

YOUNG AMBASSADORS

FOR RE

#ya4RE. BE PART OF IT



BE PART OF A NATIONAL SCHEME TO PROMOTE THE VALUE OF RE

AS A YOUNG AMBASSADOR FOR RE YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT IN YOUR OWN SCHOOL AND BEYOND



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL
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Young Ambassadors in the pilot scheme said they had...

- been challenged and pushed to do things beyond their expectations
- felt noticed, developed leadership skills and become role models for younger pupils, and taken on a role on behalf of the school
- developed greater ability to work as members of a team but have also involved others beyond their teams, breaking down boundaries of age and stage
- experienced a sense of purpose and motivation and a confidence that their voices would be heard
- gained new skills and interests (e.g. public speaking, movie making and IT)
- developed a sense of shared experience with fellow enthusiasts for RE

YOUNG AMBASSADORS FOR RE IS A NEW SCHEME ACROSS ENGLAND AND WALES, RUN BY THE RE COUNCIL.

THE RE COUNCIL CHAMPIONS RE AT ALL LEVELS FROM TEACHERS AND STUDENTS TO POLITICIANS AND POLICY MAKERS.



THIS SCHEME GIVES STUDENTS AGED 11-18 OPPORTUNITIES TO:

- meet and debate with other young people about why RE matters
- share their enthusiasm and interest for RE and gain leadership experience
- give their perspectives to adults who work to support RE at the highest levels, such as local councils and MPs in parliament
- develop skills in communicating successfully to a wide range of audiences
- build up relevant experience for college, UCAS or job applications and personal statements
- receive an RE Council certificate of commendation given to all who complete their time as a Young Ambassador.

TEACHERS SAY THE SCHEME HAS:

- raised the profile of the subject and promoted it to pupils, parents and across the whole school community; where RE was already good, it has become even better; it has helped to raise the awareness of colleagues about the value of RE and increased their understanding about its links with other subjects across the curriculum..
- provided excellent professional development opportunities, including enabling teachers to learn from what other schools were doing, being a source of inspiration for new teachers, creating the basis for work beyond teachers' own schools e.g. in making outreach to other schools and bodies such as the local SACRE, generating the motivation to develop new skills (e.g. use of Twitter).
- given teachers the pleasure of seeing students flourish and develop leadership experience and of seeing other staff impressed by their maturity and ability expressed in RE activity; having the satisfaction of seeing a positive impact on students who may not do brilliantly in other areas but have a pride in their achievements and in knowing how to behave responsibly as an ambassador.

The YA scheme helps teachers to connect RE to wider educational issues and current affairs. It can contribute to the dynamism of RE provision through the voices of students, and support the professional development of any teacher taking part. For the school, the YA scheme has the potential to be part of strategies for SMSC provision in your departmental or school development plan, provide opportunities for positive media coverage, and contribute to criteria for the [RE Quality Mark](#).

In every school there are pupils who have a particular interest in or enthusiasm for RE. We want this scheme to enable them to share this with others, to give them the chance to take on a leadership role, to help their fellow students benefit from

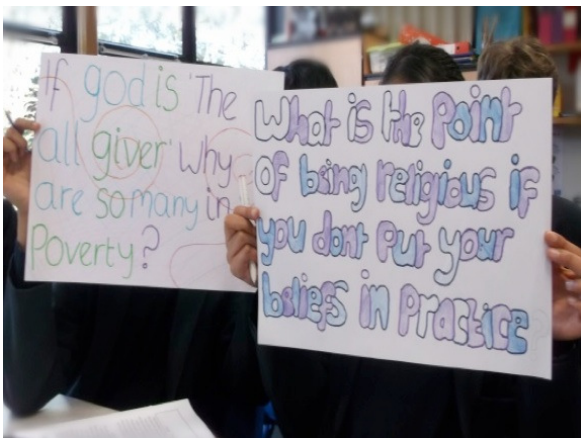
what the subject offers and to speak from their own experiences as young people. We want the subject to benefit from their insights, ideas and voices.



ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG AMBASSADORS

Young Ambassadors keep up to date with each other through the YA blog, on the RE Council website. Teams are free to develop their own ideas and programmes, but here are a few examples of activities that YA teams have done in 2012-2013.

- YAs at Broughton created a wall on Padlet, for students to share their ideas about why RE is important to society.
- YAs at The Redhill Academy uploaded a film about the importance of RE to Youtube, and regularly put up video updates of their activities.
- YAs at St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School visited a local primary school to run a mini-lessons on RE
- Several YA teams have created display boards about RE in their schools
- YAs at Perins surveyed the parents of students at the school to research their attitudes to RE



FOR MORE IDEAS VISIT THE YOUNG AMBASSADOR BLOG!

HOW MUCH OF A COMMITMENT IS THE SCHEME?

- Teachers in our pilot scheme said that working with a group of enthusiastic young students hardly added any extra work to their workload
- The REC can't offer any funding for the scheme, but your activities don't have to cost a thing. We will pay for any travel if we invite a team to speak on our behalf, or you can fundraise yourselves – another thing for students to put on the UCAS forms
- The time commitment is relatively flexible. It could be an after-school or lunch-time club, and can be run almost entirely by students if they take the initiative.

THE YA SCHEME AIMS TO BRING INTO CONTACT YOUNG PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY TO DEBATE, SHARE AND EXPLORE THE KINDS OF ISSUES THAT ARE THE STUFF OF WORTHWHILE AND CHALLENGING RE.

The scheme will provide outstanding opportunities for young people to be challenged, to gain leadership experience, and to engage in contact with others from around the country for debate and discussion. The best teams will have the chance to attend and present at meetings and conferences with others, and gain public speaking experience. Several of our teams from the pilot year have made presentations at Westminster, in front of MPs and Lords about the importance of RE to them and to the wider community.

HOW TO APPLY

Each school team will need to submit their answer to this question

WHY SHOULD WE LEARN ABOUT EACH OTHER'S BELIEFS AND VALUES?

Answers submitted can be in written/essay form (of around 500-750 words), or audio file/podcast, or as a short film uploaded to the web with a link we can follow to watch it. Then email your completed application form with either your submission or web link, to: youngambassadors@religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk stating your name and

contact details at your school.



SELECTION CRITERIA

We are looking to recruit a maximum of one team per school, chosen as you think best. A team can consist of any three to five individuals between 11 and 18.

Students must have:

- Sincerity and curiosity about the world and a positive attitude towards others.
- Ability to communicate effectively and persuasively with their peers and others.
- Confidence in talking about their own values and beliefs, whether religious or not.
- A clear sense that inspiring religious education, with opportunities for critical reflection on different beliefs and values, is a right for all young people, whatever their backgrounds or world views.
- Strong commitment to and enjoyment of open and lively debate.
- Readiness to be Young Ambassadors for the rest of this school year, with the opportunity to continue if they have carried out the role successfully.



APPLICATION FORM

Name of school

Address

Phone number

School email address

Name of contact teacher

Contact teacher email address

Names and year groups of students
Enter the names of up to five students)

Name

Year group

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Headteacher/Principal declaration

I , of agree to this application for the above team of students to take part in the Young Ambassadors for RE scheme run by the Religious Education Council of England and Wales.

I am sending our student submission as:
Attachments should be in Word or pdf format.
Link URL:

Declaration

I understand that by entering this school team for the Young Ambassador scheme, I am agreeing to the REC's selection process and realise that only a limited number of schools can participate this year.

E-mail this completed form along with your student submission to:
youngambassadors@religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk