject meaning it is a legal requirement to be taught in all state funded schools up until the age of 16

Which ONE of the following statements comes CLOSER to your view?

	Unweighted Base	1786	320	569	163	16	54	36	7	4	1
Base: All English and Welsh adults excluding those who ticked 'Don't know'		1784	340	540	162	15	48	34	7	4	1
I think that Religious Education <u>should</u> be a compulsory subject in all state funded schools up to the age of 16	53%		33%	64%	66%	58%	79%	90%	87%	70%	100%
I think that Religious Education <u>should not</u> be a compulsory subject in all state funded schools up to the age of 16	32%		52%	19%	20%	42%	17%	3%	13%	-	-
No preference	15%		15%	17%	14%	-	4%	7%	-	30%	-

Thinking about the teaching of Religious Education in schools today...

Which ONE of the following statements comes CLOSEST to your view?

	Unweighted Base	1763	315	559	164	16	55	35	7	4	1
Base: All English and Welsh adults excluding those who ticked 'Don't know'		1758	333	531	163	15	49	33	7	4	1
I think it is beneficial to pupils to study Religious Education in schools	58%		40%	69%	71%	65%	85%	93%	100%	70%	100%
I think it is neither beneficial nor harmful to pupils to study Religious Education in schools	33%		44%	26%	27%	35%	13%	7%	-	30%	-
I think it is harmful to pupils to study Religious Education in schools	9%		15%	5%	3%	-	2%	-	-	-	-

YouGov Survey Results

Sample Size: 1825
Fieldwork: 9th - 12th March 2012

Total	Religion							
Base	Jewish	Hindu	Islam/Muslim	Sikh	Buddhist	Other	Prefer not to say	Unknown

For the following questions, by Religious Education we mean the study of a range of religious and non-religious beliefs. At present Religious Education is a compulsory subject meaning it is a legal requirement to be taught in all state funded schools up until the age of 16

Which ONE of the following statements comes CLOSER to your view?

	Unweighted Base	Jewish	Hindu	Islam/Muslim	Sikh	Buddhist	Other	Prefer not to say	Unknown
	1786	13	13	14	3	8	76	3	486
Base: All English and Welsh adults excluding those who ticked 'Don't know'	1784	12	15	17	4	7	78	4	497
I think that Religious Education <u>should</u> be a compulsory subject in all state funded schools up to the age of 16	53%	86%	33%	89%	51%	34%	58%	76%	41%
I think that Religious Education <u>should not</u> be a compulsory subject in all state funded schools up to the age of 16	32%	-	40%	11%	-	41%	29%	24%	44%
No preference	15%	14%	26%	-	49%	25%	13%	-	15%

Thinking about the teaching of Religious Education in schools today...

Which ONE of the following statements comes CLOSEST to your view?

	Unweighted Base	Jewish	Hindu	Islam/Muslim	Sikh	Buddhist	Other	Prefer not to say	Unknown
	1763	13	12	13	3	8	77	2	479
Base: All English and Welsh adults excluding those who ticked 'Don't know'	1758	12	13	16	4	7	80	2	489
I think it is beneficial to pupils to study Religious Education in schools	58%	79%	44%	95%	26%	33%	62%	62%	49%
I think it is neither beneficial nor harmful to pupils to study Religious Education in schools	33%	21%	28%	5%	74%	57%	23%	38%	40%
I think it is harmful to pupils to study Religious Education in schools	9%	-	28%	-	-	10%	15%	-	11%

Total	Gender		Age					Social Grade		Region					
	Male	Female	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55+	ABC1	C2DE	North	Midlands	East	London	South	Wales

Since the terrorist attacks in America on 11th September 2001, do you think it has become more or less relevant to teach Religious Education in schools, or has it made no difference?

Unweighted Base	1664	768	896	168	204	254	311	727	941	723	466	275	167	196	470	90
Base: All English and Welsh adults excluding those who ticked 'Don't know'	1659	832	827	200	262	282	305	609	877	782	444	301	171	228	421	94
It has now become more relevant to teach Religious Education in schools since 9/11	35%	32%	38%	41%	33%	32%	35%	35%	35%	35%	34%	33%	34%	33%	38%	34%
9/11 has made no difference to the relevance of teaching Religious Education in schools	59%	60%	57%	53%	62%	59%	59%	58%	58%	59%	58%	59%	59%	59%	58%	63%
It has now become less relevant to teach Religious Education in schools since 9/11	7%	8%	5%	6%	4%	8%	6%	7%	6%	7%	8%	7%	7%	8%	4%	3%

Which, if any, of the following statements reflect your views about Religious Education in schools today? (Please tick all that apply)

Unweighted Base	1701	775	926	173	209	264	314	741	956	745	472	284	177	199	478	91
Base: All English and Welsh adults excluding those who ticked 'Don't know'	1698	843	855	205	268	296	309	621	889	810	450	313	181	233	426	94
Religious Education is a valuable space within the curriculum where young people can learn about all religious and non-religious beliefs	50%	45%	55%	49%	48%	43%	50%	54%	53%	46%	47%	52%	54%	51%	50%	51%
Religious Education is an intellectually demanding subject	18%	17%	20%	17%	16%	15%	19%	21%	19%	17%	21%	20%	16%	12%	19%	18%
A GCSE or A-Level in Religious Education has the same credibility as a GCSE or A-Level in another humanities (arts) subject such as English, History and Geography	33%	28%	38%	31%	34%	28%	33%	36%	37%	29%	33%	32%	26%	37%	35%	31%
Religious Education in schools is essential to a multi-faith society as it promotes mutual respect, tolerance and understanding	50%	44%	57%	52%	56%	46%	47%	51%	54%	47%	51%	49%	45%	48%	53%	53%
Religious Education lessons teach children to be religious	6%	8%	4%	8%	3%	7%	5%	7%	5%	7%	6%	6%	7%	5%	6%	10%
Religious Education is a soft and easy subject (i.e. not intellectually demanding)	17%	21%	12%	33%	21%	16%	14%	11%	16%	18%	16%	15%	19%	19%	17%	17%
Religious Education is not a relevant subject for young people today	13%	18%	9%	14%	10%	16%	14%	13%	12%	15%	16%	13%	8%	13%	13%	11%
A GCSE or A-Level in Religious Education should not have the same credibility as the equivalent grade in any other subject	15%	19%	11%	24%	14%	14%	14%	14%	13%	18%	17%	11%	15%	18%	15%	15%
Religious Education should not be taught in schools, if pupils want to study it they should do so in their own time	13%	16%	9%	11%	12%	12%	14%	14%	13%	13%	16%	11%	13%	15%	11%	10%
None of these	5%	6%	4%	4%	9%	6%	5%	4%	5%	6%	7%	5%	4%	5%	5%	4%

Total	Religion								
	None	Church of England/Anglican/Episcopal	Roman Catholic	Presbyterian/Church of Scotland	Methodist	Baptist	United Reformed Church	Free Presbyterian	Brethren

Since the terrorist attacks in America on 11th September 2001, do you think it has become more or less relevant to teach Religious Education in schools, or has it made no difference?

Unweighted Base	1664	289	531	154	15	54	35	7	4	1
Base: All English and Welsh adults excluding those who ticked 'Don't know'	1659	304	505	152	14	48	33	7	4	1
It has now become more relevant to teach Religious Education in schools since 9/11	35%	26%	37%	47%	46%	49%	54%	52%	47%	100%
9/11 has made no difference to the relevance of teaching Religious Education in schools	59%	64%	57%	51%	54%	49%	46%	37%	53%	-
It has now become less relevant to teach Religious Education in schools since 9/11	7%	10%	6%	2%	-	2%	-	11%	-	-

Which, if any, of the following statements reflect your views about Religious Education in schools today? (Please tick all that apply)

Unweighted Base	1701	302	535	156	16	53	36	7	4	1
Base: All English and Welsh adults excluding those who ticked 'Don't know'	1698	319	507	156	15	48	34	7	4	1
Religious Education is a valuable space within the curriculum where young people can learn about all religious and non-religious beliefs	50%	37%	54%	63%	56%	68%	75%	76%	47%	-
Religious Education is an intellectually demanding subject	18%	11%	22%	23%	15%	22%	46%	37%	21%	100%
A GCSE or A-Level in Religious Education has the same credibility as a GCSE or A-Level in another humanities (arts) subject such as English, History and Geography	33%	21%	36%	43%	34%	42%	76%	76%	100%	-
Religious Education in schools is essential to a multi-faith society as it promotes mutual respect, tolerance and understanding	50%	36%	57%	61%	46%	66%	83%	76%	47%	-
Religious Education lessons teach children to be religious	6%	5%	6%	7%	12%	4%	2%	-	26%	-
Religious Education is a soft and easy subject (i.e. not intellectually demanding)	17%	20%	13%	15%	11%	5%	-	-	-	-
Religious Education is not a relevant subject for young people today	13%	20%	11%	5%	14%	2%	-	-	-	-
A GCSE or A-Level in Religious Education should not have the same credibility as the equivalent grade in any other subject	15%	21%	14%	8%	5%	2%	8%	13%	-	-
Religious Education should not be taught in schools, if pupils want to study it they should do so in their own time	13%	24%	7%	3%	21%	5%	5%	-	-	-
None of these	5%	9%	3%	4%	10%	-	-	-	-	-

Total	Religion							
	Jewish	Hindu	Islam/Muslim	Sikh	Buddhist	Other	Prefer not to say	Unknown

Since the terrorist attacks in America on 11th September 2001, do you think it has become more or less relevant to teach Religious Education in schools, or has it made no difference?

Unweighted Base	1664	12	8	12	3	7	72	3	457
Base: All English and Welsh adults excluding those who ticked 'Don't know'	1659	11	9	15	4	6	74	4	467
It has now become more relevant to teach Religious Education in schools since 9/11	35%	48%	22%	57%	51%	37%	37%	40%	30%
9/11 has made no difference to the relevance of teaching Religious Education in schools	59%	52%	26%	43%	49%	19%	55%	24%	65%
It has now become less relevant to teach Religious Education in schools since 9/11	7%	-	52%	-	-	45%	8%	36%	6%

Which, if any, of the following statements reflect your views about Religious Education in schools today? (Please tick all that apply)

Unweighted Base	1701	11	13	11	3	8	73	2	470
Base: All English and Welsh adults excluding those who ticked 'Don't know'	1698	10	16	14	4	7	76	2	480
Religious Education is a valuable space within the curriculum where young people can learn about all religious and non-religious beliefs	50%	75%	24%	62%	51%	21%	58%	62%	45%
Religious Education is an intellectually demanding subject	18%	25%	7%	34%	49%	10%	19%	-	15%
A GCSE or A-Level in Religious Education has the same credibility as a GCSE or A-Level in another humanities (arts) subject such as English, History and Geography	33%	74%	19%	19%	100%	-	38%	-	29%
Religious Education in schools is essential to a multi-faith society as it promotes mutual respect, tolerance and understanding	50%	90%	37%	42%	51%	33%	60%	62%	43%
Religious Education lessons teach children to be religious	6%	-	24%	10%	26%	10%	10%	-	6%
Religious Education is a soft and easy subject (i.e. not intellectually demanding)	17%	-	8%	21%	-	21%	10%	-	23%
Religious Education is not a relevant subject for young people today	13%	-	5%	-	-	36%	9%	-	18%
A GCSE or A-Level in Religious Education should not have the same credibility as the equivalent grade in any other subject	15%	-	13%	-	-	38%	7%	-	20%
Religious Education should not be taught in schools, if pupils want to study it they should do so in their own time	13%	-	12%	-	-	10%	15%	38%	16%
None of these	5%	-	14%	8%	-	15%	4%	-	6%

Total	Gender		Age					Social Grade		Region					
	Male	Female	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55+	ABC1	C2DE	North	Midlands	East	London	South	Wales

Since leaving school and regardless of your own beliefs...

Which ONE of the following BEST describes the level of understanding of a range of religious and non-religious beliefs you gained as a result of your Religious Education lessons in school?

	Unweighted Base	1753	786	967	179	219	266	331	758	985	768	487	292	181	211	490	92
Base: All English and Welsh adults excluding those who ticked 'Don't know'		1750	856	894	212	279	297	325	637	917	833	463	321	184	247	439	95
My Religious Education lessons gave me a full understanding of a range of beliefs	9%	9%	9%	15%	11%	8%	7%	7%	8%	10%	8%	13%	7%	8%	9%	7%	
My Religious Education lessons partly helped my understanding of a range of beliefs but I have learnt a lot more since leaving school	41%	39%	42%	39%	42%	45%	41%	39%	44%	37%	43%	33%	43%	48%	41%	36%	
My Religious Education lessons partly helped my understanding of a range of beliefs and have learnt a little more since leaving school but not as much as when in school	11%	11%	12%	19%	19%	9%	8%	8%	11%	13%	10%	11%	17%	12%	12%	7%	
My Religious Education lessons partly helped my understanding of a range of beliefs but I haven't learnt anything since leaving school and I am still unsure of a lot of beliefs	9%	10%	8%	12%	11%	9%	8%	9%	8%	10%	10%	11%	8%	6%	10%	10%	
I did not leave school with any understanding of religious and non-religious beliefs	13%	15%	12%	8%	8%	14%	15%	16%	13%	14%	12%	14%	14%	9%	14%	23%	
None of these	16%	16%	16%	7%	9%	15%	20%	21%	17%	15%	17%	18%	11%	17%	15%	17%	

Which ONE, if any, of the following statements comes closest to your own beliefs?

	Unweighted Base	1778	800	978	178	223	274	332	771	999	779	496	291	185	215	498	93
Base: All English and Welsh adults excluding those who ticked 'Don't know'		1775	872	903	209	285	307	326	648	929	846	473	319	189	251	446	97
I have a strong belief in a particular religion	15%	12%	18%	13%	12%	9%	14%	21%	16%	14%	17%	15%	11%	14%	14%	24%	
I have belief in a particular religion but wouldn't call it strong	22%	20%	24%	13%	13%	26%	22%	26%	24%	20%	22%	23%	22%	19%	22%	23%	
I am agnostic and I don't think it is possible to know whether God/ Gods exist	12%	13%	10%	14%	17%	9%	10%	11%	11%	12%	11%	11%	12%	15%	14%	1%	
I am not religious, I do not believe in any God/ Gods	23%	29%	17%	35%	27%	26%	20%	18%	21%	26%	24%	22%	23%	23%	22%	29%	
I am not religious, I don't know what to believe	8%	7%	9%	10%	9%	9%	9%	7%	9%	8%	7%	11%	9%	6%	9%	9%	
I believe in a higher power, but this is not related to a particular religion	16%	15%	17%	12%	18%	16%	19%	15%	16%	16%	15%	13%	19%	18%	17%	13%	
None of these	4%	4%	4%	3%	4%	5%	5%	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	5%	3%	-	

Total	Religion								
	None	Church of England/Anglican/Episcopal	Roman Catholic	Presbyterian/Church of Scotland	Methodist	Baptist	United Reformed Church	Free Presbyterian	Brethren

Since leaving school and regardless of your own beliefs...

Which ONE of the following BEST describes the level of understanding of a range of religious and non-religious beliefs you gained as a result of your Religious Education lessons in school?

	Unweighted Base	1753	315	553	161	16	53	36	7	4	1
Base: All English and Welsh adults excluding those who ticked 'Don't know'		1750	334	525	160	15	47	34	7	4	1
My Religious Education lessons gave me a full understanding of a range of beliefs	9%	5%	10%	11%	11%	13%	7%	-	24%	-	-
My Religious Education lessons partly helped my understanding of a range of beliefs but I have learnt a lot more since leaving school	41%	35%	45%	45%	39%	34%	68%	26%	26%	-	-
My Religious Education lessons partly helped my understanding of a range of beliefs and have learnt a little more since leaving school but not as much as when in school	11%	9%	11%	12%	11%	20%	-	50%	21%	-	-
My Religious Education lessons partly helped my understanding of a range of beliefs but I haven't learnt anything since leaving school and I am still unsure of a lot of beliefs	9%	13%	8%	11%	6%	9%	6%	-	-	-	-
I did not leave school with any understanding of religious and non-religious beliefs	13%	19%	11%	5%	17%	9%	12%	11%	-	-	-
None of these	16%	18%	14%	16%	17%	15%	8%	13%	30%	100%	-

Which ONE, if any, of the following statements comes closest to your own beliefs?

	Unweighted Base	1778	320	560	164	17	55	35	7	4	1
Base: All English and Welsh adults excluding those who ticked 'Don't know'		1775	340	530	163	16	49	33	7	4	1
I have a strong belief in a particular religion	15%	0%	20%	28%	6%	36%	74%	13%	49%	100%	-
I have belief in a particular religion but wouldn't call it strong	22%	3%	39%	45%	47%	34%	17%	60%	30%	-	-
I am agnostic and I don't think it is possible to know whether God/ Gods exist	12%	14%	10%	8%	30%	3%	-	-	21%	-	-
I am not religious, I do not believe in any God/ Gods	23%	50%	5%	5%	7%	8%	-	15%	-	-	-
I am not religious, I don't know what to believe	8%	11%	8%	3%	-	3%	-	-	-	-	-
I believe in a higher power, but this is not related to a particular religion	16%	18%	14%	8%	10%	16%	9%	-	-	-	-
None of these	4%	4%	3%	3%	-	-	-	13%	-	-	-

Total	Religion							
Base	Jewish	Hindu	Islam/Muslim	Sikh	Buddhist	Other	Prefer not to say	Unknown

Since leaving school and regardless of your own beliefs...

Which ONE of the following BEST describes the level of understanding of a range of religious and non-religious beliefs you gained as a result of your Religious Education lessons in school?

Unweighted Base	1753	12	13	11	3	7	76	3	482
Base: All English and Welsh adults excluding those who ticked 'Don't know'	1750	11	16	14	4	6	78	4	491
My Religious Education lessons gave me a full understanding of a range of beliefs	9%	8%	8%	68%	26%	13%	10%	-	7%
My Religious Education lessons partly helped my understanding of a range of beliefs but I have learnt a lot more since leaving school	41%	76%	17%	-	26%	62%	43%	40%	38%
My Religious Education lessons partly helped my understanding of a range of beliefs and have learnt a little more since leaving school but not as much as when in school	11%	8%	19%	17%	-	-	11%	-	12%
My Religious Education lessons partly helped my understanding of a range of beliefs but I haven't learnt anything since leaving school and I am still unsure of a lot of beliefs	9%	-	5%	-	-	14%	2%	24%	10%
I did not leave school with any understanding of religious and non-religious beliefs	13%	8%	13%	6%	-	11%	10%	-	17%
None of these	16%	-	38%	9%	49%	-	24%	36%	16%

Which ONE, if any, of the following statements comes closest to your own beliefs?

Unweighted Base	1778	12	13	13	3	8	77	2	487
Base: All English and Welsh adults excluding those who ticked 'Don't know'	1775	11	16	16	4	7	80	2	496
I have a strong belief in a particular religion	15%	46%	27%	100%	26%	49%	44%	-	1%
I have belief in a particular religion but wouldn't call it strong	22%	45%	36%	-	26%	25%	16%	-	7%
I am agnostic and I don't think it is possible to know whether God/ Gods exist	12%	-	6%	-	-	-	4%	-	17%
I am not religious, I do not believe in any God/ Gods	23%	9%	-	-	-	-	13%	-	38%
I am not religious, I don't know what to believe	8%	-	-	-	-	-	5%	-	12%
I believe in a higher power, but this is not related to a particular religion	16%	-	17%	-	49%	12%	13%	100%	20%
None of these	4%	-	14%	-	-	15%	6%	-	4%