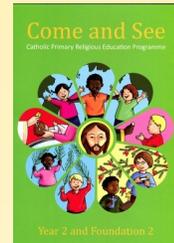
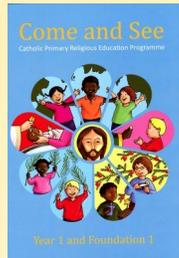
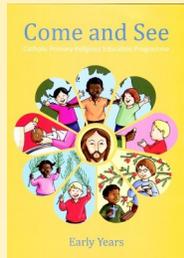


Come and See

Catholic Primary Religious Education Programme

Religious Education in St Bede's Catholic School



What's in a name? Why "Come and See"?

Come and See is an invitation to exploration and a promise of life for everyone.

The invitation is open to all!

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 the day with him.*'

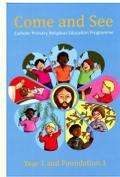


The invitation to *Come and See* is for all and is there even if the question has not been spoken.

Zaccheus, the much despised tax collector, just wanted to glimpse Jesus as he passed by and climbed a tree to do so, but Jesus spotted him and invited him to '*come down, because I must stay at your house today.*'

(Luke 19:5) Later in John's gospel, Jesus reiterates the invitation:

'*Whoever loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and my Father will **come** to him and live with him.*' (John 14:23)



We can invite others!

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. Later on in the same gospel (John 4:28-30) Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well. She is so inspired by Jesus that she returns to her village as a witness to his love and invites the other villagers to

'Come and see the man who told me everything I have ever done. Could he be the Messiah?' (John 4:29)

Children are especially welcome.

Jesus said to his disciples, ***'Let the children come to me.'***
(Mark 10:14)

In Matthew's gospel again there are words of support:

'Come to me, all you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest'

Jeremiah, the prophet, spoke from experience when he related to the people the word of the Lord:

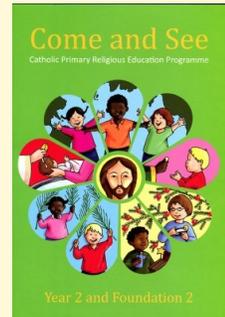
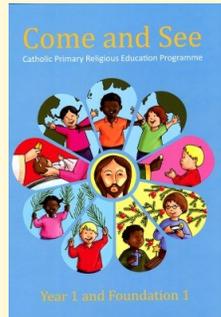
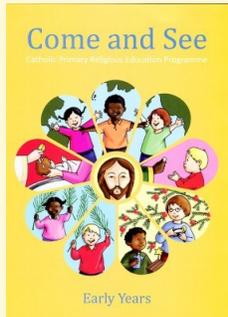
'You will come and pray to me, and I will answer you. You will seek me and you will find me because you will seek me with all your heart.'
(Jeremiah 29:12-13)

The words of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel encourages an active seeking.

'Ask and you will receive; seek, and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you.' (Matthew 7.7)

Come and See

***offers the opportunity to search, to explore, to discover and to respond;
this is part of what it is to be human.***



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

Religious Education in the Catholic School

Catholic schools are guided in all they do by an important and coherent vision of education. This vision is based on the truth revealed by God about ourselves, our life together in community and our ultimate destiny with God. This gives rise to an educational endeavour centred on the person of Jesus Christ, who is our Way, Truth and Life. (Joint Pastoral Letter on Catholic Education; Bishops' Conference, September 2007)

In January 2000, a National Symposium on 'Expectations of Religious Education in Catholic Schools' was hosted by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The Bishops issued a statement highlighting the following points.

What is Religious Education?

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.

Expectations of Classroom Religious Education.

Religious Education in a Catholic school is primarily educational.

- Excellence in Religious Education is achieved by:
 - clarity of succinct religious learning objectives,
 - key content,
 - appropriate methodologies,
 - rigour,
 - richness of resources,
 - achievement of identified outcomes,
 - accurate methods of assessment.



Inclusion ~ Community cohesion

Catholic schools.... will develop a range of attitudes and activities that promote and support the dignity and worth of everyone.

The commitment of the Catholic Church to interfaith dialogue and to working with other Christians provides a further basis for young peoples' contribution to peaceful social cohesion.



St Bede's Catholic Infant School is a rich and diverse community. During Jesus' life on earth he met people of diverse backgrounds and religious groups who were different from himself. He first engaged with all these people by speaking to them. When Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well he spoke first about the need for water, as he asked her for a drink. This enabled him to tell her about the living water – which is himself. [John 4: 5-42]

The Religious Education Programme ,*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. It is recognised that many schools will have children of other religions present in their schools 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.

The study 'On The Way to Life' makes clear how necessary it is to have an effective means of transmission of religion, Faith, life experiences which engage all people in today's world.

To engage in effective transmission, schools, families, parish, and all the formational programme of the faith community must also have a capacity for effective 'translation' between frameworks. This must be developed in members of the faith community if transmission is to continue.

