

**Book title:** Pedagogies of Religious Education

**Author:** Michael Grimmitt

**Publication date:** 2000

### **1. What is your overall impression of the book?**

This book consists of the most influential research for RE in 25 years. It consists of essential teaching and learning strategies, and analyses the current educational policies in RE, such as less time for debating and learning from religion due to exam pressures. It consists of good examples of how pedagogies in RE are put into practice in the classroom. It also focusses on how these pedagogies affect the development of students socially, spiritually, morally and culturally to enable them to become pluralistic contributors to the diverse and multicultural society in which we live.

Human development: 'learning about and learning from'. Religions and beliefs should be studied not only in their own right but also with a view to what they can contribute to the personal development of the learner. Practical example: Taking the theme of worship, pupils discover the worship practices of a community and are then encouraged to consider what it is they personally revere and respect most deeply, and how that makes them feel.

### **2. Who do you think would benefit most from reading the book? What will they learn?**

The pedagogy in RE of the Human development model: learning about/learning from, for example: encouraging pupils to develop their own patterns of belief and behaviour through exploring religious beliefs and practices and related human experiences.

Providing opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.

### **3. What did you think about the quality of the writing? Please consider the tone, structure and ideas. Does it suit the audience?**

The book consists of clear structure and starts off with a detailed analysis of contemporary pedagogies in RE, before explaining some of the practical research projects and case studies. It suits the audience; trainee teachers.

### **4. Please discuss the research used to underpin the ideas. What evidence does the author use? Is it robust and up-to-date?**

Grimmitt's research is up to date and robust and consists of the works of influential contributors of major research projects in RE. It brings together the most influential research and development in RE for the last 25 years.

The research projects enable teachers to try out the various styles of teaching and learning in their own classrooms. For example, the use of an artefact of a Hindu God, Shiva (rebirth) can enable students to acquire an understanding of the significance of the characteristics of the God and the reasons for why the religious community hold it sacred.

**5. What did you learn from reading the book? What ideas/approaches/practice will you change or adopt as a result of reading this book?**

This book has encouraged me to pay attention to the design of activities in my classroom and make sure that students interact with information I am presenting them with. I have used artefacts and carousels and video clip, planning of trips as these are all valuable aspects of the human development model to enable pupils to develop morally, socially, culturally.

**6. Could you share a quote from the book that particularly resonated with you?**

“Teaching RE is a complex process which requires approaches to teaching and learning to be informed by pedagogical principles which draw upon psychological theories of human development”.