

The Work Exemplar Project

The work examples shared here have been collected from a wide range of schools across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire during the spring term of 2018.

Teachers were asked to bring work samples for moderation to the RE network meetings. During the sessions they then worked in groups looking at the work presented and deciding whether it met expectations. The expectations used were those on the ODBE End-of-Phase outcomes document.

The project has achieved several aims:

1. Attending teachers were able to see the kind of work that is being recorded by teachers in other schools
2. A range of materials has been collected that can be used (anonymously) for work moderation activities
3. A baseline of current RE standards has been set so that progress and improvements can be identified next time a moderation activity takes place.

# Limitations:

Looking at individual pieces of self-selected work, without a view of the planning is of limited value as it is not always easy to see what the task set out to achieve, what support or input was given or where in the unit the task occurred.

# Key learning points:

Teachers very quickly recognised that learning objectives needed to be more clearly articulated. Objectives such as to “know”, “Understand”, “Think about” were too difficult to assess against; other learning objectives were not sufficiently focused on the RE learning.

Even where objectives were well articulated, tasks did not always allow pupils to achieve them.

Too many tasks involved unnecessary activities – drawing and colouring without a clear purpose, writing personal opinions with no requirement to reference religious material or learning, or ordering, sorting and matching tasks with insufficient challenge (i.e.no redundant material) were very common.

Looking at individual pieces of work, without the planning or context is very hard to assess. Think about this when conducting your own work scrutiny.

# The work samples on the website:

Work samples from KS1, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2 are included on the website.

The samples chosen are typical of the samples submitted and show a range of achievement.

The commentary highlights ways that the task shows pupil achievement but also shows ways in which the task could have been improved to make it more useable, assessable and RE focused. Clearly, because the context, input, support, prior knowledge or ability of the pupils is unknown, the comments refer only to the piece of work as it is presented and therefore cannot be considered as a criticism of the teacher or the pupils.

# How to use the exemplars and commentaries:

1. Look at the chosen piece of work and make your own judgement about it.
2. Compare it to a piece of work or a task that you have set your class.
3. Read the commentary and compare the comments to your own opinions.
4. Plan a similar task, taking note of the positive and negative comments
5. Compare the results
6. Send any feedback (or additional work samples) to anne.andrews@oxford.anglican.org particularly if you disagree with any of the comments.