

The Religious Education Programme

To fulfil our aims and objectives, we follow the 'Come and See' programme of Religious Education recommended by the Diocese of Nottingham. Come and See is an invitation to exploration and a promise of life for everyone.

The invitation is open to all.

In response to the question, 'where do you live?' which was asked by the disciples, Jesus invited them to 'Come and See.' (John 1:39). The disciples went with Jesus 'and spent the rest of that day with him.'

Overview of Content

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

Where do I come from? Life – Creation

Who am I? Dignity – Incarnation

Why am I here? Purpose – Redemption

These three doctrines of Christianity express faith in God as: Trinity: Creator, Saviour, Spirit; And personal: Father, Son and Holy Spirit: the Holy One whose love gives life to all (Creation), who makes all holy (Incarnation) and whose purpose is to draw all men and women into one, universal family of God (Redemption). These questions concern the mystery of life, its dignity and purpose and are part of the Christian person's search for meaning in life, which finds its response in the life of faith. In Come and See these big questions are considered in the light of the Scriptures and Tradition of the Church, as expressed in the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) which drew its strength and inspiration from that Council. The Catechism describes them (the questions) as 'decisive for the meaning and orientation of our life and actions' (CCC 282).

The Themes

Come and See is developed through three themes based on the above documents of the Second Vatican Council, which are gradually explored each time at greater depths. They are Church, Sacrament and Christian living.

The basic question ↔ belief for each term is explored through three kinds of themes.

Community of faith ↔ Church

Celebration in ritual ↔ Sacraments

Way of life ↔ Christian living

The themes of each season

AUTUMN

The three autumn time themes are developed in the light of an understanding of Creation:

- Family ↔ Domestic Church focuses on life as a gift, myself as a unique and loved creation, the creative love and care that can be expressed in family groups.
- Belonging ↔ Baptism/Confirmation focuses on the call to belong, the creative potential that belonging develops; and Baptism and Confirmation, sacraments of the gift of God's life and friendship.
- Loving ↔ Advent/Christmas focuses on the capacity for entering into loving relationships and the perfect gift and revelation of God's love, Jesus, born of Mary, born as one of us.

SPRING

The three spring time themes are developed in the light of an understanding of Incarnation:

- Community ↔ Local Church focuses on the people of God gathered in Christ, united in the journey of faith, in care for one another, in sharing their story and in celebration.
- Relating ↔ Eucharist focuses on the invitation to know Jesus, to live in communion with him and with one another.
- Giving ↔ Lent/Easter focuses on Jesus' loving self-giving on the cross, the Father's love that raises him to new life and the challenge to Christians to follow Jesus' example of self-giving.

SUMMER

The three summer themes are developed in the light of an understanding of Redemption and the work of the Holy Spirit.

- Serving ↔ Pentecost focuses on the on-going mission of Jesus Christ in the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Inter-Relating ↔ Reconciliation focuses on the love, compassion and forgiveness of God the Father revealed in Jesus and poured out by the Spirit to bring forgiveness and reconciliation in the sacrament of Reconciliation.
- World ↔ Universal Church focuses on the same love revealed in the diversity of the world and its people, and in the gifts of the Spirit that bear fruit in love, joy, justice and peace for all people.

At St. Hugh's Catholic Voluntary Academy, we keep our Programme of Religious Education at the heart of our curriculum.

Long Term Planning

We follow the themes and topics framework, which outlines the programme for the year. In cases where classes include mixed-age groups, the class teacher, in collaboration with other teachers and with the support of the Religious Education subject leader, will determine the specific year group requirements. This is achieved by using end-of-year expectations, key vocabulary, resources, and interventions to challenge all learners at their respective starting points.

The themes run consistently throughout the programme and remain the same regardless of age group, as all children explore the themes of Church, Sacrament, and Christian living during their religious education.

Medium Term Planning

Within all classes, teachers take into account attainment levels and driver words when developing activities for children of different age groups and in mixed-ability classes. It is important to track individual pupils' experiences of the topics in this way to ensure full coverage and avoid duplication. This process is monitored by the leadership team to prevent repetition.

Each term, the RE Lead sets the dates for the rollout of each topic and highlights the one that will be formally assessed. The school calendar also includes religious celebrations and feast days for the term, along with a focus on significant dates for other faiths.

Short Term planning

Teachers aim to provide meaningful and appropriate Religious Education experiences for all children, taking into account different needs, abilities, and learning styles.

Teachers use their IWB (Interactive Whiteboard) to plan the topic and ensure the achievement of the learning outcomes. Plans include a Flashback, key topic vocabulary, time for wonder or reflection, and opportunities for pupil response

Adaptations

SEND

Teachers use multi-sensory approaches and resources to enable all learners to contribute. This ensures that tasks provide enjoyable and appropriate Religious Education experiences for children with different starting points.

All learners

Key to success in RE lessons is the adaptation of resources for all learners. A range of resources that children can access independently includes *Making Links* booklets, CST bookmarks, a Scripture box, Bishop Patrick's themes linked to quotes from Pope Francis, topic webs, and Bibles. Teachers also use interventions to target specific groups of children. Chaplain Andrew supports scripture development with children in mixed-ability classes and provides additional support for the bottom 20%.

The school leadership and management team take responsibility for this. Within each lesson there is a balance between input, discussion and activity. The attitudes of respect and understanding, fostered within R.E. sessions will permeate to all curriculum areas. We see all work with and by children as a celebration of our spirituality and as an opportunity for a sense of awe and wonder.

Assessment

At the end of each topic, there is an outline of the Church's teaching that has been covered. These statements build upon previous years and are further developed in successive years.

At the end of the topic, children reflect and respond on their topic overview sheet, where they self-assess and evaluate their learning. Teachers use the knowledge organisers, located within the pupils' RE books, to highlight the progress each child has made in the topic. Learners are aware of the steps required to achieve the expected standard and beyond

Regular assessment, individual tracking and record keeping is carried out according to the direction given by the diocese, in order to ensure pupil progress.