

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

IDEAS for POST 16

There are many ways in which RE can be offered for 16 – 19 students and provided in such a way that it gives real opportunities to enrich, broaden or support the students' studies. Schools need to catch the vision of the possibilities which can add to their students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development but also give added value in academic and vocational terms.

The following suggestions are all ideas for activities which could form part of 16 -19 provision at any time and in any context.

Many of the secondary activities in the What can you do? <http://www.celebratingre.com/index.php/what-can-you-do> and More Activities <http://www.celebratingre.com/index.php/more-activities> sections would be suitable or able to be adapted for 16-19 year olds. These offer the chance for creative engagement and exercise of the imagination for any student in this age range.

Day conferences

Providing 16 – 19 religious education through:

- arranging 'in-house' debates using key speakers on religious/philosophical issues e.g. the problem of evil, the existence of God, situation ethics, origins and creation
- attending a local sixth form conference with students from several schools or participating in national religious education conferences e.g. on topics to do with community cohesion, the Holocaust, religious fundamentalism
- hosting a day of arts in religion, entailing demonstrations, discussions and workshops with performers of music, dance or drama from different religions



- meeting people of faith/secular persuasions in an inter-faith forum for discussion on specific topics e.g. religious experience today, religious views on citizenship
- engagement in an experiential day where students can explore questions of spiritual development and consider their own thoughts, ideas and beliefs e.g. the [Breathe Project](#) or engagement in simulation days concerned with beliefs and values e.g. organised by charities or bodies like Damaris and their 'President for the Day' experience www.damaris.org/cm/home/schools
- developing email links with students from different faith communities (e.g. in schools in the Midlands or London), and then meeting up to explore religious ideas, practices, places of worship or to take part in a joint conference.

Field Trips

Providing 16 – 19 religious education through:

- visiting places of worship, sites of pilgrimage or religious interest (e.g. Coventry Cathedral, Walsingham or The Holocaust Centre), at a distance from the school, possibly organised by students themselves
- arranging to experience religious/secular traditions outside their own experience e.g. attending occasions such as a Barmitzvah, Hindu wedding, Orthodox Easter celebrations, a Believer's Baptism, Eid celebrations, a Humanist naming ceremony or to visit a Muslim madrassah, Sikh langar or a Buddhist community



- spending a day, or longer, with a religious community e.g. interviewing, observing, working, experiencing silence
- investigating charities with a religious foundation, spending time with workers or at a local/head office or observing/participating in their work e.g. Salvation Army
- accompanying a visit to a place of worship for a primary feeder school or a Key Stage 3 class and taking an active role in its planning, organisation and delivery
- having an opportunity to join study trips abroad incorporating a visit to a place of international religious significance.
- working with other schools to set up a Youth SACRE. Some local authorities have these already; the National Association of SACREs website www.nasacre.org.uk has an example (under Projects) showing the steps taken in the London Borough of Bromley to engage Y12 students in planning and starting up a Youth SACRE
- developing an RE trail in your local area. Using the guidelines on the website (www.retrails.org.uk) sixth form students could make contact with, visit, photograph and plan five or six places of worship or of religious/belief significance within the local area in order to construct an RE trail for schools to use in their RE work.

Other ideas

Providing 16 – 19 religious education through:

- creating a vox pop or video on a controversial issue or one of specific interest to the student body. TrueTube <http://www.truetube.co.uk/> provides advice and online tools for making successful videos. It encourages young people to explore important themes and young film makers can have their videos uploaded to this monitored website.

Conclusion

Although there are obvious caveats to do with health and safety, such field trips could provide powerful insights into the lives and motivations of religious believers, and offer real opportunities for students to develop and promote cross-cultural links and inter-faith and interpersonal relations.