



What pupils say

“I think in RE it is always very interesting to learn about different beliefs while still believing in my religion”

“I have found out that many people live in ways that to you are unthinkable but to them are normal”

“I like RE because we can ask questions and talk about what we think”

“We discuss issues that make me look inside myself and think very deeply about the world, behaviour, my personality, my beliefs”

“In RE I like it that there is not just one right answer. I like the debates. I like getting people to respond and I like to understand other peoples’ decisions”

Pupil quotations© National Association of Teachers of RE



Religious Education

- ✓ Is relevant for all children, whatever their religion or beliefs
- ✓ Teaches understanding of world religions and beliefs
- ✓ Shows how religion influences individuals, families, communities and cultures
- ✓ Explores the political and social impact of religion
- ✓ Encourages reflection on issues of justice and truth
- ✓ Provokes questions about the meaning of life
- ✓ Offers opportunities for personal reflection
- ✓ Develops and affirms personal identity and responsible citizenship
- ✓ Prepares children for adult life

RE can help

- ✓ Promote respect for self and others
- ✓ Contribute to an understanding of history and culture
- ✓ Enhance our understanding of global affairs
- ✓ Develop personal well-being and happiness
- ✓ Safeguard ethical standards in public life
- ✓ Generate social and community cohesion
- ✓ Tackle extremism and religious discrimination

RE in British schools is

- ✓ Admired across the world
- ✓ About modern belief
- ✓ A chance to learn about religion without feeling pressurised
- ✓ Intellectually rigorous
- ✓ Up to date, relevant and enjoyable



The Council provides a forum for fifty professional associations and faith and belief communities which are promoting and supporting Religious Education nationally in schools, colleges and universities. In partnership with the Department for Children Schools and Families it is coordinating an action plan for developing Religious Education in England.

www.religiouseducationcouncil.org

Right now, everyone has something to say about religion.

Religious Education helps make sense of it.

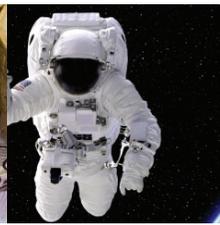


With religion and religious issues frequently topping the news agenda, Religious Education has never been more relevant, engaging and challenging.

Right from primary school, RE gives children valuable insight into the diverse beliefs, ethics and opinions of Britain today. It helps with their own personal development, supporting engagement with the spiritual, moral and social questions that will surface again and again in their lives and their communities.

Not that RE pretends all is rosy in the world. In tackling difficult questions, it provides pupils with insight that can work to challenge stereotypes, promote cohesion and tackle extremism.

RE also does important work encouraging young people to value themselves and become responsible citizens.



What is RE?

Step into a Religious Education classroom today and you'll find a vibrant and diverse subject. Lessons explore the teachings of different religions and worldviews, including Christianity, and the key questions that fascinate children about God and worship, authority, beliefs and values, truth, meaning and purpose.

Religious Education offers pupils the opportunity to explore their own beliefs and reflect on the challenges of serious commitment. It allows them to investigate how different beliefs have shaped individuals, families, communities and cultures.

For many, the excitement in RE lessons comes from engaging with contemporary moral issues such as those around health, relationships, animal rights, wealth, discrimination, the environment and religious extremism.



Others look forward to getting out of the classroom to discover first hand the fascinating variety of belief in Britain today. A visit to a sacred space helps children put classroom knowledge into context and understand a little of the power and mystery experienced by believers.



What do pupils get out of RE?

Children say they enjoy RE because it gives them space to talk, think, discuss, assess and reflect on a wide range of issues in a safe environment. They appreciate learning about a variety of people holding different perspectives and opinions.

Young people recognise how RE prepares them for adult life. It supports pupils in making moral judgements, dealing with misfortune, death and loss. It helps them reflect on the importance of an inner life and can enhance their personal well-being and social identity.

Growing up in a diverse society, pupils learn the importance of being able to get on with those whose viewpoints and values differ from their own. They see the value of RE in equipping them to deal with issues arising not just in school or college, but in their neighbourhood and future workplace.

Whatever their own worldview, young people love RE because it engages them with questions and issues that matter to them.

Why study RE?

RE is an important subject for everybody, not just because of its significance in current world affairs, but because it links so strongly into many other fields – music, art, history, politics, social and cultural issues, global economics – the list is endless.

No sphere of life is untouched by issues of religion and belief, so how can any of us even begin to understand humanity without understanding at least a little about the subject? Matters of religion and belief have, directly or indirectly, affected all our lives and will continue to do so.

