

How does this affect me?



- ▶ I will have to be open to the possibility of learning from the religious diversity around me.
- ▶ I will have to be a patient, open-minded listener.
- ▶ I will have to be ready to consider controversial, difficult issues very carefully, especially those concerned with religious plurality and differences over truth-claims.

How does this affect my teaching?



- ▶ I will have to be ready to teach in ways that enable young people to express their own views and beliefs, expecting them to listen fully and carefully to one another.
- ▶ I will have to be ready to manage discussion of controversial issues, and to recognise – and communicate to young people – that agreement or final answers may be unreachable.
- ▶ I will have to challenge young people to express views on controversial material, while insisting that they do so sensitively, at the same time, protecting them from insensitive responses from others.

What can I do?



- ▶ I can establish effective ground rules with the young people that I teach, in order to promote fair representation and interpretation of religions and non-religious world views and dialogue over controversial issues in a safe space.
- ▶ I can embody the values underpinning the principles of fair representation and interpretation of religions and non-religious world views and dialogue over difference, acting fairly and impartially as a teacher, building a classroom culture where all young people are confident to speak and listen. I can set a democratic example to young people.
- ▶ I can also share these values and practices with colleagues, parents and other members of the school community, explaining what is meant by fair representation and interpretation of religions and non-religious world views and dialogue over controversial issues in a safe space.

What do I need to develop?



- ▶ I need to develop knowledge and understanding of different religious and non-religious world views, including diversity between and within these, so that I can represent and encourage young people to interpret them fairly.
- ▶ I need to develop skills in managing discussion, encouraging young people to participate in dialogues over difference and insisting that they listen respectfully to one another.
- ▶ I need to develop a range of teaching methods that promote inquiry into religious diversity and the exchange of different perspectives among young people. This also means having regard to classroom layout and the materials displayed in the classroom: does the layout facilitate communication between students, not just from the teacher? Do the materials on display illustrate that people's views and beliefs are different and that respect is needed? Are ground rules for discussion clearly displayed?