

Websites

5.2

Checklist to support schools in addressing the question, 'When judging the suitability of particular websites for classroom teaching about world religions or belief systems, what questions should we be asking?'

The following is based on the checklist for teachers suggested in the Warwick Report (pp.87–8).

Suitability for the classroom

- How does the content of this site fit into your syllabus (aims, objectives, outcomes, areas of enquiry)?
- Which age/Year group is it suitable for? (How will using this site improve the quality of RE? What tasks can you set? How would they be assessed?)
- How is this website better than another resource (DVD, video, textbook, artefact)? (What range of content does the site offer, e.g. text, AV, animations, assessment?)
- Is the readability suitable for the age group that the material is aimed at?
- Is the content of the website accurate? (How do you know?)
- Is the content free from bias, or is the site honest about its bias? (How do you know?)
- Is there recognition of complexity and internal diversity?
- Is the content up to date? (How do you know?)
- If advertising appears on the site, is it appropriate?

Navigation and technical issues

- Is the structure of the whole site clear and easy to understand?
- Can you get back to where you came from, and to the home page, easily and from within the site?
- Does the site have a search engine? How useful and effective is it?
- Does the site direct you to other sites and is it obvious when this has happened?
- Is there a good balance of text, spacing and image?
- What multimedia does the site use? Is this accessible on the computer that you are using?
- Does the resource require you to download/ install any software/plugins? If so, is this easy to do? Is it possible to do this in school?