

Ackroyd, Rebekah ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0003-7557-9985> (2020)  
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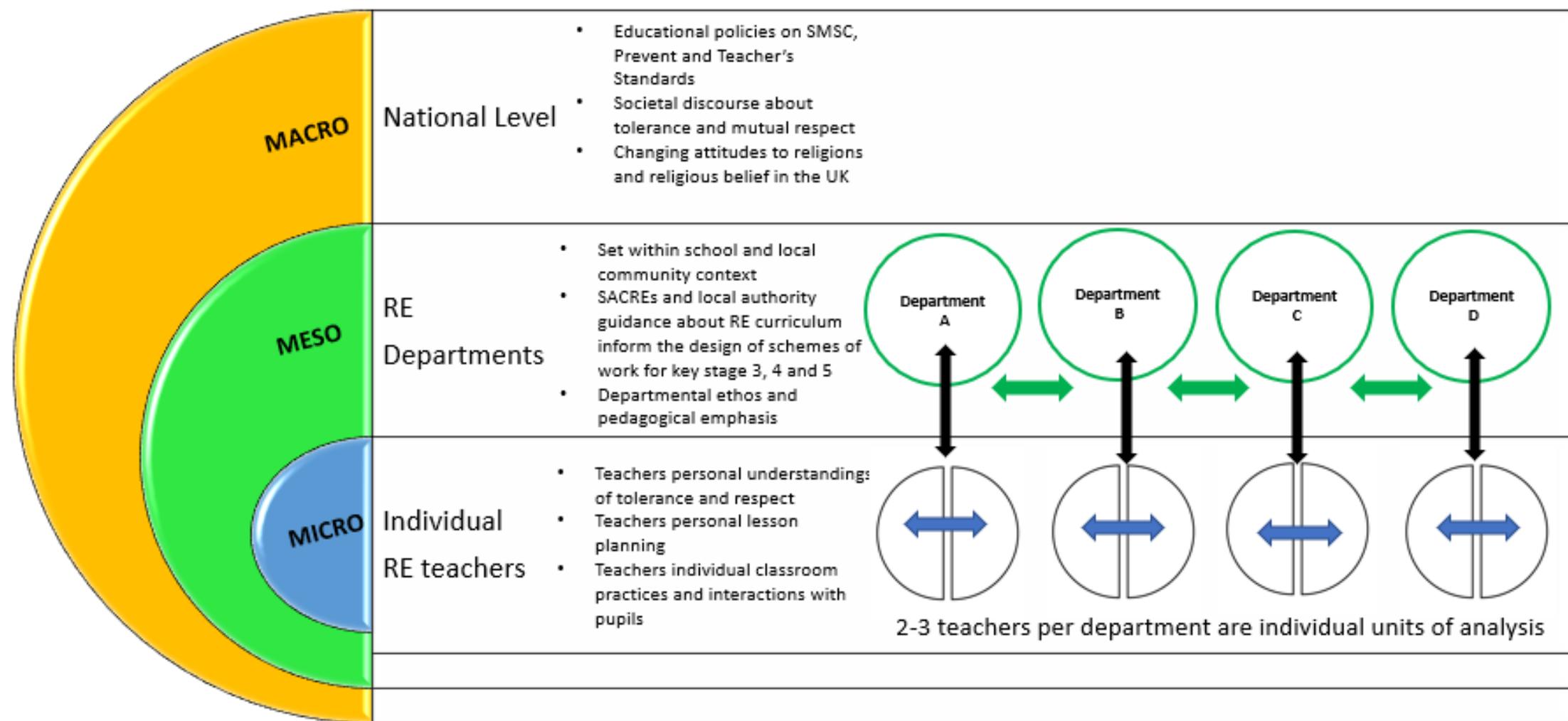
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Promoting tolerance and mutual respect with 11-14  
year olds: a nested case study of understandings and  
practices in Religious Education departments in  
England

How do specialist teachers of RE understand the  
concepts of tolerance and mutual respect?



## Teachers' Standards (Department for Education, 2011, p. 5)

Teachers must not “undermin[e] fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty **and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**”

## Prevent (HM Government, 2011, p. 34)

Extremism is defined as, “**opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect, and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs**”

# What is tolerance?

Forst (2017, section 1) suggests that tolerance is necessarily comprised of three elements: “objection [...] acceptance [...] and] rejection”

- Object to something – we dislike, disapprove or have disgust for something
- Acceptance – we must decide to accept the thing
- Rejection – we can specify on what grounds the thing would be rejected, rather than accepted

# Constructions of tolerance

Conceptions of tolerance developed from Forst (2003, p. 75; 2017, section 2) in order of the level of “mutuality of recognition” they require

Lesser to greater level of mutuality of recognition 			
Tolerance as permission/ putting up with something	Tolerance as coexistence	Tolerance as respect (Formal equality model and Qualitative equality model)	Tolerance as esteem
Tolerance as putting up with something/someone (lower level of mutual recognition)		Tolerance as recognising something of value in something/someone (higher level of mutual recognition)	

# Department for Education's constructions of mutual respect and tolerance

Teachers must not “undermin[e] fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty **and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**” (Department for Education, 2011, p. 5)

# Teachers' constructions of mutual respect and tolerance

**Fiona:** I've never liked the word 'tolerance' because I just think we're putting up with something [...] I kind of thought appreciating, I'd like to use the word, we've got one of our British values is appreciation of diversity, rather than, because tolerance is a bit like, just tolerating people, like I just about tolerate you (haha) I don't necessarily appreciating you...

**Dan:** It's got a negative connotations really, doesn't it? When you say, 'oh I tolerate something'

**Fiona:** Yes, it is, it's like, ohh, you know, I'll... it's not exactly a sort of compliment of any type is it? If we're looking at some sort of, at diversity, and all that kind of thing, then hopefully you're working towards some sort of appreciation, and or respect, from what you said. But I think that respect might still go with tolerance to a certain extent, I would just prefer, to hope that we could go even further, and value the fact that we've got some sort of diversity.

Tolerance as permission/ putting up with something	Tolerance as coexistence	Tolerance as respect (Formal equality model and Qualitative equality model)	Tolerance as esteem
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# Constructions of mutual respect

Table showing the relationship between forms of respect identified by Darwall (1977) and Hudson (1980)

<u>Discourses of respect from Darwall and Hudson</u>			
Recognition respect (Darwall)			Appraisal respect (Darwall)
Directive respect (Hudson)	Institutional respect (Hudson)	Obstacle respect (Hudson)	Evaluative respect (Hudson)

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