



Book review: Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race

Anti-racist religious education



RE TODAY AND NATRE WORKING WITH THE FREE CHURCHES GROUP
AND METHODIST SCHOOLS





Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race by Reni Eddo-Lodge

Review by: Mary Attueyi

What is this book about?

The origin of Black and minority ethnic groups in the UK, their contributions and plight.

What did you love about it?

- It starts with a background of how we got here in the first place
- It was an eye opener and interesting to read.

How did this book have an impact on you as a teacher of RE? Does it imply new ways of doing your job?

As a black teacher myself, the contents of the book and experiences of people did not surprise me as such because I have either experienced or know people who have experienced some of the scenarios talked about in the book. But as an RE teacher I think it is useful in the sense that I have realised the need to support students with a background knowledge and understanding of the origin in the first place.

I would recommend this book to other teachers of RE because...

It is useful in the sense that it enables teachers to build on their background knowledge of the origin of racism as well as build on their empathy and understanding of 'Racism' from the point of view of Blacks and ethnic minority.

Could the book be used for teacher development and / or for and with pupils themselves? How?

I believe it will be good for teachers' development. I have read on social media about some teachers suggesting that issues on racism should be taught as part of PGCE programme. Which tells me a lot of RE teachers are interested in doing it right and in my opinion this is a good start for background information.

Can you give an example of a key quote from the book (keep to about 50 words), and why you chose it?

"White privilege is dull, grinding complacency. It is par for the course in a world in which drastic race inequality is responded to with a shoulder shrug, considered just the norm [...] Everyone is complicit, but no one wants to take on responsibility"

I have chosen this quote because white privilege is not anyone's fault but it is important that we know it exists and can deal with it in the right manner.