

READY - Religious Education and Diversity

Sharing experiences of, and approaches to, teacher education in the context of "Education and Training 2020" (ET 2020)



READY
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND DIVERSITY

Exploring RE in Sweden

The video section of this DVD shows "Two Swedish Classrooms": Glimpses from lessons on "My identity" and "Where can you find religion?". Student teachers and pupils explore such questions as what part religion might play in the makeup of your identity and others identities; what religion is, and where it can be found – in oneself, in one's home or neighbourhood?

The DVD includes an English translation of Swedish curricula and two examples of teaching made by student teachers. The clips serve as examples of what integrated RE could look like, when religion as a concept might be unfamiliar and the "religious makeup" of one's classroom is unknown – but probably varied. You will find their lesson plans, presentation material, as well as reflections afterwards.

In the course of the READY project, students from Tübingen, Germany, and Karlstad, Sweden, discussed their respective context of religious education in school. Some interesting questions were raised; video presentations and the letters exchanged are included on the DVD. You will also find (video) reflections of visiting teachers to Karlstad and their impressions of Swedish RE.

Copying the video material is not permitted. The recordings may only be shown within the framework of teacher education and only with the explicit consent of the READY consortium.

Technischer Hinweis: Die DVD ist unter Windows als Autostart-DVD erstellt. Bitte warten! Falls Autostart an Ihrem PC deaktiviert ist, kann das Projekt über einen Doppelklick auf die Datei „ReligiousEducation.exe“ gestartet werden.

Die Filme (Flash Video) und PDFs sind außerdem in den jeweiligen Projektordnern separat zugänglich.



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Religious Education and Diversity – Exploring RE in Sweden



Religious Education and Diversity

Two Swedish Classrooms:
"My identity" and
"Where can you find religion?"



Erasmus+

This DVD – Introduction and Overview

In Sweden, religion is a compulsory subject for all pupils. It is an integrated subject, meaning that all pupils study the same subject, in the same classroom. Teachers do not know the religious affiliation of pupils, whether they adhere to any particular tradition, which, or none. Depending on the location of the school, the class might be very diverse, or less so. But the discourse on religion in Swedish society in general could be described as sceptical towards religious institutions at least, as well as, arguably, religion itself. The teacher must therefore both introduce the phenomenon of religion as such to the pupils, as well as introduce “the five world religions”, as the curriculum puts it, and discuss normative ethical theory with the pupils. Introducing the five religious traditions of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism includes their history and development, as well as how various interpretations across and within the traditions might impact how adherents live their lives in Sweden and internationally.

Besides English translations of curricula, the main content of the DVD is a video composed of two clips of different lessons, by two pairs of student teachers. The students are in the middle of their training. Both are studying to be teachers in upper secondary school, and the clips are taken from such a setting. Their lesson plans and the presentation material used is included on the DVD. You will also find two video-interviews, in which students share their thoughts on why they want to teach RE and what studying to become an RE teacher entails.

In the lesson “My Identity”, the student teachers lead open discussions about *identity* with a small group of pupils. Religion is one of six facets they discuss together with the pupils. The lesson is based on one of the goals of RE as stated in the curriculum, that pupils should be able to give examples of how identity is shaped and connected to religion and conceptions of life, as well as a developed analysis of religion related to ethnicity, gender, sexuality and socioeconomic background.

In the other lesson, “Where can you find religion?”, the student teachers begin by asking the pupils what religion might be. They discuss different kinds of definitions of religion, and the pupils are invited to reflect on where they can perceive religion – in themselves, in their homes, in their neighbourhood, in their city, in the world. They discuss both religion within the private sphere and official religion, as well as

expressions of religion found publicly, in popular culture and the like. One of the exercises featured in the clip is having the pupils map out different locations in the area where religion can be found, using the tool Google Earth, By means of explanation and exercises, the student teachers strive to enable the pupils to meet the knowledge criteria demanded by the curriculum, of “ability to analyse religions and outlooks on life based on different interpretations and perspectives” as well as “knowledge of human identity in relation to religions and outlooks on life.”

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