

This is a list of ideas gathered by a group of NATRE executive members about how a more able child in RE **could** be challenged.

It is not intended to be an exhaustive list, but to be used as a starting point for teachers when reflecting on the opportunities they are providing in the classroom.

It is worth remembering that what is good RE for more able pupils can also be good RE for all pupils.

The following document has been referred to when creating this list: "[What can you do? Gifted in RE](#)" from the Religious Education Council (REC)



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Our top five ideas to challenge a more able child in the RE classroom:

- 1. Use stories to prompt deeper thinking.** Stories are a great way to challenge a more able child. Instead of simple recall or describe activities after a story, instead ask a more able child to analyse or evaluate. Prompt them to reflect on what the impact of the story could be. How might the story make a difference? What does this story remind them of? What question has that story made them ask?
- 2. Targeted questioning,** like the examples above, can enable children to make connections and to think deeply when answering them. Open-ended questions are particularly useful for this too.
- 3. Provide opportunities for children to ask their own questions.** This could take the form of showing the children an image and then asking: "What question does this raise for you?" This could take learning on an unplanned route, so the teacher may need flexibility in approach here.
- 4. Give them the opportunity to articulate their thoughts and opinions** in class or in a debate situation. The REC suggests some potential topics for debate such as: "People have forgotten the meaning of Christmas" or "Religious symbols should be kept private and out of sight".
- 5. Opportunities to use imagination** are important. The annual [NATRE Spirited Arts](#) competition is a fantastic opportunity for more able children to think deeply, make connections and innovate in a creative way. Another good idea is to host an RE writing competition in school, over a series of four or five weeks. See the REC document (linked to the left) for more details and ideas.