

How does RE contribute to Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural Development?

A key to the importance of RE is the focus it provides for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Promoting Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

The Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for RE makes a clear and intended connection between RE and pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Primary educational legislation requires that all maintained schools provide a balanced and broadly based curriculum that promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society and prepare pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Promoting Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development across the National Curriculum

All National Curriculum subjects provide opportunities to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Explicit opportunities to promote pupils' development in these areas are provided in RE and the non-statutory framework for personal, social and health education (PSHE) and citizenship education. A significant contribution is also made by school ethos, effective relationships throughout the school, collective worship, and other curriculum activities.

The Contribution of RE to Pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development with Reference to the Lancashire RE Agreed Syllabus's Field of Enquiry.

The spiritual, moral social and cultural development of pupils in RE is connected to all four of the elements of the field of enquiry for RE, and centres on the exploration of the question 'what does it mean to be human?'

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development: A distinctive contribution from RE

The Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for RE enables the teaching of RE to make a distinctive and significant contribution to these four aspects of pupils' development. While schools provide for these aspects of personal development in many ways, and through many subjects of the curriculum, RE can provide a particular insight into spiritual and moral education within the curriculum, and makes a distinctive contribution to understanding society and cultural diversity through developing understanding of religions.

There is an extensive literature on these topics, which are always contested. For the purposes of the RE syllabus, the following descriptions provide a basis for ways in which the RE curriculum can contribute to pupils' personal development.

Spiritual development enables people to look within themselves, at their human relationships, at the wider world and at their vision of the divine or the ultimate reality with characteristics such as courage, hope, acceptance, strength, insight, compassion and love, so that they can better face all the sufferings, challenges and opportunities of human life. Opportunities for spiritual development in the RE curriculum may occur through reflection on many aspects of the syllabus content, and enrich pupil's understanding. RE makes a leading contribution to all aspects of spiritual education.

RE provides opportunities to promote ***spiritual development*** through:

- discussing and reflecting on key questions of meaning and truth about such topics as the origins of the universe, life after death, good and evil, beliefs about God and human values such as justice, integrity, honesty and truth
- learning about and reflecting on important concepts, experiences and beliefs that are at the heart of religious and other traditions of belief and practice
- considering how beliefs and concepts in religion may be expressed through the creative and expressive arts and related to the human and natural sciences, thereby contributing to personal and communal identity
- investigating and considering how religions and other world views perceive the value of human beings, and their relationships with one another, with the natural world, and with God
- valuing relationships and developing a sense of belonging
- enquiring into and developing their own views and ideas on religious and spiritual issues.

Moral development enables pupils to take an increasingly thoughtful view of what is right and wrong, to recognise the needs and interests of others as well as themselves and develop characteristics such as truthfulness, kindness, unselfishness and commitments to virtues such as integrity, justice and the will to do what is right. This can enable pupils to reflect on the value of living in ways that respect the well-being and rights of each person. Opportunities for moral development in the RE curriculum may occur through reflection on many aspects of the syllabus content, and enrich pupil's understanding of how religions and beliefs handle moral questions and challenges. RE makes a particular contribution to attitudes that take moral issues, and moral dimensions of other issues, seriously.

RE provides opportunities to promote **moral development** through:

- enquiring into the values identified within the National Curriculum, particularly valuing diversity and enquiring into issues of truth, justice and trust
- exploring the influence of family, friends, society and media on moral choices and how society is influenced by beliefs, teachings, sacred texts and guidance from religious leaders
- considering what is of ultimate value to pupils and believers through studying the key beliefs and teachings from religion and philosophy about values and ethical codes of practice
- exploring the impact and consequences of actions and ideas for different groups of people within our society
- investigating a range of ethical issues, including those that focus on justice, to promote racial and religious respect and personal integrity
- considering the importance of rights and responsibilities and developing a sense of conscience.

Social development enables pupils to relate to others successfully through an understanding of the responsibilities and rights of being a member of various family, local, national and global communities. It enables them to develop social skills, qualities, attitudes and characteristics such as respectfulness, tolerance, and a willingness to get involved. This can help to enable pupils to play a full and fulfilling part in their community and society as, for example, family members, citizens, learners and workers. Opportunities for social development in the RE curriculum may occur through reflection on many aspects of the syllabus content, and enrich pupil's understanding. RE makes a particular contribution to exploring and developing committed attitudes to social change for the well being of all.

RE provides opportunities to promote **social development** through:

- examining the social role of religion in bringing people together, building a sense of identity, encouraging community life and giving a context in which the challenges of human life can be met
- exploring how religious community life works and the contributions community living makes to human well being
- considering how religious and other beliefs lead to particular actions and concerns
- investigating social issues from religious perspectives, recognising the diversity of viewpoints within and between religions as well as the common ground between religions
- articulating pupils' own and others' ideas on a range of contemporary social issues.
- considering ways in which religion can contribute to the community cohesion or to the common good.

Cultural development enables people to develop their sense of their own place and identity in society and to value and participate creatively in their own culture and the cultures of others by developing their appreciation of the arts, sport, music, travel, tradition, custom and other aspects of culture. Cultural development contributes to human wellbeing through enabling participation in diverse cultural life, enriching both individuals and communities. Cultural development enables people to appreciate or participate in local, regional, national, European and global cultures. Opportunities for cultural development in the RE curriculum may occur through reflection on aspects of the syllabus content, and enrich pupil's understanding. RE makes a particular contribution to open minded attitudes to cultural and religious diversity, and to the promotion of cultural enrichment.

RE provides opportunities to promote **cultural development** through:

- encountering people, literature, the creative and expressive arts and resources from differing cultures and religions
- Enquiring into the richness of local and national examples of cultural diversity in relation to religious ways of living
- investigating the ways in which religion is embodied in culture, and exploring the relationships between religions and cultures
- considering the relationship between religions and cultures and how religions and beliefs contribute to cultural identity and practices
- promoting racial and inter faith harmony and respect for all, combating prejudice and discrimination, contributing positively to community cohesion
- promoting awareness of how inter faith cooperation can support the pursuit of the common good.