



The importance and value of RE

The following statements are amongst those collected at an event held at the Zoroastrian Centre, Harrow during

CELEBRATING RE Month

March 2011



Guests were invited to write on coloured hands – the ‘leaves’ of the Celebrating RE tree symbolising reaching out, holding on, resonances of friendship, helping, cooperation and creativity:



- RE matters because ...
- RE is important because ...
- RE ...



The purple, magenta, turquoise, emerald and orange stand for the enriching experiences of new insights, unexpected visions and startling thoughts which are the stuff of which good RE is made.



RE matters because ...

- ... you get time to learn about other religions as well as yours. Also it is a way to show respect to your friends' religions.
- ... it helps people to understand other religions and appreciate worshippers. RE teaches tolerance and understanding .



RE matters because ...

- ... in an increasingly secular society it can be the only time in which pupils are introduced to the 'God' concept.
- ... it helps the whole community to appreciate each other at the deepest possible level.



RE matters because ...

- ...we learn about other people's beliefs and values. It helps us to understand other people and our world.
- ... it teaches us to be less ignorant of the many religions that are among us.



RE matters because ...

- ... it is a way to celebrate religion – both our similarities and differences. It promotes tolerance and respect for all religions. Without RE how would there be coexistence?
- ... in our multicultural community it is a valuable thing to know about others' beliefs.



RE matters because ...

- ... it challenges us to think about our beliefs and those of our neighbours. It helps to bind communities together and bring cohesion.



RE is important ...

- ... because it teaches us to be less ignorant.
- ... because it enables us to educate the whole child – dealing with the issues that make a person whole, spirit, mind, body and intellect, and to learn to be a member of a complete society.



RE is important ...

- ... it allows individuals to express themselves in terms of religious and personal beliefs.
- ... because it helps us to develop our own opinions as individuals and to consider issues together.



RE is important ...

- ... to root people in their own traditions which is incredibly important for entering into dialogue with others.
- ... because it is good to learn how different people and cultures relate spiritually.



RE ...

- ... gives children a safe environment to explore some of the most enduring questions of life. It gives children the space to share ideas and often to discuss issues we feel are 'off topic'



RE ...

- ... encourages us to see beyond sight, to hear in the silence – not to be limited by our senses.



RE ...

- ... is a subject which covers a wide spread of curriculum areas – philosophy, history, languages – and which is both fascinating and challenging. It is also instrumental in offering a framework within which children can learn about each others' faiths and beliefs.

