

Completing the... "puzzle" of school religious education: the participation of Greece's student population in the ceremonial, sacramental and thanksgiving life of the predominant religion

Abstract:

The present dissertation regards the totality of those practices which are dependent on the Religious Studies course in the provision of school religious education. Prayer, church attendance and national and religious school events are a few of the aspects specifically examined from the point of view of their value importance and their improvement conditions as well as their due adaptation, thanks to the increasing multicultural student society. Significant time and space is also devoted to the indicative and rudimentary approach of the politics of other European countries regarding the aforementioned practices. For a clearer perspective, the most catalytic shapers of religious education are analysed for children of identities: the family environment with the nurture it provides and the church, both with its relations with the Greek government and its contribution in the field of education, nationally as well as universally. Then, the stages of religious development are recorded from infancy to adolescence and data is sought in textbooks -except those of the religious course- that influence the teaching procedure. The study also includes the historical side of things in which excerpts from older textbooks are quoted concerning the above practices and the surrounding religious atmosphere in the educational structures of ancient Greece is illuminated. Finally, the dissertation is concluded with its empirical side where the opinions and actions of public primary school teachers in the prefectures of Arta and Serres on prayer, church attendance and national and religious school events are traced and interpreted in relation to the degree of their intercultural readiness.