



RE Teaching: Beyond the Ordinary

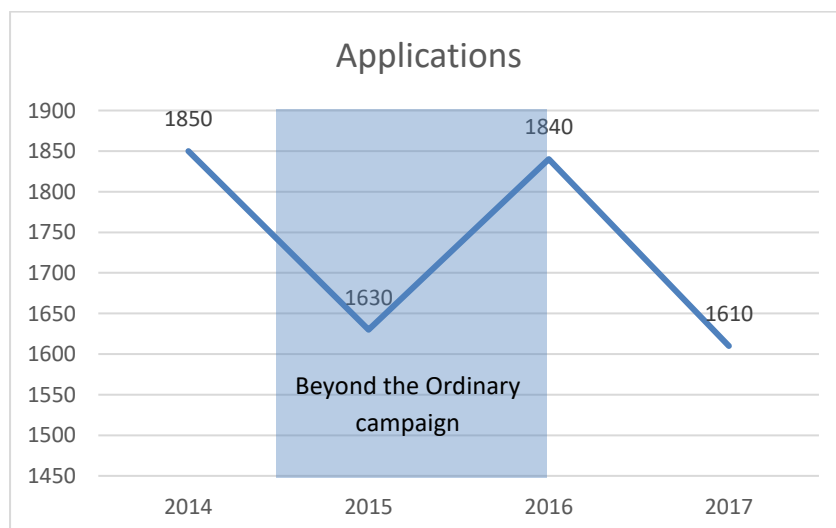
Help us find more Sarahs!

The Beyond the Ordinary campaign to attract more trainees to take up secondary Religious Education PGCEs first launched in 2015 in response to declining numbers of RE teacher trainees.

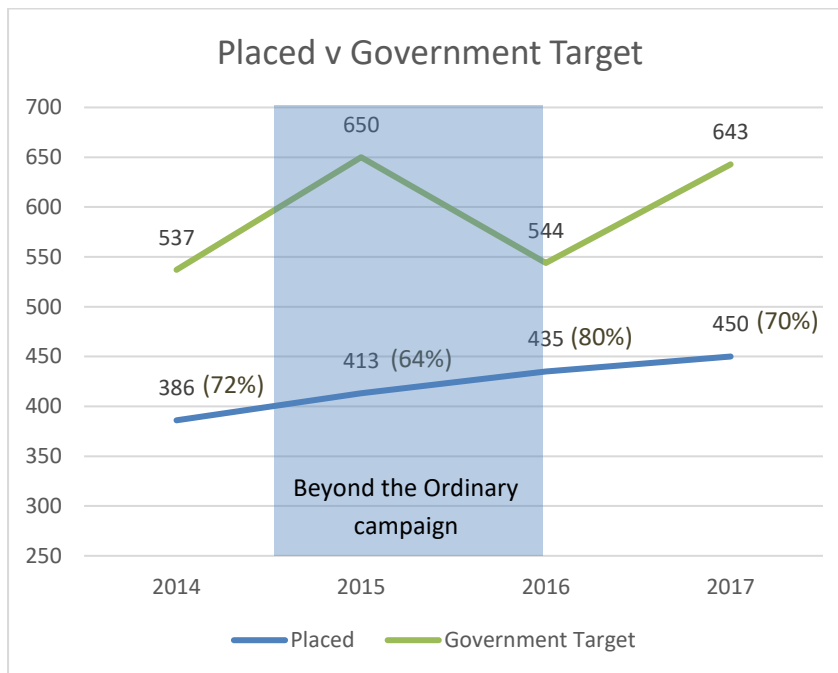
The campaign was a huge success, leading to recruitment for RE outperforming all other PGCE subjects. In fact, in 2016 applications rebounded to their 2014 levels and since then the number of successful candidates has risen steadily. What's more, preliminary figures for the end of the 2016-17 cycle suggest that the number of candidates taking up places is over 16% higher than in 2014.

Our new challenge

That is the good news! The bad news is that recruitment numbers still fall short of Government targets and, after the initial two phases of our campaign ended, applications have once again fallen as the legacy of the campaign tails off.



RS ITT applications 2014-2017 (2017 figures at 21.08.17)



No. of applicants placed compared with Department for Education target 2014-2017 including % of target reached. (2017 figures = Placed or Conditionally Placed at 21.08.17)

The next phase of Beyond the Ordinary

However, thanks to further funding from the All Saints Educational Trust, we are now able to relaunch some elements of the original campaign to support the 2017-18 cycle. For example, we are working with UCAS to reach suitable potential candidates, will be targeting regions where places are available, will target candidates via social media and will launch a new media partnership.

How can you help?

The campaign message is still as relevant today as it was back in 2015. RE teaching offers a chance for a stimulating career, tackling some of the most important issues facing the world today, firing up young minds eager for answers to the big questions. In other words, definitely a career that's way beyond the ordinary!

So, what can you do to support our renewed recruitment drive? Here are some suggestions:

- Visit our campaign website at www.teachre.co.uk/beyondtheordinary/ for more tools, videos, presentations and inspiration!
- Share this link to our engaging (and award-winning!) video featuring specialist RE teacher from Nottingham, Lynsey Wilkinson www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzvZTFmp6qc
- Re-tweet our messages on Twitter at @ReThinkREnow, @RECouncil, @NATREupdate and @aulretweets
- Follow Culham St Gabriel's Trust on LinkedIn and share our content to inspire your own network
- Ask yourself who in your network can help and get them involved

Do you know anyone thinking about a career change?

Why not pass the word to someone who's looking for a new career that will inspire them more than their current nine-to-five? We know that career changers often opt to go into teaching and great teachers come from all backgrounds. RE could just be for them. There are plenty of resources available to prepare their knowledge and skills for the PGCE, including the [TeachRE course](#), which helps develop specialist subject knowledge.

Help us find more Sarahs!

The more potential candidates we reach, the more chance of inspiring a potential new RE teacher. Why not point contacts in the direction of the campaign website...

www.teachre.co.uk/beyondtheordinary/ask-a-question/

...where there's an opportunity to chat direct with an experienced RE teacher?

And in case you're wondering why Sarah? Well, Sarah decided to train to be a specialist RE teacher at Edge Hill University after starting her career as a classroom assistant. Here's what she said about RE:

“I chose to teach RE because within our current diverse society it's vital that children are taught about a range of different religions, beliefs and cultures and that they are taught well!”

Sarah Burton, Trainee RE teacher



[Read Sarah's full story here.](#)

Beyond the Ordinary campaign team
Autumn 2017