



1. Project Title: Religious Education in Alternative Provision Settings (England)

2. Purpose of the Role

To undertake a comprehensive investigation into how Religious Education (or Religion & Worldviews Education) is delivered across Registered Alternative Provision settings in England, with a view to understanding current practice, challenges, opportunities, variability in provision, and implications for policy, curriculum design, teacher development and pupil experience.

3. Key Responsibilities

The appointed researcher will:

A. Desk-Based Review

- Map the landscape of religious education in registered AP settings¹ in England (PRUs, AP academies, Independent and Community Based provision) using websites, other publicly available information and existing networks.
- Review Ofsted commentary, and any existing research or grey literature on RE/RW in AP.
- Identify gaps in evidence and areas requiring deeper qualitative insight.

B. Fieldwork & Data Collection (Some or all of the following)

- Conduct semi-structured online or telephone interviews with AP leaders, RE coordinators, teachers, support staff in AP settings
- Use survey to gather further data from AP settings
- Gather case studies from a representative sample of AP types (by region, governance, pupil profile, and religious/non-religious ethos where relevant).
- Analyse curriculum documents, timetables, schemes of work, assessment approaches, and staff training materials.

C. Analysis & Reporting

- Produce a thematic analysis identifying:
 - How RE is conceptualised and positioned within AP.
 - Barriers and enablers (timetabling, staffing, training, pupil needs).
 - Variability in curriculum depth, coherence, and intent.
 - Impact of RE on inclusion, pastoral work, wellbeing, and personal development.
- Develop clear, evidence-based recommendations for:
 - Policy and system-level improvements.
 - Teacher development and training.
 - Curriculum frameworks suitable for AP.

¹ There were 335 state funded registered AP settings in England in 2024. PQ tabled 11 January 2024.

- Support structures and resource implications.

D. Presentation & Dissemination

- Prepare a full written report.
- Produce an executive summary
- Present findings to stakeholders (e.g., education leaders, RE networks, charitable partners, policy groups).
- Participate in one webinar or roundtable discussion.

4. Required and Desirable Skills and Experience

- Demonstrated expertise in Religious Education / Religion and Worldviews research.
- Proven qualitative research skills (interviews, observations, thematic analysis).
- Knowledge of ethics, safeguarding, and consent procedures.
- Strong writing, synthesis and analytical skills.
- Ability to work independently and manage complex fieldwork logistics.
- Understanding of AP settings and the wider inclusion landscape (desirable)
- Experience working with vulnerable or marginalised young people (desirable).

5. Deliverables

1. **Project plan** with methodology, sample, timelines, ethics procedures.
2. **Literature & policy review.**
3. **Interview and survey summary** with analysis of all data collected.
4. **Final report** (approx. 5-8,000 words) with recommendations.
5. **Executive summary** (2-3 pages).
6. **Presentation slide deck or short film** for stakeholders.

7. Proposed Timescales

Total Number of Days: 35 days

Duration: 12–16 weeks (if this spans the summer holidays, the duration might be extended)

Phase	Summary	Duration	Number of Days (suggested)
Planning & document review	Ethics, sampling, literature review	2-3 weeks	6 days
Fieldwork (interviews, collection of materials and data)	10-15 interviews; survey	5–6 weeks	20 days
Analysis & drafting	Coding, thematic synthesis, drafting	3-4 weeks	5 days
Final reporting & dissemination	Final edits, presentation materials	2-3 weeks	4 days

8. Fees

£460 per day (comparable with our consultant per day rate). Total £16,100.

Interested in this project?

If you are interested please send a CV, and covering letter (maximum one side of A4) outlining your interest in this field, and your expertise in undertaking similar types of research in previous roles/projects. We are also open to the idea of two people sharing the project and putting in a joint application.

Closing date: Tuesday 5th May 2026 at noon

Informal conversations: We will be holding informal conversations with shortlisted applicants on Monday 11th May via Zoom.

Start Date: There is a flexible starting date, but ideally we would like the work to begin in June 2026.

About Culham St Gabriel's

Our Vision

Our vision is for broad-based, critical and reflective religion and worldviews education contributing to a well-informed, respectful and open society.

Mission

Culham St Gabriel's Trust advances its vision through thought leadership and values-driven partnership working. We advocate for high-quality religion and worldviews education by working alongside teachers, leaders and partners across the four nations of the United Kingdom. Our approach centres on building trusting relationships and co-creating learning opportunities. Our work is grounded in accessible, research-informed insights that enable teachers and other educational professionals to root their practice in evidence, directly strengthening teaching and educational approaches. We act from our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and justice, including freedom of religion or belief. In all we do, we strive to elevate and amplify a wide range of voices and perspectives, ensuring that our work reflects and honours the plurality of the communities and education contexts we aim to serve. By investing in professional development, enabling research, nurturing collaborative networks and modelling respectful listening and dialogue, we support the creation of a well-informed, respectful and open society.

Find out more at www.cstg.org.uk and www.reonline.org.uk

Culham St Gabriel's is committed to equity, valuing diversity, and enabling inclusion both in our workplace and in our recruitment process.