

Phenomenon of Polish emigration as well as education of Polish immigrants have already undergone at least basic research, but their religious education has not been the subject of scientific research so far. In order to fill this gap, this project has been prepared with the main aim to present a detailed and critical analysis of a current state of religious education received by Polish children and young people living on emigration in Great Britain. The main research hypothesis of this project is the claim that religious education of Polish children and young people residing temporarily or permanently abroad is inadequate to the conditions under which they live on emigration. Young people who have been excluded from the existing cultural context and who have failed to fully adapt into new circumstances are in a special situation. Therefore, it seems reasonable to assume that none of the currently implemented concepts of religious education sufficiently and simultaneously takes into account both cultural conditionings of the country of origin and those of Great Britain as the current place of residence. For this reason, it fails to sufficiently help in the process of assimilation in multi-religious and multi-ethnic British society. The reference books and the preliminary observation enhance the conviction that religious education in Great Britain fails to fulfil its role with respect to the transfer of the truths of faith and moral principles of one's own religious community but also Anglicanism as a prevailing denomination in Great Britain and the remaining religions present in the British society. The acquisition of such knowledge by Polish young people living in Great Britain seems necessary for the creation of the respect for other denominations and religions. It can therefore be legitimately supposed that the lack of an adequate concept of religious education of Polish children and young people in Great Britain may, on the one hand, lead to religious ignorance and, on the other hand, to isolationism and fundamentalism. In this context, it can be assumed that Polish migrants need a specific concept of religious education, which is distinct both from the one implemented in Poland as well as from the British solutions in this respect. The research authors hope to obtain the information concerning the contents, forms, methods and techniques of religious education of Polish children and young people living in the circumstances of emigration depending on the type of entity implementing religious education. What is more, the level of basic knowledge concerning Christianity (in particular Catholicism and Anglicanism) as well as other religions such as Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism and Buddhism will be tested. The research will also involve the attitudes of Polish young immigrants towards the followers of those religions and their assimilation in the local communities. Both religious education teachers and young people will also be asked to assess the level of satisfaction drawn from religious education implemented by various entities as well as to indicate the problematic issues and to specify the expectations that they have with regard to the future. On the basis of the results obtained, an attempt will be made to assess various aspects of current religious education of Polish children and young people in Great Britain. The issues that are beyond any doubt and, therefore, deserve to be continued and reinforced will also be pinpointed. At the same time, the aspects that require to be redefined will be indicated. The structure of this project is designed to consist of three main research stages: normative, sociological and strategic ones. According to the adopted methodology, the first research stage will comprise a detailed and critical analysis of the religious education guidelines addressed to Polish children and young people living in Great Britain. The guidelines for all entities responsible for religious education of Polish migrants, i.e. state schools, faith schools (mainly Catholic and Anglican ones), Saturday Polish schools and Polish religious communities will be the subject of a detailed analysis. The second stage of the research will comprise a preliminary diagnosis of current cultural conditionings of religious education of Polish children and young people in Great Britain. It will be performed on the basis of both Polish and English reference books as well as the existing results of empirical research. However, the key point of this stage of the research will be to prepare and perform empirical studies among the Polish youth receiving religious education in the facilities of Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales, Polish Catholic Mission in Scotland as well as among religious education teachers working in various educational institutions. The research concerning children and young people will aim to obtain the information regarding organisation, contents, forms, methods and techniques of religious education teaching implemented in Polish pastoral facilities, Polish Saturday Schools and in the schools of the British education system. The knowledge of Polish young people regarding Christian denominations and other religions present in the British society will also be assessed. The degree of the acceptance of the most important information concerning their own religious community and the attitudes presented towards people of different worldviews and religions will be an important dimension of the research that will be conducted. Young Poles will also be asked about their own assessment of the religious education in particular communities and about their proposals in this respect. It is planned that a monograph presenting the overall picture of the religious education received by Polish children and young immigrants in Great Britain as well as scientific articles deepening some of the aspects of the issues under analysis will be the main result of this project.