

Research in RE

9.2

Checklist to support schools in addressing the question, 'Would it be worth conducting our own small-scale research project in RE or accessing research carried out by others?'

The following checklist notes some of the ways into research in RE.

Ways in	Further information
Membership of a professional body	For further information about the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE), go to www.natre.org.uk . Among other things, NATRE has provided bursaries for projects carried out by local groups of RE teachers affiliated to NATRE. In 2011 bursaries of up to £2000 were linked to the National Celebration of RE in March 2011.
Farmington Fellowships	For further information, go to www.farmington.ac.uk .
Accredited professional qualifications	Many universities provide accredited courses, often by distance learning, with a specific emphasis on RE.
Masters in Teaching and Learning (MTL)	For further information, go to www.tda.gov.uk/teachers .
Conducting a survey or questionnaire	Many schools have conducted surveys of pupils about attitudes to RE in general, or to methods of teaching and learning used in RE in particular. Surveys amongst parents/carers about attitudes to, or experience of, religion and belief can provide raw data to analyse within RE. The internet can also provide opportunities for electronic surveys. Some faith-specific websites provide an opportunity to put questions to believers.
Interviewing students	Interviewing pupils about aspects of school life has become accepted practice. Regarding RE resources, questions could relate to such things as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attitudes to different kinds of resource (the 'best', the 'worst', their favourite) • responses to particular resources (e.g. a book, a website) • reflections on particular lessons (and impact of resources used) • thoughts on representation (i.e. whether particular resources represent their own religious/belief backgrounds fairly) • ideas about future use/development of resources.