

The Religious Education Programme

To fulfil our aims and objectives, we follow the 'Come and See' programme of Religious Education recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool. It is the aim of 'Come and See' to invite everybody, children and adults, to explore the dimension of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic tradition. Within the programme, there are opportunities in the school year to study other faiths. The programme is both therefore 'objective' and 'subjective'.

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.*'

('Come and See' Handbook Page 9)

Those who receive the invitation may also offer it to others. In John 1:43, Philip invites his friend Nathaniel to '**come and see**' Jesus.

('Come and See' Handbook Page 9)

Children

Come and See the wonder of all that is within them and beyond them

GOD

Offers the invitation to **Come and See**

Teachers

Facilitate the opportunity for children to **Come and See**

('Come and See' Handbook Page 9)

For all children, the programme raises questions and provides material for reflecting on their own experience. Its aim is to help them explore the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic tradition and where appropriate, of other faith traditions. For those children from committed families, it will deepen and enrich their understanding and living of their faith.

For Christians, life and faith belong together. That is why 'Come and See' uses both universal language and Christian language to make our faith a living faith for our children.

Overview of Content

Come and See supports and enables the faith experience of all children because it starts with their real life experience and leads them to reflect upon and consider the Christian message in all its richness in that experience. As a school, we have children of other religions present and so:

When pupils of other faiths are present in a Catholic school the task must be to promote their human growth in such a way that they can integrate their particular faith with every aspect of their lives.

Catholic Schools, Children of Other Faiths and Community Cohesion: CES & Bishops' Conference page 7.

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).