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Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

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Reverend David Taylor
Chair, West Berkshire SACRE
Thattham Baptist Church
Wheelers Green Way, Thattham
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26 July 2018

Dear Reverend Taylor,

Thank you for your letter of 13 July, addressed to the Secretary of State, regarding religious education. I am replying as the Minister of State for School Standards.

As you are aware, religious education is compulsory for all pupils, including those in sixth form. While we would prefer schools to deliver religious education of their own accord, the Secretary of State has powers to intervene where a school is not meeting its statutory duty. However, I would suggest that the local authority or the SACRE first contacts those schools not complying with the locally agreed syllabus to remind them of their legal duty, and asks for confirmation that these schools have taken action to meet it.

If this is unsuccessful, a complaint could then be referred to the Secretary of State, giving details of what the agreed syllabus requires of the school, all communications with the school regarding this issue, and the school's response. Please send any such complaint, marked for the attention of Neil Lawson, to: curriculumsupport.team@education.gov.uk.

The religious studies A level attracts UCAS points for those students who take it. Although the subject of religious education has compulsory status, there are reasons why it might not be practicable for it to attract UCAS points in its own right. For example, as each local authority area has its own agreed religious education syllabus, these may impose different requirements on schools, making it difficult to determine how many points to award.