

St Joseph's RE Newsletter Autumn 2024



Religious
Education
Lead:
Mrs Hinton

The new Religious Education Directory

Back in 2023, the Bishops of England and Wales launched a new Religious Education Directory (RED) for schools. This document provides all Catholic schools with a framework for what they should be teaching in RE lessons for the different year groups.

The new RED continues to put Christ at the centre of everything that we do while 'enabling all pupils to be confident and secure in their religious faith and knowledgeable and respectful of other religions'.

We trialed it here at St Joseph's last year in EYFS, and decided this year to roll it out across all year groups. The feedback from both staff and pupils has been very

positive.

Pupils now participate in 4 lessons across the week - 3 x 30 minute lessons and 1 x 1 hour lesson. This enables them to revisit Scripture and the focus for the week on multiple occasions, to truly embed their knowledge.

Over the course of the year they will be exploring 6 Branches, which take them on a journey through the Church's liturgical calendar.

Each week they will have a key focus which involves listening to Scripture, exploring the impact that this has on their own beliefs, living out that Scripture in their own lives and then celebrating what they have learnt.

By following the Church's liturgical calendar, there is a lot more focus on how and where stories fit into the Bible and the life of Christ. There is also more focus on the work of the saints and important feast days. So you may find that your child comes home talking about new saints that they have not mentioned before.

In addition to this, pupils will continue to learn about other faiths and how they link to Christianity. In Key Stage 1 there is a focus on Judaism and in Key Stage 2 there is a focus on Islam. Feasts and festivals will be covered as they arise on the calendar.

Branch 1: Covenant & Creation

In Branch 1, pupils encountered the God who created and called a people. They explored the revelation of the Christian belief that all that is comes from God, the Creation accounts in Genesis, and scientific explanations of the process of Creation. They explored the call of God and his covenantal relationship with his people first through Abraham and Moses, then through the narrative of the Old Testament.

EYFS - Explored the Creation story from Genesis.

Year 1 - Explored Genesis and linked it to the Nicene Creed.

Year 2 - Explored the story of Noah.

Year 3 - Explored God as the Creator.

Year 4 - Explored the stories of Abraham.

Year 5 - Explored the stories of Moses.

Year 6 - Explored the concept of good and evil.



Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) features repeatedly throughout the new RED and is a regular point of discussion in the classroom. Pupils think about how to live out the Scripture in their own lives through:

Human Dignity

The Common Good

Participation

Subsidiarity

Stewardship

Option for the Poor

Solidarity

Distributive Justice

Promoting Peace



Branch 2: Prophecy & Promise

In Branch 2, pupils explored the Christian understanding of the teaching of the prophets as they point to the fulfilment of God's promise in a messiah, Jesus Christ. They explored the expectant waiting for the Messiah through the Advent season and how this speaks to Christians today as they wait for Christ. Pupils encountered the story of the nativity of Jesus and the mystery of the incarnation.

Prayers

As part of their daily lessons, pupils have been learning significant prayers related to their 'Branch'. Please help them to learn them.

EYFS - Explored the story of the Nativity.

Year 1 - Explored the importance of God's son, Jesus, being born.

Year 2 - Explored the birth of Jesus and John the Baptist.

Year 3 - Explored the importance of celebrating Mass.

Year 4 - Explored the prophets - Elijah, John the Baptist and Isaiah.

Year 5 - Explored the stories of David.

Year 6 - Explored prominent women from the Old Testament

Every lesson starts with the prayer of St Richard of Chichester:

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits thou hast given me,
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne
for me.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly, day by day.
Amen.

Nursery & Reception

Have been learning to make the Sign of the Cross, and learn their daily classroom prayers.

Year 1

Have been learning the Nicene Creed, the Our Father and the Hail Mary.

Year 2

Have been learning the Magnificat.

Year 3

Have been learning the Kyrie Eleison.

Year 4

Have been learning the St Therese prayer and the Nicene Creed.

Year 5

Have been learning the Ten Commandments and Psalm 23.

Year 6

Have been learning the Nicene Creed and the Magnificat.



All the information in this newsletter, including the prayers that pupils have been learning, will be made available on the School Website in the New Year.