

## Religious Education: Pedagogy

Religious Education is a core subject at Emmaus and our Christian character and values permeate our approach to every subject and topic in school. Our RE lessons are taught using 'Come and See' (Matthew James Publishing 2012), a Catholic primary religious education programme. This is in agreement with both the Diocese of Hallam and the Diocese of Sheffield.

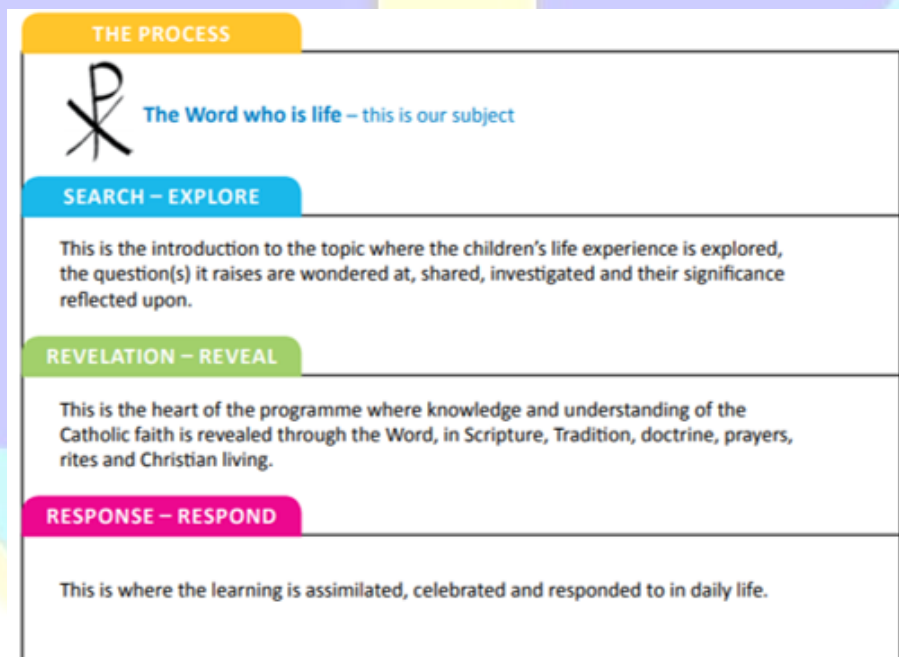
### What is Religious Education?

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (2000, cited by Matthew James Publishing 2012, p. 10) emphasises that:

- "Religious Education is about engaging with the deepest questions of life and finding reasons for the hope which is within them (1 Peter 3:15).
- It is about the Christian vision of the human person.
- It is the core subject which is central to the life of the Catholic school.
- Religious education is the systematic study:
  - Of the mystery of God, as discovered through the Bible and particularly through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ,
  - The teachings of the Church,
  - The lives of the saints,
  - The relationship between faith and life."

### The 'Come and See' teaching sequence

This programme informs each topic through: **Explore, Reveal** and **Respond**. Ten percent of the weekly timetable is allocated to Come and See.



### Explore

This introduces the topic, helping the children to begin to look at and focus on the experience within their own lives – concerning themselves, their relationships and their world.

This includes:

- Exploring experiences through story, music, drama, dance, art, etc.
- Investigation
- Story telling
- Consideration of the *big* questions
- Discussion
- Becoming aware of the questions raised
- Reflecting on significance of these experiences.

Explore is expected to take one week to complete.

## **Reveal**

Reveal is the heart of the process. The teacher and the children together discover the Christian understanding of the mystery of the Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It involves learning about Scripture, the teaching of the Church, prayers, other expressions of Christian faith and the lives of outstanding Christians.

This includes:

- new knowledge of religious education
- reflecting on faith
- researching, collating and classifying
- discussing questions raised
- working with problems and grappling with puzzling experiences
- exploring in creative and practical ways through drama, writing, poetry, song, dance, music, ICT and service of others
- making links between Christian understanding and the shared life experience
- acknowledging and respecting difference
- being open to new perspectives

Reveal is expected to take two weeks to complete.

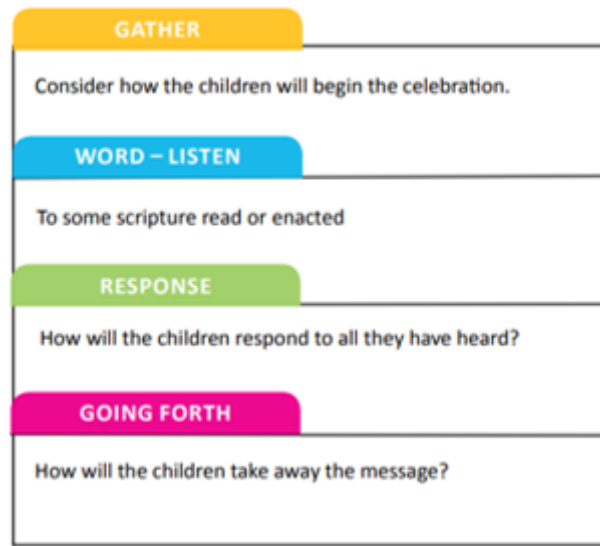
## **Respond**

This is where learning is assimilated, celebrated and responded to in daily life. 'Remember' is the first part of this section. Children will respond by remembering and celebrating all that they have learned.

This includes:

- creating a quiet, prayerful atmosphere for reflection
- looking at and thinking about the work done
- sharing thoughts and feelings.

'Rejoice' is the second part of the section. There will be the opportunity to plan and take part in a celebration. The children are involved in the choice of material to be used in the celebration. The grid below provides a structure for children to be involved in the planning of the celebration.



'Renew' is the third and final part of the section. The teacher helps each child to make an individual response, including what they have understood of the topic. Older children may record this in a workbook.

Respond is expected to take one week to complete

### Teaching other Faiths

*"Within our schools we are seeking to educate all pupils of whatever religion to be able to live a way of life that integrates their beliefs with all other aspects of what it means to be human. As part of this, they must learn to live alongside others who are different and hold alternative views, including religious views." (Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales 2010 paragraph 201).*

The Come and See programme includes the teaching about other faiths, calling children to listen in dialogue and be ready to learn about other faiths as part of living in a pluralistic society. As part of this programme, children learn about **Judaism** and **Islam**. Some general principles underlie our teaching of other faiths:

- These are taught separately to avoid confusion and maintain the integrity between different religions.
- We try to include important ritual objects in our teaching and teach the children to do so with reverence and respect.
- We try to learn from a member of the religion directly, through speakers visiting school or visiting a place of worship. We follow expectations of dress and behaviour (e.g. boys wearing a kippah when visiting a synagogue) when visiting another place of worship.

When learning about another religion, each unit of study follows this sequence:

- **Look:** a short introduction to the topic, starting from the children's experiences or background knowledge. This may be the starting activity to the first lesson.
- **Discover:** the main section of teaching and learning about this religion and includes a range of activities that may include a visit to a place of worship or a video.
- **Respect:** the plenary when children have the opportunity to reflect on what they have learned, appreciated and respected and what it means for the followers of that religion.

**For more information, please read:**

**Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales** 2010 *Meeting God in Friend and Stranger* Available at: <https://cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2018/11/meeting-god-friend-stranger.pdf> Accessed 18.05.2021

**Matthew James Publishing Ltd** 2012 *Come and SEE RE Programme* <https://www.comeandseere.co.uk/> Accessed 18.05.2021

