

Why do you think the number of entries for RS/ethics and philosophy has declined so significantly in recent years?

Responses from teachers in 5 Northumberland secondary and high schools.

RS's exclusion from the EBacc.

Because RE is not a national curriculum subject and RS is excluded from the EBacc, students assume the subject does not have to be taken seriously - the government is partly to blame for the decline in the number of GCSE entrants.

The new exam specs have made RS/ethics and philosophy less interesting/topical to students.

There are fewer opportunities now than in the past to examine topical ethical/moral issues or life's big questions.

RS/ethics and philosophy is not regarded as an important enough subject in my school.

By the end of KS3, many students lack interest in the subject, perhaps because they have not studied it for long or very well in first, primary and/or middle schools before reaching us.

It would be better if there were more opportunities to study religions and secular world views other than the six religions we as a nation have agreed HAVE to be taught. Imagine how interest would be revived if we examined humanism and/or other secular "isms", Zoroastrianism, Rastafarianism and Mormonism. Here in Northumberland we should look at expressions of Paganism.

There is too much emphasis on the acquisition of facts and not enough on the application of factual knowledge.

Knowledge always seems to trump skills and understanding.