

How RE prepares young people for the world of work



A briefing for schools on Lord Bilimoria's RE4Work campaign

Last year the former President of the Confederation of Business Industry, Lord Karan Bilimoria, wrote an open letter calling on businesses and workplaces to back high-quality Religious Education in schools.

Dozens of organisations, from the Bank of England and University College London, to the Peter Jones Foundation, expressed their support for the subject.

The employers were asked why they valued a qualification in Religious Studies on a CV.

Here's a summary of the reasons they gave:

Understand

The ability to understand the nature of modern religious and non-religious belief and practice, avoid misconceptions, and leave school ready to work with people around the world from all walks of life.

Communicate

The ability to communicate clearly and compellingly in both the written and spoken word, with employers valuing the subject's focus on oracy in developing confident public speakers.

Prepare

Preparation for the global workplace where 84% of the world's population identifies with a religious group, and the ability to understand diversity and difference is increasingly valued.

Writing in *Management Today*, a leading publication for business leaders, Lord Bilimoria wrote:

“Religious Education is a rare opportunity in schools where young people give their response to some of life's biggest questions, develop the ability to build an argument, and demonstrate empathy and an understanding of someone else's argument, whilst also providing a constructive critique of that point of view.

Lord Bilimoria explains the value of the subject

[Watch the video >](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgkxskHeTMQ>

What careers is RE valuable for?

The broad range of the campaign's supporters suggests RE is relevant to all careers. Former A-level students have gone on to work in law, journalism, therapy, education, government and media. Here, some former students explain how it's helped them:

What former students say:

“The opportunity to think deeply about some of life's biggest questions sparked in me a great curiosity about the world beyond my own. I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in a career that requires them to think critically about the world around them.

Rosetta Fourlagawo, Journalist



“The study of A level RS provides a number of invaluable skills. The ability to build an argument, the ability to critique the argument of someone else as well as have empathy with other points of view you don't necessarily agree with. These are all transferable skills I use as a lawyer, and I'm sure other people in business and other professions use every day of their working lives.”

John De Bono QC

Rosetta Fourlagawo explains how A-Level Religious Studies helped her career as a journalist

[Watch the video >](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWQmC0c2yGk>

RE is also increasingly valued by corporate and global facing businesses for its ability to bring together people from different backgrounds to work together.

Here's what some prominent supporters of Lord Bilimoria's campaign said:

“It's imperative young people have an understanding and appreciation of religious literacy to prepare them for modern Britain and the world of work.

It helps build and foster more cohesive communities whilst at the same time dispelling the negative currents of misinformation and hatred.



Kaleem Hussain,
Assistant Vice
President,
Deutsche Bank

“We want the next generation to be confident in sharing their own worldviews positively in the workplace.

“This has to be fostered at school, in lessons which support and encourage young people to be curious and challenging about different perspectives on life.



Susie Al-Qassab,
Lawyer

“Delivered intelligently, Religious Education can offer a strong moral compass built on religious readings across all faiths, instilling a culture of kindness, goodness and community in our young people that steers young people as they transition into employment.



Mark Huxley,
Business Mentor
and
Trustee of City
Gateway

Questions and discussion points for students:

What careers are you interested in and how do you think Religious Education might help you in this area?

Why do you think employers and business people are interested in students who have studied Religious Education?



Find out more about Lord Bilimoria's RE4Work campaign and see the full list of those who have signed.

[See the full list >](#)



<https://www.rethinkre.org/ready-for-work-campaign>

