



Religious Education Curriculum



Intent

At St Paul's our mission through Religious Education is to give each individual child the opportunity to experience celebration, prayer and time for personal reflection. Our teaching enables pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, attitudes, practices and rituals. We develop knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith, its relevance to the ultimate questions of life, the skills required to engage in religious thinking and the application of key theological ideas to life. RE is a collaborative subject which respects each child's own inner spiritual self, allowing for self-exploration and the opportunity to develop their own beliefs and values.

Religious Education is as academically respected as other core curriculum areas. Within the classroom, teachers use a variety of styles and strategies, to reinforce the Christian message we as a Catholic school uphold 'In Him we live and move and have our being.'

Implementation

At St. Paul's, we use the 'Come and See' programme of Religious Education which is recommended by the Diocese of Newcastle and Hexham, from Early Years through to Year 6.

The aim of the 'Come and See' programme is to develop our children's religious growth and to explore the religious dimension of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic tradition. Links are made with the teaching of the Church, pupils' own experiences and universal experience. The children will explore the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic tradition and other faith traditions.

Children of other faiths are actively encouraged to share their faith. We have relevant books, artefact packs and images which are used throughout the school in our study of other faiths in accordance with the Come and See scheme.

We do not look at other faiths in comparison to Catholicism, but rather in terms of what practising the other World Faiths looks like for believers. Understanding, respect and tolerance are key elements to our programme of study.

In regard to the 'Come and See' programme, each term pupils' study three topics, each lasting four weeks following a common theme across the school. As the children move through school this theme is developed further, appropriate to the pupils' age and stage of learning.

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

The structure of the 4 week topic consists of:

Explore (1 Week)

- Introduces the topic
- The children's life experience is explored
- The questions raised are wondered at, shared, investigated and their significance reflected upon
- Focus on AT2: Engagement and Response (learning from)

Reveal (2 Weeks)

- Heart of the programme
- Knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith revealed through Scripture, Tradition, doctrine, prayers, rites and Christian living
- Focus on AT1: Knowledge and Understanding (learning about) & AT2: Engagement and Response (learning from) & AT3: Analysis and Reflection

Respond (1 Week)

- Learning is remembered, celebrated and responded to in daily life

Other Religions and Worldviews:

Other World Religions and Worldviews studied in St Paul's are Judaism and Islam. This learning follows the teaching sequence of **look, discover, respect**.

Judaism is taught in the Autumn Term. Below is the curriculum overview:

Age Group	Theme	Topic	Look	Discover	Respect
Early years (N/R)	Special days/ritual objects	Hanukkah (Chanukah) The feast of lights	There are special days	Hanukkah. The story of the oil lamp in the Temple	God cares for his people
Year 1	Stories	Abraham and Moses	We all have stories	Abraham and Moses, leaders of the Jewish people	How God led the Jewish people
Year 2	Prayer/home	Shabbat	Families gather	Shabbat	Shabbat the day for God, the day of rest
Year 3	Places for worship	The synagogue	There are special places	The synagogue	The importance of the synagogue
Year 4	Holy Books	The Torah	Books are important	The Torah	The importance of the Torah
Year 5	Beliefs and festivals	Pesach	There are times for remembering	Pesach	God cares for his people
Year 6	Belonging and values	Yom Kippur	Making a new start	Yom Kippur	The value of atonement

Islam is taught in the Summer Term. Below is the curriculum overview:

Age Group	Theme	Topic	Look	Discover	Respect
Early years (N/R)	Special days/ritual objects	Prayer mats	Special objects	Prayer mats and the Qur'an	What is special for Muslims
Year 1	Stories	Muhammad	Special stories	Muhammad	Muhammad is important for Muslim people
Year 2	Prayer/home	Prayer at home	Quiet times	Prayer five times a day	Prayer is important for Muslims
Year 3	Places for worship	The mosque	Special buildings	Friday is a day of special prayer. Call to prayer	How Muslim people worship
Year 4	Holy Books	The Qur'an	Important books	The Qur'an. 99 beautiful names of God	The importance of the Qur'an for Muslims
Year 5	Beliefs and festivals	Ramadan and Pilgrimage	Special times	Shahadah Ramadan, Id-ul-Fitr, Id-ul-Adha Hajj	Respect for the special occasions for Muslims
Year 6	Belonging and values	Guidance for Muslims	Guidance in life	The 5 pillars Zakat	What is important for Muslims

Impact

We believe our children will

- Receive a broad and balanced curriculum, relevant to our school community.
- Be encouraged to develop a sense to self-worth and self-esteem.
- Voice their opinions with confidence, appreciating other points of view.
- Learn to work both independently and as part of a group, ensuring skills and resilience and developed within this subject area.
- Be enthused and engaged in the wide variety of activities.
- Develop awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them.
- Relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum.
- Be well placed to make good progress at Key Stage 3.