

Religious Observance Template in Action.

In my work as a youth and schools worker for the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Reachout Trust, I am regularly involved with planning, preparing and leading of Religious Observance events in primary and secondary schools. I am a member of the chaplaincy team in the Stonelaw High School learning community.

I have implemented the Religious Observance template in my planning and preparation. This has been strategically significant and has been useful in creating more streamlined and focussed events.

The first four elements of the template (aims, objectives, title, and rationale) have enabled me to be more directed on the purpose and reason for the event. Developing this planning process and fully thinking through these four elements, helps the RO event to maintain focus.

To establish the link with AcfE (5-14 curriculum) is an important task. It enables the SMT, staff and chaplains to be informed as to how the event will impact the wider life and curriculum of the school. Using the template, and providing the SMT/HT with it before the event, has increased the sense of teamwork between myself as a chaplain, and the school staff.

The final parts of the template (introduction, stimulus, guided reflection, working out the implications) are the most “practical” components of the template and have ensured that my RO events are in line with the RO guidelines. They give time for pupils to reflect on what they have been involved in and give them opportunities to be actively involved in the event.