

Religious Education Workshop



For Parents



*‘Mission Statement - Working,
Learning and Achieving Together
in an explicitly Christ centred
environment.’*

Loving God,

Thank you for the gift of our children.

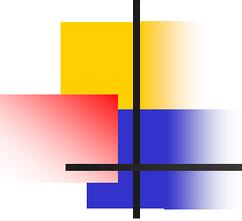
**Help us to set boundaries for them,
and yet encourage them to explore.
Give us the strength and courage to treat
each day as a fresh start.**

**May your Holy Spirit help them to grow
in faith, hope, and love
so they may know peace, truth, and goodness.**

**May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ,
your Son and our Lord.
Amen.**

**Saint Michael: Pray For
Us**

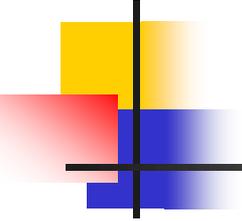




Importance of Catholic **Schools**

The Church chose to build schools before churches as they considered them to be so important to the life of the Church.

These buildings were in turn used as places of worship at the weekend.

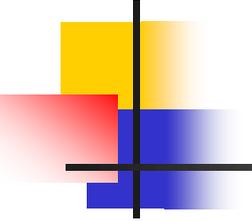


Catholic schools are normally held on trust of either a diocese or a religious order. They were established for the purpose of aiding Catholic parents to provide an appropriate education.

- **Characteristics of a Catholic School**

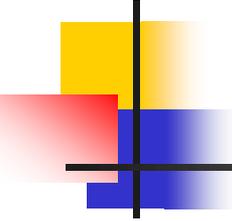
- It has a world view which sees God as its creator.
- There is explicit recognition of Christ as the heart of the community.
- Prayer and worship are thread through its daily life.
- It values one another's gifts/talents and promotes each others successes.
- Recognises the needs of others and displays a readiness to share in meeting those needs.
- Welcoming to friends and strangers.
- Co-operative at all levels.
- It is committed to building relationships.
- Interested in the individual for who they are rather than what they do.
- Strives to see the good in all people and situations.

- We work in partnership with you and the Parish Community, to teach your children about their religion and to nurture their faith.



The Religious Literacy of our children

Giving our children the opportunity to experience a rich Catholic way of life



Religious Literacy

The outcome of religious education is religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills- appropriate to their age and capacity- to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. (RECD, p10)

There are four areas (languages) in which we hope to make children 'religiously literate'.

The language of Story is the first and fundamental.

The language of Doctrine. This is sometimes described as a body of teaching because, like a body, it has many different parts linked together in a single purpose of enabling life, in this case, the life of faith.

The language of Liturgy: which celebrates faith using symbols, movement, music and actions as well as words.

The language of Morality:

How faith is lived daily. Children come to know and understand this language by experiencing and absorbing Gospel values as they are lived in the school community.

- The Religious Education Curriculum for Catholic Schools has been revised and the content which we teach to your children is much more challenging than in previous decades.

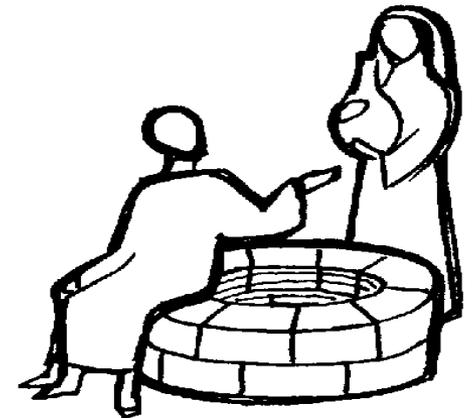
Come and See

A Religious Education programme for
Catholic Primary Schools.

- Those who receive the invitation to '***Come and see***' may also offer it to others.

- Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well. She is so inspired by Jesus that she returns to her village as a witness to his love and invites the other villagers to '***Come and see*** the man who told me everything I have ever done. Could he be the Messiah?' (John 4:29)

In the same invitation we remember that for some of our children RE will be evangelisation, the first opportunity to hear the good news.



Foundational influences on the theology and pedagogy of Come and See

- Four constitutions of the Second Vatican Council
- ‘Catechism of the Catholic Church’
- ‘Religious Education Curriculum Directory’ 2012
- ‘Religious Education in Catholic Schools’ Bishops’ Conference 2000
- ‘Levels of attainment in Religious Education in Catholic Schools and Colleges’ Bishops’ Conference 2007

Theological Foundations

- Central to the programme are three basic human questions and the three Christian beliefs that are the Church's response in faith

- **Where do I come from?**

- Life ~ Creation Autumn

- **Who am I?**

- Dignity ~ Incarnation Spring

- **Why am I here?**

- Purpose ~ Redemption Summer

Church Themes

- The Church themes occur in each term and each theme gradually builds on the understanding of the previous theme.

- AUTUMN Family ~ My story ~ Domestic Church

- SPRING Community ~ Our story ~ Local Church

- SUMMER World ~ The story ~ Universal Church

Sacramental Themes

- The Sacramental themes occur in each term and each theme gradually builds on the understanding of the previous theme.

- AUTUMN Belonging ~ born into Christ's life ~
Baptism, Confirmation, (Marriage, Holy Orders)

- SPRING Relating ~ God's love in our lives ~
Eucharist

- SUMMER Inter-relating ~ service to the community ~
Reconciliation (Anointing the sick)

Christian Living Themes

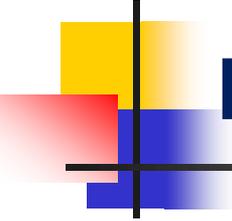
- The Christian Living themes occur in each term and each theme gradually builds on the understanding of the previous theme.
- AUTUMN Loving ~ celebrating life ~ Advent /Christmas
- SPRING Giving ~ the cost of life ~ Lent/Easter
- SUMMER Serving ~ loving ~ Pentecost (and Ascension)

THEMES & TOPICS	EARLY YEARS 1 & 2	YEAR 1 & FS 1	YEAR 2 & FS 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
Domestic church family	Myself God knows and loves each one	Families God's love and care for every family	Beginnings God at every beginning	Homes God's dream for every family	People The family of God in Scripture	Ourselves Created in the image & likeness of God	Loving God who never stops loving
Baptism/confirmation belonging	Welcome Baptism; a welcome to God's family	Belonging Baptism an invitation to belong to God's family	Signs & symbols Signs & symbols in Baptism	Promises Promises made at Baptism	Called Confirmation: a call to witness	Life choices Marriage commitment and service	Vocation & commitment The vocation of priesthood and religious life
Advent/Christmas loving	Birthday Looking forward to Jesus' birthday	Waiting Advent a time to look forward to Christmas	Preparations Advent; preparing to celebrate Christmas	Visitors Advent: waiting for the coming of Jesus	Gift God's gift of love & friendship in Jesus	Hope Advent; waiting in joyful hope for Jesus; the promised one	Expectations Jesus born to show God to the world
Local church community	Celebrating People celebrate in Church	Special people People in the parish family	Books The books used in Church	Journeys Christian family's journey with Jesus	Community life in the local Christian community: ministries in the parish	Mission Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese [ecumenism]	Sources The Bible, the special book for the Church
Eucharist relating	Gathering The parish family gathers to celebrate Eucharist	Meals Mass; Jesus' special meal	Thanksgiving Mass a special time for saying thank you to God for everything, especially Jesus	Listening & sharing Jesus gives himself to us in a special way	Giving & receiving Living in communion	Memorial sacrifice The Eucharist the living memorial of Jesus' sacrifice	Unity Eucharist enables people to live in communion.
Lent/Easter giving	Growing Looking forward to Easter	Change Lent a time for change	Opportunities Lent; an opportunity to start anew in order to celebrate Jesus' new life	Giving all Lent a time to remember Jesus' total giving	Self discipline Celebrating growth to new life	Sacrifice Lent a time of aligning with the sacrifice already made by Jesus	Death & new life Celebrating Jesus' death & resurrection
Pentecost serving	Good News Passing on the Good news of Jesus	Holidays & holydays Pentecost: feast of the Holy Spirit	Spread the word Pentecost a time to spread the Good News	Energy Gifts of the Holy Spirit	New life To hear & live the Easter message	Transformation Celebration of the Spirit's transforming power	Witnesses The Holy Spirit enables people to become witnesses
Reconciliation Inter-relating	Friends Friends of Jesus	Being sorry God helps us to choose well Sacrament of Reconciliation	Rules Reasons for rules in the Christian family Sacrament of Reconciliation	Choices The importance of examination of conscience Sacrament of Reconciliation	Building bridges Admitting wrong, being reconciled with God and each other Sacrament of Reconciliation	Freedom & responsibility Commandments enable Christians to be free & responsible	Healing Sacrament of the Sick
Universal Church world	Our world God's wonderful world	Neighbours Neighbours share God's world	Treasures God's treasure; the world	Special places Holy places for Jesus & the Christian	God's people Different saints show people what God is like	Stewardship The Church is called to the stewardship of Creation	Common good Work of the worldwide Christian family

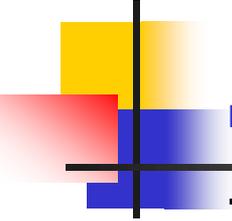
OTHER FAITHS –

- **JUDAISM-** is taught for one week every year. Each year the pupils learn more about how their Jewish sisters and brothers live and what they believe

- **HINDUISM-** is taught for one week every year. Each year the pupils learn more about how their Hindu sisters and brothers live and what they believe



Experiencing a rich Catholic way of life



Prayer

- Our children pray four times a day (sometimes more)
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- Morning prayer
 - Prayer before lunch
 - Prayer after lunch
 - Prayer at the end of the day
 - Opportunities for reflection are present
 - Traditional prayers are introduced in the different Key Stages
 - Prayer styles: children are introduced to a range, spontaneous, silent, group etc

Reception-The Sign of the Cross; Morning and Night Prayers; Grace before and after Meals; and begin to learn Hail Mary and the Our Father.

Year 1- The Sign of the Cross; Morning and Night Prayers; Grace before and after Meals; Glory Be and learn Hail Mary and the Our Father.

Year 2- The Sign of the Cross; Morning and Night Prayers; Grace before and after Meals; Act of Sorrow and Walk With Me

Year 3- The Sign of the Cross; Morning and Night Prayers; Grace before and after Meals; Act of Contrition, Eternal Rest and prayers before and after Holy Communion.

Year 4- The Sign of the Cross; Morning and Night Prayers; Grace before and after Meals; Acts of Faith, Hope and Charity, St. Michael Prayer, The Benedictus and know the 20 Mysteries of the Rosary.

Year 5- The Sign of the Cross; Morning and Night Prayers; Grace before and after Meals; Confiteor, The Memorare, the Magnificat and Prayer Of Thanks Giving.

Year 6- The Sign of the Cross; Morning and Night Prayers; Grace before and after Meals; The Apostles Creed, The Angelus and Stations Cross and Prayer of Divine Praises.

Assembly and Collective Worship

Monday-Hymn practice

Tuesday-Celebration of the gifts God has given us

Wednesday-The Sunday Gospel

Thursday- Headteacher's Assembly - Saints and feast days; Other Religions and Common Good

Friday-Class Assembly and Collective Worship

Receiving the Sacraments

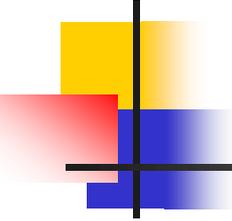
- To prepare the children for the seasons of Christmas and Easter the children in Years 3-6 receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Children participate in the preparation of the Mass and prayer services and celebrate together at least once a half term.
- The year three teachers liaise with the catechists so that we can help prepare the children receiving their First Holy Communion

Throughout the year the children are invited to experience other Catholic traditions such as:

- Attend retreats
- Prepare, participate and led in different liturgies.
- Pray the Rosary
- Pray the Stations of the Cross
- May devotions to the Virgin Mary
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Receive Ashes on Ash Wednesday
- Participate in the Nativity
- Participate in a Carol Concert
- Participate in a re-enactment of The Passion of Our Lord
- Helping those less fortunate

What can you do to help support your child/children in Religious Education

- Read the background notes provided before a new topic starts.
- Complete the activities suggested in the RE curriculum newsletter sent out at the beginning of each term.
- Help with homework-encourage best work
- Pray together
- Read the Wednesday Word, discuss and complete the activities together
- Ask your child what is the Gospel message this week in school
- Experience different liturgies together as well as the Sunday Mass
- Read, discuss and retell bible stories.
- Look at the structure of the bible and the genres of the different books
- Discuss the seasons of the liturgical year and the colours
- Discuss what happens in Church during these seasons
- Support Catholic charities and explain why we do
- The most important thing for you to do is lead by example



Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,
During this Season of Lent,
Fill my heart with Your love
and keep me faithful to the Gospels of Christ.
Give me the grace to rise above my human
weakness.

Give me new life by Your Sacraments,
especially the Mass.

Amen