

Top Ten Tips for Supporting a Student Teacher in Delivering High Quality RE

Having a student teacher working alongside you, provides the perfect opportunity to share your expertise and enthusiasm with the future generation of teachers.

These are some ways that we have been able to do in our contexts.

1. Model the teaching of what Good RE lessons look like. Talk with them about the lesson intentions and pupil responses. Evaluate it together, be honest about how you think the lesson went, changes you might make another time. Model the skills of being a reflective practitioner.
2. Arrange for the student teacher to observe RE lessons across the different phases. Encourage them to talk to the teacher of the lesson and engage with pupils during the lessons. Talk with the student about questions that they could ask to the teachers and pupils. If possible, watch some lessons together so that you can discuss together what they have seen.
3. Support them in planning RE lessons initially, building up their skills in planning and delivering good RE lessons. Paired teach to build up confidence in teaching RE.
4. Encourage them to complete some CPD to develop their RE subject knowledge – Culham short courses NATRE resources Good RE films <https://www.natre.org.uk/primary/good-learning-in-re-films/> <https://courses.cstg.org.uk/> (Primary Beginning Teacher courses)
5. Model and encourage use of ambitious religious vocabulary.
6. Try to include a visitor and / or a visit to a place of worship whilst the student teacher is working with you. Include them in the planning of the visit / visitor, so that they can see what effective RE looks like. Review the visit/ visitor with them afterwards.
7. Encourage use of vocabulary around diversity such as, most, some, many ...
8. Spend time directing them to quality resources. NATRE resources and guidance on using artefacts <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-re/guidance-on-resources/artefacts-and-visual-images/>
9. If you are an RE lead in your school and attend or lead a local group, if possible introduce your student to a local group session so that they can learn from other teachers too.
10. Share your passion and enthusiasm for high quality RE with them. Allow your pupils to share their love for RE too, by conducting a pupil interview with the student joining in, so that they can see pupils' enthusiasm for RE.