

## EDUCATIO

An international online research journal  
dedicated to Christian education

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTION FOR NUMBER 15

### Talking about God at school?

*Primary, secondary and higher education*

It no longer goes without saying to talk about God or one's faith, in different social environments, and also, of course, at school, whether in primary, secondary or higher education.

In many European countries, the process of secularization of societies leads to calling into question existing religion courses or to linking them, by reducing them, to philosophical or civic approaches by avoiding all existential content.

Silence often avoids a subject perceived as intimate, and the socially required respect for freedom of conscience can reveal a disapproving critical distance. In France, a suspicious secularism can aim to proscribe any exchange, demonstration or personal question about God.

At best, religious behavior, provided that it is socially well circumscribed, will be more or less tolerated as residue of archaic mentalities.

Such a situation questions all educators and adults in schools, and of course naturally, in Catholic schools or schools that are part of a religious context.

Some questions concerning the expression of adults and young people at school deserve to be addressed and clarified:

#### **1°) What is it allowed to say about God in School?**

The question aims, in particular, to clarify what the laws, the magisterium, the various Christian or religious traditions say, which we often think we know without having taken the time to explore their spirit, their letter, their complexity, their fertility and the issues they leave open.

#### **2°) In what context and how can we talk about God at school?**

What are the differences and connections between the God of whom we speak in the context of religious teaching and the one to whom we attest in a profession of faith, a believer's testimony, a religious rite, a prayer? How can we welcome and hear questioning, disbelief, difference, indifference?

Can't an overly normative framework become counterproductive, by undermining freedom of conscience, by diverting the school from its responsibility to educate for choice or by leading young people and adults to annoyance or duplicity?

#### **3°) When to talk about God at school?**

The question is both that of *kairos*, the opportune moment to seize to be heard, and that of how to encourage the occurrence of such *kairos*. These are sometimes moments of confrontation with scandal (of evil, suffering, death, etc.) that paradoxically lend themselves to speaking about God with authenticity.

#### 4°) Is God sayable at school ?

Can God be the subject of a discourse that is not reductive or misleading?

To what extent and under what conditions can the testimony of the way of being and that of social and educational practices allow this approach?

**This call for contributions is published jointly by the journal *Educatio* and by the Research Centre of the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU).**

Articles expected cover different audiences: young people at school, from primary school to higher education, or those not in school; public in specific social or personal situations but concerned at educational or relational levels and who may come from varied cultural areas and different Christian denominations, as well as from other religious currents, with a view to mutual enlightenment.

We expect the following types of contributions:

- 1) Fundamental benchmarks coming from disciplinary fields such as: history, theology, psychology, anthropology, educational or pedagogical doctrines, etc.
- 2) Presentations of practices, completed or in progress;
- 3) Foresight, innovative projects or perspectives focusing on identifying Christian proposals relevant for tomorrow.

Any researcher or author wishing to participate in issue 15 of EDUCATIO will define a subject likely to meet the aims of the chosen axis.

Official languages of publication: English, Spanish, French, Italian, German.

Procedure for submitting an article:

① Firstly, the author sends the Editorial Secretariat the title of the chosen subject accompanied by a succinct presentation.

The Editorial Committee will send a confirmation to the author

② Secondly, the author communicates his complete text to the Editorial Secretariat.

Please consult the instructions for authors:

<https://revue-educatio.eu/avis-aux-contributeurs/>

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Correspondence

[contact@revue-educatio.eu](mailto:contact@revue-educatio.eu)

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