

Why go for the RE Quality Mark?

To celebrate outstanding practice in RE

To gain national recognition for the work you do with children

To promote RE as a subject that can contribute to whole school improvement

To acknowledge RE's unique contribution to SMSC development

To give the children a chance to express their love of RE and why it is important to them

To affirm the good work you are already doing in RE

To raise the profile of the subject with the wider school community

To provide designated space and time for self evaluation of RE and create action plans/targets as a result

To provide a challenge to work towards with all my colleagues

Summary of Bronze, Silver and Gold

Schools achieving the BRONZE award are those where:

- there is a commitment to ensuring lively and effective learning in RE
- learners are enthusiastic about RE and the subject is well resourced
- subject leaders and senior leaders are able to articulate their philosophy of religious education in their school.

Schools achieving the SILVER award are those where:

- there is high quality learning in RE which is recognised across the school
- learners speak very highly of their experiences in the subject
- the department shares its high quality strategies for learning with other colleagues in the school
- the subject contributes to whole school improvement.

Schools achieving the GOLD award are those where:

- the quality of RE is recognised as outstanding beyond the school
- learners are unanimous in their appreciation of the value of the subject
- excellent practice and innovative strategies developed in RE are shared throughout the school and in the wider community.

There are high expectations and good subject knowledge	Planning builds on prior learning	The quality of RE teaching in most lessons is good	At least three different teaching strategies that promote high-level thinking are used to teach RE
Local or national criteria are used for levels of achievement in planning	Classroom conditions are created for effective learning	There is a safe environment where all learners are valued so that they confidently agree to disagree and express themselves freely	The teacher plans for some space and time, providing opportunity for spiritual development
The RE curriculum is planned around key questions and/or key concepts	The RE subject leader shares strategies for the development of higher order thinking and/or enquiries around big questions with other colleagues	The quality of RE teaching is recognised as good	RE teachers are engaged in whole school curriculum development planning (e.g. in relation to the new NC, thematic or creative approaches)
The RE subject leader works either in local networks, at conferences or on line to share practice	The quality of RE teaching is recognised as outstanding	The RE subject leader knows about and implements new directions in education in relation to teaching and learning in RE.	The subject leader shares high quality pedagogies with other colleagues
The RE subject leader takes a lead in developing the subject with and for other schools			

The REQM: What next?

1. Decide if the REQM is right for your school to aim for in the next 12 months.
2. Apply for the Diocesan grant funding (£300 towards the cost). Submit the form to Kathryn by the end of term. You will be notified of the outcome.
3. Use the criteria and awards section on the REQM website to self evaluate and decide which award you will go for. Complete the criteria forms, highlighting areas of your own practice.
4. Arrange for groups of pupils to complete the learner questionnaire (available on the REQM website)– this should be a cross section of the learners in your school. (Young children and those needing additional support can work with a TA.) Pupils do not have to include their names, unless they wish to. Some schools are offering the questionnaire to all pupils, but this is not necessary.
5. Decide on a rough ‘date’ when you would like your assessment to take place.
6. Complete the application form available on the REQM website.
7. Contact the REQM office admin@reqm.org to arrange for an assessor to visit your school for 2 hours. At the same time send them your application form. The assessor will speak with the head teacher, the subject leader, a small group of pupils and look at the evidence. Once the the date for the assessor visit is agreed, the school will be invoiced.
8. Please notify Kathryn and Louise at the Diocese when you have an assessment date.
9. Once your assessor has visited and given the award. Please notify the Diocese again, and you will be reimbursed with £300.
10. Have a party to celebrate, get the local press along, tweet it, shout about it!!!