

MODULE 8: IMPROVING PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE THROUGH ENGAGEMENT WITH RESEARCH

What is research? How can it help teachers develop and improve their practice? Research is often mentioned as something teachers should know about and engage in, but access to research is not straightforward for a busy practitioner. This module offers a supportive introduction to research about RE and allows you to explore the application of chosen research questions to your classroom.

Over the course of this module you will:

- gain or develop knowledge and understanding of academic research related to RE
- apply the knowledge and understanding you have gained to an issue in your professional practice
- evaluate how your professional practice has improved through your engagement with research
- learn to use the Research for RE website, a resource you can return to again and again

Outcomes

You will register (for free) as a user of the website Research for RE. On this site researchers post research reports, presented in a clear and straightforward fashion. You will use this site for this module and as part of your ongoing professional development.

Through engaging with specific research reports and their implications for practice you will gain an introduction to academic study. This could lead you to pursue a Masters level qualification, or just offer experience and understanding of what research involves. This module can also offer a broader perspective on your RE teaching, including how findings from academic research feed in to discussions about the subject.

What topics will I cover?

You will consider specific research reports, both required within the module and chosen by you to address a specific question. You will think about the nature and role of research and how it can allow professional practice to expand and develop. You will consider what research questions, if answered, would be helpful in your own teaching and learning context.

What tasks will I complete?

Task 1: complete a template showing your engagement with research thinking generally

Task 2: complete a template showing your engagement with three given research reports, chosen to illuminate aspects of the religion and worldviews classroom

Task 3: choose two reports that could help you develop, show your thoughts through a template

Task 4: plan a practical intervention, addressing research questions about your own practice. Present this as either a 1,500 word written piece or a PowerPoint of 15 slides.

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