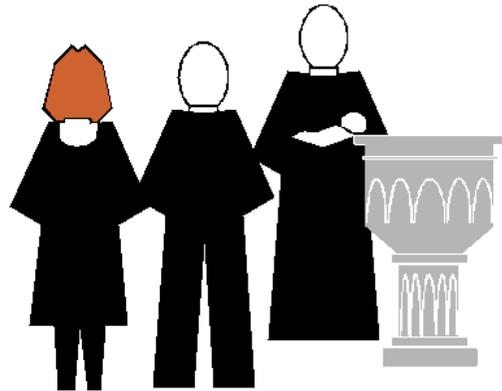


WE'RE SPECIAL – CARING, BELONGING & BAPTISM

Nottinghamshire SACRE RE Syllabus

YEAR GROUP: EARLY YEARS



WE'RE SPECIAL – CARING, BELONGING & BAPTISM

EARLY YEARS

OVERVIEW

About this unit:

This unit enables the pupils to develop their understanding of being part of a family and community, and the associated feelings of being cared for, being safe and belonging.

The unit is introduced through talking about caring in animal families and continues by exploring that all people are special and that caring for and looking after others is important. Initially the children meet two puppets, Dottie and Buzz - friends who care about each other. Belonging in a family is introduced and looking at the arrival of a new baby in Dottie's family introduces pupils to new babies in human families.

The pupils explore the arrival of new babies in Christian families and the ceremony of infant baptism/ christening. This ceremony is a way of following Jesus and shows the family being thankful to God for the baby.

The pupils will have opportunities to develop their skills further by investigating the first followers of Jesus, including Zacchaeus.

Ideas about belonging in other faiths are also given and can be explored – Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.

This unit contributes to positive attitudes through exploring friendships thankfulness and being part of a family and extended family.

SESSIONS

1. Caring - Everyone is special
2. Meeting Dottie and Buzz; Introducing Belonging
3. Belonging / Being special in Families
- 4-5. Belonging/ Being Special in a Christian group - introducing baptism
Infant Baptism - Sign of Belonging in Christianity
6. Following Jesus
- 7-8. Belonging to Other Faiths eg Hindu, Muslim, Jewish

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN THE RE SYLLABUS:

This unit will help teachers to implement the Agreed Syllabus for RE, using the concepts of religious practices and ways of expressing meaning as well as questions of identity, diversity and belonging and questions of values and commitments. It contributes to the **continuity and progression** of pupils' learning by:-

- building upon the learning from their own experiences of introducing a baby to a family.
- anticipating a further study of a more in depth look at 'Belonging and Baptism' in KS1, and the unit 'Visit to a Church'

POSSIBLE LINKS WITH OTHER CURRICULUM AREAS and THEMES

With its links to families this unit is ideal at the start of year. However it can be used at other times. Also linked with SEAL – New Beginnings.

Estimated teaching time for this unit: 8 hours. It is recognised that this unit may provide more teaching ideas than a class will cover in 8 hours and teachers are invited to use their own ideas as well as or instead of these. Depth of learning rather than covering everything is important.

RE AIMS

To know and understand:

- belonging in families, including ones of different faiths.
- ways of following Jesus, such as baptisms/christenings; and through discovering about his first followers.

To express ideas and insights;

- how they belong in groups
- how everyone is special and about caring and looking after people close to them.

To gain and deploy skills:

- talking about some ways they belong and care
- talking about being thankful

ATTITUDES FOCUS: Pupils will explore attitudes of:

- **Self awareness** by becoming increasingly aware of their own identity.
- **Respect for all** by developing a willingness to learn from the ways Christians and other faith groups show they belong to a faith.

THE UNIT WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR:

- Pupils to consider the concept of belonging and their own experiences of this.
- Pupils to look at the concept of belonging in the Christian and other faiths.
- Opportunities provided by this unit include ICT, role-play, circle games and other games, dressing in multicultural clothes, creative activities, listening to parents' experiences and use of puppets and/or Persona dolls.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE TEACHER (Also see Teacher Information paper)

- **In Christian thinking**, babies can be baptised/ christened or dedicated to God. Both these ceremonies are signs of belonging to a Christian community, following Jesus and a way of thanking Him for the baby.
- Some Christians prefer dedication, rather than baptism, because they believe that their baby should be allowed to make their own decision about baptism at a responsible age.
- Adult baptism is more common now and occurs more frequently in certain denominations eg Baptist church. It happens when an adult decides to follow Jesus, (who was baptised by John the Baptist at the start of His ministry.)

RESOURCES – websites included – also see separate paper

Contributions to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

- Opportunities for **moral development** come from valuing relationships and realising everyone is special.
- Opportunities for **social development** come from considering how they and others belong to a community.
- Opportunities for **cultural development** come from considering how babies from various faiths are introduced to a community.

EXPECTATIONS: At the end of this unit

Pupils working towards step 1 will be able to:

Meet some requirements of

- ❖ **Communication and Language**
- ❖ **Personal, Social, Emotional & Development.**
- ❖ **Understanding the world**
- ❖ **Expressive arts and design**
- ❖ **Literacy**
- ❖ **Mathematics**

Pupils working at step 1 will be able to:

- Observe and show a curiosity about some of the things that happen at a baptism.
- Talk about some things that happened in the story of calling the first disciples.
- Recall some things that happened in the story of Zacchaeus.
- Talk about / think about people with whom they like to be.
- Talk about and think about being special, caring and sharing.

Pupils working at step 2 will be able to:

- Retell how a baby is baptised.
- Suggest the meaning of signs of belonging in Christian and other faiths.
- Retell the main parts of story of fishermen and/or Zacchaeus.
- Talk about ways they being special, caring and belonging to their families.
- Ask questions about and respond sensitively to discussions on baptism and belonging in different faiths.
- Respond sensitively to discussions about belonging; joining children into games, making them feel they belong.

ASSESSMENT SUGGESTIONS

An assessment of each pupil is not required for RE at Foundation stage. However the following assessment ideas could be used.

Teachers can assess this work by choosing **one** (or more, if necessary) of the following :-

- assessing any of the requirements above.

Session 1/2/3 – Through the reflections and discussions about friendships/relationships/ being special / caring.

Session 4/5 - Through the children's interactions with and discussions about baptism

Session 6 – In the role-play about Zacchaeus

Session 6 – In talking about belonging and actively helping children to join in games.

Session 7-8 – In discussion about belonging in different faiths and cultures.