



Q2. In what ways enrich RE?	Q3. Improve next year?	Q4. Recommend?
<p>There are areas to RE that I didn't know existed.</p> <p>Learnt / understand a lot more x 16 / than at school x 9 / which will help in GCSE x 3 / different / new religions & beliefs x 13</p> <p>I learnt the views of some actual religious people x2 (as opposed to a text book) and benefited x2 / I was able to inquire about religion directly to followers.</p> <p>Learning RE in an enjoyable / different way / meeting different people x2</p> <p>All workshops really good / relevant / interesting x5</p> <p>It made my knowledge more varied / broadened x2 / loads of information / got me interested in other religions</p> <p>Made me think...deeper / more than usual /of religions differ..</p> <p>It made me open my eyes &/or mind more x7 / understand more religions x2 / view things from different viewpoints / helped me understand & visualise what (other) religions are like x5 / & not the stereotypes / about religions I wasn't so confident with.</p> <p>Everything / quite a lot / lots of great things x2...like the games, work & all sorts / opened opportunities for an honest debate / discussion.</p> <p>Gave me an insight / new perspectives x2 / got personal view / people's opinion / many viewpoints on controversial subjects</p> <p>Very informative about how people in certain faiths think x4 & identify themselves / allowed us to see different religions in more depth & people's roles / & effect on people / how different religions cope & act on issues</p> <p>I have learned...new things x2 – especially about Judaism x2 / JW x2 / Quakers x4 / Humanism / funerals / the funeral business / more about discrimination.</p> <p>I understand some of it but I would have liked to (<i>attend</i>) the Buddhism (<i>workshop</i>).</p> <p>I liked learning more about discrimination than the religion -the religion was less fun. The snowball thing was funny.</p> <p>None / didn't x4 / heavy going x2 / it didn't really but I understand more beliefs / I didn't enjoy RE so much today as I do with Miss Lucas.</p>	<p>Not much actually – it's good the way it is!</p> <p>No improvement needed x6 / everything fine thank you / don't know x3 / That's for you.</p> <p>More interactive x 32 (like Moses)</p> <p>More activities x 32 (like JW)</p> <p>More...fun / games x4 / quizzes x2 / engaging x2 / interesting x6 / exciting / more 'group' activities involving open discussion / talk more /communicate more with students / Make less boring x2 / no question avoiding x2 / more funeral stuff.</p> <p>Needs to be a good balance of interactivity, knowledge & fun.</p> <p>Put hands up & take each person a turn to ask / better icebreakers x2 / more.</p> <p>Staying in school classes x5 / ..I'd get involved more / teachers I know x2 / choose groups /make friends / more welcoming</p> <p>Get some of the teachers to value & respect.</p> <p>Get our attention, like Moses / different / cooler people / meet Moses.</p> <p>Make shorter /less lessons / Longer time x3 / get more things in / cover more / a variety of faiths / everyone meet every religious person.</p> <p>More technically prepared x2.</p> <p>Fix vending machine x7 / the chairs</p>	<p>Yes 84 / No 10 / Dpnds 32</p> <p>Good opps to look at different people's points of view / learn about different cultures & beliefs.</p> <p>Learning from openly religious people.. more interesting than a normal lesson.</p> <p>Really enjoyed – good experience / well good x2 / interesting / enlightening / very helpful / it's fun x3 / lovely / very educational x2 / helps with RE / GCSE / better understanding x2</p> <p>Yes - so I can come.</p> <p>Good to find answers about more religions / We should know about religious things</p> <p>It gives insight into a lot of religions that not many people know very much about / opens your eyes & mind x2 / students should be specially picked</p> <p>If they want to x2 / learn RE x6 / are interested x8 / more active x2 / more fun / activities more interesting x2 / if more like Moses x2 & Jane & sarah.</p> <p>It gets them out of school / boring / not that enjoyable</p>

IMPRESSIONS GAINED FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE PORTSMOUTH SACRE STUDENT ENRICHMENT DAY 27 JUNE 2013 - Michael (edited)

The day gave me much to consider and I fear that I have been somewhat brutal in what I have had to say about it. I have often been told that I expect too much from children 'these days', and that I don't quite understand the modern child's mindset. I reject this criticism because I believe that children have tremendous potential, but we are all too prepared to embrace a failure to achieve that potential in a platitudinous way.

When I had been invited to participate I had rather assumed that the students concerned would be picked because their interest in the subject matter so merited their inclusion. I was shocked to find that hardly any student wanted to interact. The first two sessions were deadly. It was a bit like wading through treacle. The teachers who accompanied each group attempted to kick start discussion even to the extent of making deliberately provocative statements. In one instance the teacher told the group that they were all racist because it had been reported in the media that Portsmouth was a very racist city. Even this failed to elicit anything more than a shrug of the shoulders.

As the day wore on things did get better – if only marginally.

It was a challenging day that gave some fulfilment but rather more concern for the future of our children.

My main concerns are essentially twofold. I do not believe that children can for example 'identify and investigate the questions posed and the responses offered by the world's religions and non-religious worldviews' (*Draft Programmes of Study for Key Stages 1-3*), if their knowledge of even one religion is as lacking as it appeared to be yesterday. Whilst I enjoyed giving presentations I felt that it was the equivalent of trying to convey pure mathematical concepts to people who had not yet mastered their nine times table.

Jehovah's Witnesses: (edited)

*The students behaved very well, there was no inappropriate behaviour or anything like that. However we did notice this year that the students on the whole, were a lot quieter than previous years we have done. ..**we found the students this time were much more reluctant to interact and get involved..***

The SACRE day is a great opportunity that we love to take part in every year. young ones like the students that attended the SACRE day don't usually get a chance to speak tothis is something we value very much because we get to speak to younger people and see what they think about the Bible. They always seem to respond very well to our presentation as we try to cater it around them, and it's a chance for us to show them more about who we are and the loving God that we believe in. We get great pleasure doing this and answering any questions that these students may have about us.

It's great also for spreading a bit more awareness for us too... I know i speak for myself and the others with me, when i say that we all enjoyed the day very much, and every time we come away from it with some great experiences to tell our friends in our organization!

Report for SACRE Nov 2013 – Points from SFG response to student feedback:

Dear Students

I thought you might like to know that your Evaluations were worth completing – next year I will make some changes based on what you have said, as I did for this year! There were lots of positive comments about how much knowledge you had gained and how useful it was to hear from real people, including some faiths or philosophies you had not met before. There were some useful suggestions that I have tried to address:

Some students said: More activities and interaction!

I did explain to workshop leaders that we wanted inter / active workshops, and offered loads of advice and support – but I realise that some were more suited to this approach than others. I will try even harder to get that message across! *On the other hand.....*some workshop leaders were very disappointed that when they asked YOU questions or tried to provoke a debate they got very little back....I will do my best to ensure that teachers prepare students to do their bit as well next year! *(I have some tricks planned already but don't let on to your teachers!)*

Some students said: it was sometimes a bit awkward being with people you didn't know.

I am aware this is a bit daunting... Mixing up schools means that your school meets all the workshop leaders and you can share experiences later. It gives you a glimpse of what college is like and a chance to meet new people. To help - I gave extra time at the start of Workshop 1 for icebreaker activities and teachers had the chance to say which students preferred to be together. I am looking at putting larger numbers from one school together and other strategies to get everyone relaxed and talking!

LAST YEAR some students said: workshops should be shorter to fit more in (some asked for longer!).....So I changed from 40 mins to 30 mins and this year a few said it was too short! I will discuss this again with teachers and workshop leaders.

There are also some points to explain:

The conference was aimed at **enriching** your Religious Education in the broadest sense. It was not designed just for GCSE, but to allow you to explore issues, views and faiths beyond the classroom. The workshop leaders are ordinary people – not trained presenters or teachers - who gave their time so you could meet ‘some actual religious people’ (*as a few of you commented*) and were expecting you to arrive with questions...so some were a bit surprised when few students spoke up when invited.

I will be contacting workshop leaders with a summary of your views, and discussing plans for next year with your teachers.

Your answers summarised:

Would you recommend this event to students from your school next year?

YES 84 / NO 10 / DEPENDS 32 (*mainly on activities it seems*)