

## Module 1 – Activity 1: Rosie Wellingham

Intended audience: Parents

Is your child considering taking their RE studies to GCSE level? Want to discuss their choices with them, but not sure what RE involves? Read on!

There are so many reasons why you should be excited about your child studying RE! RE provides opportunities to open your child's mind in ways that no other subject can. Their critical thinking skills will be sharpened by this rigorous subject, which demands the evaluation of complex moral issues, and will enable them to critically discuss these issues. This same process helps children to uncover and shape for themselves their own beliefs; it is not until a problem is put to us that we really think about how we would respond to it – or how we would want to respond to it, the kind of person we ideally want to be. Thus the study of RE will not only help your child develop such important life skills as critical thinking, self-expression, the ability to make well-reasoned points, and to consider thoughtfully the world around them, but also help them to mature in a more personal sense.

When different kinds of people come into contact, prejudice is inevitable – or is it? We believe that RE is a powerful tool to help combat prejudice towards all forms of difference, and as such will help form the world your child grows up in into a more peaceful and tolerant place. RE offers children the opportunity to develop an understanding of people with fundamentally different worldviews to their own, in a manner that challenges the half-baked stereotypes offered to children by the media by replacing them with a deeper and realistic comprehension of the lives of others. The world is a diverse place, and so are the classrooms of modern UK schools – increasingly so – which only makes the need for RE all the more pressing!

What's more, the study of RE is the perfect complement to the rest of your child's education. The vast majority of the world's population follows some religion, so an understanding of these religions and the motivations of those who follow them is essential for a full understanding of the workings of our world. Take, for example, the study of History – how

can you fully comprehend how the Holocaust came about without some understanding of the Jewish faith that Hitler was so vehemently against? Or the Arts – how can the study of Bach’s music be complete without some appreciation of the central role his devotion to God played in his composing? Not to mention the fascinating debate that comes with exploring the Sciences alongside the consideration of the possibility of a divine creator.

RE challenges, RE opens doors, RE creates links. RE develops well-rounded and well-informed young people by developing their potential for self-awareness, social responsibility and empathy for difference. RE will introduce your child to a fascinating world of ideas that would otherwise be inaccessible. Ask your child today what they’ve been learning in their RE classes; you might just be amazed by their answer!