

# A HOSPITABLE APPROACH TO RELIGION AND WORLDVIEWS EDUCATION 'A PEDAGOGY OF EMBRACE'

KATHRYN WRIGHT



## The questions

- Could a Christian theology of hospitality help teachers in Church of England schools understand the purpose and place of RE?
- What would a pedagogical framework for RE based on a theology of hospitality look like?



## Methodology

- Qualitative in nature
- Hermeneutical, theological-philosophical enquiry: Analysis of biblical and conceptual literature
- Active Contemplation on Christian-Judeo art and sculpture
- Small Empirical study: focus group of primary school practitioners.



## A hospitable approach

- **Ontological:** being the teacher
- **Inclusive:** intentionally including those on the margins
- **Relational:** being hosts and guests, serving with humility
- **Participatory:** being in community



## A pedagogical framework rooted in a hospitable approach

- **Creating Space:** purposeful, safe, subversive, intellectually open, inclusive, affirming, solitary, silent, collaborative, slow and deep.
- **Encountering others:** open, transformative, humble, authentic, theological
- **Listening for wisdom:** through narrative, through enquiry, through relationships.



*"In an embrace I open my arms to create space in myself for the other. Open arms are a sign that I do not want to be by myself only, an invitation for the other to come in and feel at home with me. In an embrace I also close my arms around the other. Closed arms are a sign that I want the other to become part of me while at the same time I maintain my own identity. By becoming part of me, the other enriches me. In a mutual embrace, none remains the same because each enriches the other, yet both remain true to their genuine selves."*

(Miroslav Volf, A Vision of Embrace: Theological Perspectives on Cultural Identity and Conflict 1995, p. 203)