



Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy

RE INDUCTION HANDBOOK FOR FAMILIES
NEW TO THE SCHOOL

Live, Learn & love in the Sacred Heart Way

Introduction

As Sacred Heart is a faith school, all students study Religious Education from Reception through to Year 6. It is a compulsory subject and is given 10% curriculum time per week, as required by the Bishop of Nottingham. This equates to 2.5hrs of RE per week. We follow a programme called 'Come and See', which invites pupils to explore the religious aspects of life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic tradition.

It's a really important subject to us for lots of different reasons:

- It helps us all to learn about faith, whatever our faith – even those people who don't have any faith at all
- It gives us a chance to consider some of life's big questions: Why are we here? Where did the world come from? Why do people suffer? What happens when people die?
- It helps us to understand other people; we study a Catholic programme but learn about other faiths too
- It helps us to develop academic skills such as being able to explain complex ideas or interpret what meaning from scripture.



Some questions you might have:

My child has never attended a faith school before. What will be different here?

Religious Education is at the centre of all we do here at Sacred Heart. It can be seen throughout our school, not just in our RE lessons, but through Collective Worship, our links with our local parishes and our behaviour towards one another. Your child will take part in fundraising events, opportunities for spiritual growth, attend and participate in Mass and Liturgies, and have the opportunity to make some of their sacraments if they wish, such as First Holy Communion and Reconciliation. We punctuate our school day with prayer; morning, before dinner and at home time. This helps us to come together as a community and know that God is with us throughout our day. We also have a mission statement that encourages children to work, learn, play and worship together, using their God-given talents. We believe all children are a gift from God and should be treated with dignity and respect.

My family are not religious at all. Is this okay?

We know that not everyone has a religious faith and we can learn from you as much as you can learn from us! RE is an academic subject and we work hard to help all our students to make good academic progress in all subjects. It is also a subject that is really important for many students because it is about their faith and so RE is designed to help children develop spiritually and emotionally too.

I am from another religious community. Is that okay?

Of course it is! In our school community, we welcome people from all faith backgrounds, as well as none. We study different religions across the year groups, so when we are discussing your faith, we would love to have you speak to the children about your beliefs and traditions so that we can learn from you and teach the children about respecting other people's beliefs.

I didn't go to a Catholic primary school as a child myself. Will I be disadvantaged?

This induction handbook is designed so that your child can make good progress in this subject, regardless of your previous experience with Catholicism. You might find that your child is fascinated by this new subject and feels as if there is a lot to learn at first, but if they keep working hard and are willing to learn, they can be very successful in this subject. The 'Come and See' programme is designed for all students to learn together and there are lots of resources to support all students.

2.5hrs of RE a week seems a lot. Will this impact other curriculum areas?

Although the time allocated may sound like a large chunk of your child's school week, the lessons need to be given ample time so that your child can develop a deeper understanding of scripture, elements of the mass, and learn stories from the Bible. We teach English and Maths every day, PE twice weekly (one session with a PE coach), with Science and Theme (History, Geography, Art and D.T, Music) being taught each week also. Our Theme units are based around a topic and include all aspects of the curriculum. You may find that RE and Collective Worship enhance your child's understanding of other subjects, such as seeing the beauty of the world through Art, learning about religion throughout History, and understanding that Science and Religion go hand-in-hand rather than being at odds with one another. Every subject has a patron Saint and children are taught about the beauty of God's Kingdom in all areas.

If you have any other questions, or want to discuss these more, please speak to your child's class teacher.

The 'Come and See' programme of study



'Come and See' invites pupils to explore the religious aspects of life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic tradition. Pupils reflect on personal experiences and links are made with the Catholic faith as well as other faith traditions.

A variety of teaching methods and resources are used, including stories from the Bible, songs and hymns, role play, liturgical dance, creative activities, videos and CDs and discussion.

The pupils study three themes each term and 63 topics in total from Reception through to Year 6.

The themes are:

Advent (Autumn) term: Our church - family, Baptism and Confirmation - belonging, Advent and Christmas - loving.

Lent (Spring) term: Local church - community, Eucharist - relating, Lent and Easter - giving.

Pentecost (Summer) term: Pentecost - serving, reconciliation - inter-relating, universal church - world.

All of the topics are rooted in the children's own experiences in life and our teachers then extend the learning further through reflection and purposeful activities. We look at scripture passages that match the topic being covered and unpick the meaning and how we can use this Scripture to enhance our lives.

During the academic year, two other faiths are also taught; during the Advent term we learn about Judaism and during the Pentecost term we discover more about another world religion such as Islam, Sikhism or Hinduism.

Each term, parents receive an information sheet that details what the pupils will cover as well as some suggested activities that can be done at home to support pupils. These are available on our school website.



Assessment in Religious Education

Standards of attainment in RE are nationally agreed.

There are **three** attainment targets (with sub-strands):

- **AT1:** Learning **about** religion: **in the head** -covers pupils knowledge and understanding of religion
- **AT2:** Learning **from** religion: **in the heart** - this is concerned with developing pupils reflection and response to their own and others' experience
- **AT3:** Forming an **opinion** based on beliefs – this is concerned with pupils forming a balanced argument with evidence by making links to different sources they have learned about throughout the

topic.

Planning for progression – ‘Driver Words’ in RE

The words given below drive the learning within RE according to age and stage of development. These are your children’s targets within Religious Education. These driver words are on display in your child’s classroom and are used to form the Question for Learning that each lesson is based on. Children self-assess against the driver words, as well as teachers making judgements using these targets.

| | AT1 | AT2 | AT3 |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Yr 5/6 | Show understanding, make many links to a range of sources | Engage and Respond to faith questions | Debate, arrive at judgment, back up with evidence |
| Yr 3/4 | Give reasons and make links to different sources | Compare ideas to faith questions | Express view, give reason(s) |
| Yr 2 | Retell and describe religious stories and people, signs and symbols | Ask and Respond to faith questions | Ask and respond to an opinion |
| Yr 1 | Recognise and name religious people and stories, signs and symbols | Talk about parts of faith | Listen to and talk about an opinion |
| Reception | Listen to and recognise religious stories, people and artefacts | Know similarities and differences, learn religious words and actions | N/A |

Assessed tasks occur once per term and are set by the Diocese. The purpose of the assessment tasks are to provide us with a better understanding of the respective attainment of your child against the end of year expectations (driver words).

Reception pupils will complete a baseline assessment on entry and this is repeated at the end of the year.



Background knowledge to help you and your child

Some key words and meanings

| Word | Meaning | Example |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Christian | A person who believes that Jesus was the Son of God and follows Him. | “Jenny is a Christian.” |
| Bible | The holy book for Christians | “Peter read the story from the Bible.” |
| Gospels | The record of Christ's life and teaching in the first four books of the New Testament. A reading from one of the Gospels is central to the mass. | “Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are the authors of the Gospels.” |
| Prayer | Talking to God, usually using words, may be said aloud or silently | “I said a prayer to thank God for all I have.” |
| Disciple | One of Jesus’ followers. A disciple learns from Jesus’ examples. | “I am a disciple of Jesus because I have learnt to forgive others.” |
| Apostle | One of Jesus’ messengers. Someone who is sent out to spread the Good News of Christ. | “Simon Peter was an apostle.” |
| Faith | Belief without total proof | “Ellie had faith that God would help her.” |

What is religion?

Religion is a way for people to express what they believe. There are a number of religions in the world and Christianity is the largest of these religions. Religions have shared beliefs in some form of higher being or God, they will have holy books and particular ways of praying and worshipping to praise and try to experience the higher being (God). Religions have rules about how to live and many religious people feel that their religion helps them in life.

Where did the Christian faith come from?

Christianity is a religion. There are lots of different types of Christians, such as Catholics, Protestant and Orthodox Christians. All Christians believe in God and that Jesus was God's son on Earth.

The Christian faith comes from Jesus, who was a Jewish man who lived in Israel during the first century AD. This means that the Christian faith has its roots in the Jewish faith and the history of the Jewish people, thousands of years before Jesus.

What do Christians believe about God?

Jews and Christians share a belief in one God. This God is the God who the Bible teaches created the world, gave the Ten Commandments, spoke to prophets and helped Jesus' Jewish ancestors to go to the Promised Land.

Jews and Christians agree that God has certain qualities:

| Belief | Meaning |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| He is omnipotent | God is all powerful and can do anything, from creating the world to healing people. |
| He is omni-benevolent | God is all loving and kind. This can be seen in examples such as God creating a good world and saving the Israelites (Jewish ancestors) from slavery in Egypt. |
| He is omniscient | God is all knowing. This means that he knows everything that has been, is now and will be. |
| He is transcendent | God exists outside of space and time. Humans exist in time and so are born, age and die. God does not. |
| He is eternal | God has always existed – there was no beginning to God and there will be no end. God simply <i>is</i> . |

Christian beliefs about Jesus

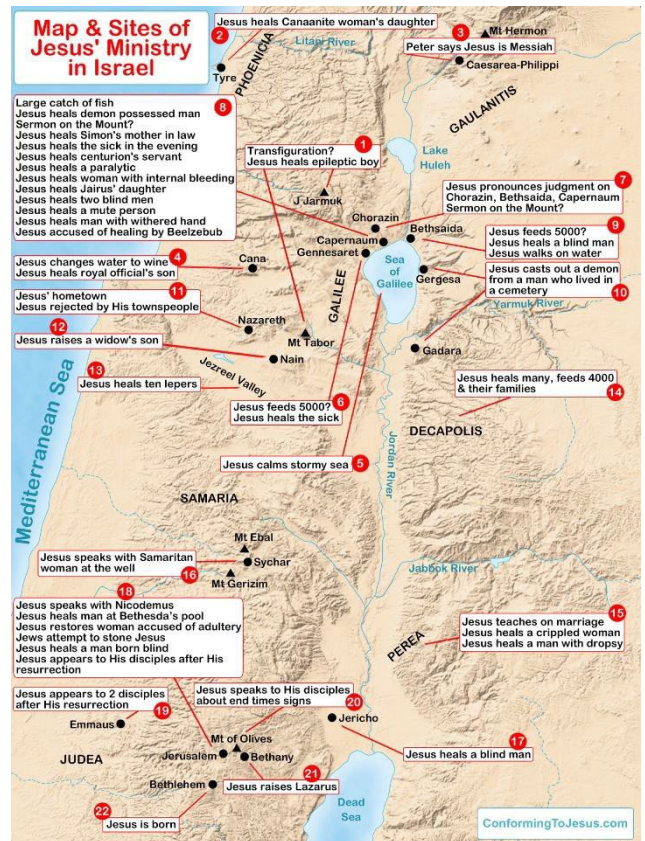


Christians believe that Jesus was God in human form. Christians believe in one God, experienced in three different ways. This is called the Holy Trinity. The Trinity is made up of God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit. All are God, but different ways of experiencing God.

Christians believe that Jesus' parents on Earth were Mary and Joseph but that God had brought Him into life. We believe that He lived a life of teaching people and helping them. We believe He died and rose from the dead, then went to Heaven. His life was spent in Israel, which is a very important country to the Jewish people who call it the 'Promised Land' since it was promised to Abraham, the Father of the Jewish faith.

Jews do not believe the same about Jesus as Christians do. They do not believe he was God, but instead, another prophet.

This map shows Israel at the time of Jesus and makes connections between stories from the Bible that mention these places. It is clear that Jesus travelled a lot in his time on earth, taking his message of love and forgiveness to others.



Christians believe that God sent them the Holy Spirit after Jesus went to Heaven. The Holy Spirit gives us the strength and courage to carry on being Christians even when it's hard. The Holy Spirit was given to Jesus' disciples who first spread the news about Jesus, and Christians believe it is present in the world today; helping them to make good decisions and feel close to God.

Where do Christians get all this information from?

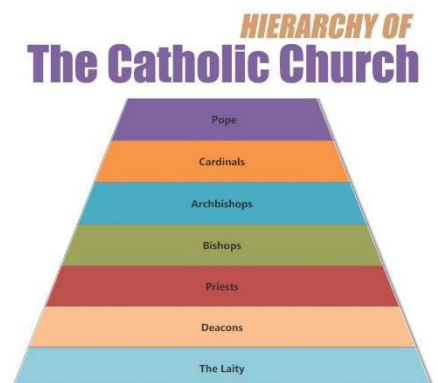
Christians all use a holy book, called the Bible. Christians believe that it is the Word of God – how He speaks to humans in their lives. There are two main halves to the Bible:

Old Testament: the time before Jesus was born. This time is very important for Jewish people as it a lot of their teachings but it also helps us to understand Jesus since it is about the history of the Jewish people that Jesus was born into. There are lots of connections between events in Jesus' life and teachings and events from the Old Testament.

New Testament: the time that Jesus was born and lived on Earth. This part of the Bible contains the Gospels which are the accounts of Jesus' life on earth, his death and resurrection. There is also teaching about the earliest Christians and the letters that St Paul sent to them to encourage and teach them.

How is the Catholic Church organised?

Catholic Christians are also taught by leaders in the Church community. In the Catholic community, there are lots of different people, who do slightly different jobs. All have the responsibility to teach others about their faith.



| Title | Role |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pope | To look after the whole Catholic Church throughout the world. The Pope has the responsibility of being a good leader for all Catholics, for teaching and inspiring them and for making sure that the Church community works well. The current Pope is Pope Francis. |
| Cardinals | To help the Pope to carry out his job. Cardinals have additional responsibilities. For example, some cardinals look after the Catholic faith in their country (Cardinal Vincent Nichols is the current cardinal for England and Wales). Cardinals also help with other roles such as finance or education. One of the most important roles of a cardinal is to appoint a new Pope, when the Pope dies or retires. |
| Archbishops | Some archbishops are also cardinals but others just have the role of looking after an archdiocese, which is a large geographic area. Archbishops help to pass on teachings from the Pope to the priests and people in their archdiocese. |
| Bishops | To look after an area called a Diocese. Christ the King is part of the Diocese of Nottingham. Bishops are based at the main church or Cathedral for the diocese (called St Barnabas' Cathedral in Nottingham). Bishops make sure that the priests in the diocese give the teaching from the Pope and help with certain sacraments (special celebrations of God's love). Our current Bishop is called Bishop Patrick McKinney. |
| Priests | Usually based in a Church community. Priests are only men in the Catholic Church and usually are unmarried. The main job for a priest is to help the people in his parish community to grow in faith. He does this through helping Catholics to celebrate the sacraments. Priests can help people who are going through difficulties and often go into schools, prisons or hospitals to support people in those places. Our parishes are St Peter's (Hinckley Road), Blessed Sacrament (Braunstone) and Mother of God (New Parks). Our parish priests are Fr John and Fr George. |
| Deacons | Help the priest in all his different jobs, but can't do some of the special jobs that the priest does, such as forgiving people on Jesus' behalf (Reconciliation) or blessing the bread and wine at Communion. |
| Laity | That's us! These are the people in the congregation/parish. They can help with the leadership of the Church community by helping others, such as by teaching people ready for sacraments, helping in church or visiting people and helping them. |

Who else is important to Catholics?

There are lots of other people who are important to Catholics. This is just a small selection of some of them.

Mary, Jesus' mother: Catholics believe that Mary is very important because she was Jesus' mother. Catholics believe that she showed her faith in God by accepting this role. Catholics ask Mary to pray with them so that she can make their prayers stronger. Catholics have particular prayers for Mary but the most famous is the *Hail Mary*.

The apostles: These were twelve men chosen by Jesus to help Him on Earth. They came from lots of different backgrounds but worked together with Jesus. Apostle means messenger and the key message they took to people was about who Jesus was and how people could follow Him in their lives.

The saints: These are people who lived particularly holy lives and who have been recognised by the Church for this. They are important to Catholics since they have inspiring life stories and many Catholics feel that they can learn a lot about how to follow God, by learning about their lives.

How do Catholics pray?



Catholics prepare themselves for prayer by making the Sign of the Cross. We say, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

This shows that they are bringing themselves into the presence of God and that what they think or say during this time is going to be offered to God as a prayer.

Catholics pray in lots of different ways. They have a number of different types of prayers, such as asking prayers; contrition (sorry) prayers; thanksgiving prayers and supplication (asking) prayers.

Catholics have set prayers (also called formulaic prayers), such as the *Our Father* or the *Glory Be*, but also make up their own prayers when they need to as well. Catholics can pray anywhere, but are expected to go to Mass on Sundays.

Mass is a very special way for Catholics to worship and has many different features:

- There are sorry and asking prayers
- There are readings from the Bible
- There are prayers that everyone says such as the Our Father, the Creed and the Hail Mary
- The priest blesses bread and wine and Catholics believe that they become the body and blood of Jesus
- Catholics receive the Communion (the body and blood of Jesus)
- Often hymns are sung and music is played

For Catholics, this Mass is the most important type of worship because they receive Jesus' body and blood. This helps Catholics to strengthen their faith.

Catholics use different items in their prayers, such as candles or statues. These are to help to create a prayerful atmosphere and to help the person to focus on their prayers.

Churches are special places of prayer that have certain features that make it possible to celebrate the sacraments and have Mass. For example, there is an altar which is where the bread and wine are blessed and a font where Baptisms can happen.

What are the main rules for Catholics?

The biggest two rules are to love God and to love other people. These rules occur throughout the Bible and Jesus taught them as well. One of the most famous set of rules can be found in the Old Testament. They are called the Ten Commandments and were given by God to a man called Moses who had freed the Israelite people from slavery.

The Ten Commandments are:

1. I am the Lord your God, you shall not have any other gods before Me

This means to worship only one God and no others

2. You shall not take God's name in vain

This means not to use God's name as a way of swearing or abusing

3. Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy

This is the day where we remember that God rested following creating the world and that Jesus rose on a Sunday

4. Honour your mother and father

This is reminding us to care for parents when they become old or sick

5. You shall not kill

This means not to take another person's life because only God can take life

6. You shall not commit adultery

This means that you should be faithful to the person you are married to and not have a relationship with anyone else

7. You shall not steal

This means to respect what other people possess and to not take it from them unfairly

8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour

This means that you should not lie about other people

9. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife

This means that you should respect that your neighbour and his wife are married and you shouldn't be jealous about the wife that he has

10. You shall not covet your neighbour's goods

This means not to be jealous of what your neighbour owns and to respect his property.

Important learning from the Ten Commandments

Jesus was asked which of these Ten Commandments was the most important. His reply was: *"You should love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind and you should love your neighbour as yourself"* – this is known as the Greatest Commandment.

Jesus also taught what is known as the Golden Rule, *"Treat other people as you would like to be treated."* This means that we need to think about our actions and consider whether we would be happy if someone behaved in the same way towards us.

Jesus taught people to love God and to love their neighbour. One story about loving God that he taught was when Jesus spoke about people who showed off about their religion so that other people would be impressed with them. These people would make a show of saying prayers, giving to charity or fasting (going without food) so that other people would think that they were in some way superior. Jesus said that to truly love God, a person must do these actions humbly and privately because they are between the person and God only.

A story about loving our neighbours is a famous story called the Good Samaritan which is about a man who is left on the roadside having been attacked. Two religious leaders walk by and do nothing to help him but a Samaritan (the enemy of the injured man) came to his aid and took him to rest and recover and even paid for his accommodation. Jesus is making the point that all people are our neighbours.

We hope you have found this induction handbook useful and that it has helped you and your family to understand the RE curriculum and the fundamental beliefs of Catholics.

If you require any additional information, please contact the school office.