Reflections on religious education and catechesis in catholic schools in England

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Summary/Abstract: The distinctions between catechesis and religious education are recognised in the official Church documents on education, but still are causing problems in Catholic education theory and practice. The author of this article offers some reflections on the research into how far the distinction between catechesis and religious education is has been recognised by the Catholic education theorists with particular reference to the National Project of Catechesis and Religious Education. The immense work of the Project has been to supply current needs of RE teachers, pupils of Catholic schools, parents, catechists. Yet, the present situation requires an ecclesial
community which is ready to take the risk of „creating the living language“ as a task of the religious education process.
Religious education (RE) is a statutory subject that all schools must teach in the UK. Half of it requires studies of two faiths from Buddhism, Christianity, Catholic Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism while the other half looks at philosophy and ethics, including Humanism and non-religious viewpoints. In England it is a legal requirement that schools provide Religious Education, but, it is not a compulsory subject and children can be opted out. Our Program High School Program Designed to follow the framework set up by the USCCB in their Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age. 

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