



## Assessing Progress and Achievement in Religious Education in Roman Catholic School

### The significant aspects of learning in Religious Education

The Principles and Practice: Religious Education in Roman Catholic Schools paper outlines the important and unique features of learning through religious education which should be experienced by children and young people in all Roman Catholic schools in Scotland. Children and young people in Roman Catholic schools are entitled to learning experiences which support them to feel secure and confident in who they are in relation to self, God and others. Most importantly, they are entitled to be supported in their journey of faith and discovery by adults who engage with them through questioning and sharing conversations which encourage reflection and critical thinking and which lead to personal growth. This Is Our Faith further supports effective planning for religious education through ensuring that the experiences and outcomes for Religious Education in Roman Catholic Schools are embedded within the core learning for each stage. The guidance also supports effective learning of appropriate aspects of literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. Further guidance on this approach can be found in the Education Scotland resource Planning for Learning, Teaching and Assessment in RERC.

Successful learning in religious education encompasses knowledge and understanding and skills alongside the development of beliefs, values and practices. The guidance for Religious Education in Roman Catholic schools supports assessment by helping to identify significant aspects of learning including:

- a deepening knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith
- understanding the relevance of the Catholic faith to questions about truth and the meaning of life
- fostering the values, attitudes and practices compatible with a positive response to the invitation to faith
- developing the skills of reflection, discernment and critical thinking
- being able to make well informed moral decisions
- feeling nurtured through engagement in prayer as an individual and as part of the school and parish community
- being able to understand and appreciate significant aspects of other Christian traditions and major world religions
- making a positive difference to self and the world by putting beliefs and values into action.

The experiences and outcomes for religious education are presented using the eight organisers known as 'The Strands of Faith'. These act as a framework through which children and young people encounter the significant aspects of learning. Learning through the strands of faith is not a linear process. Each will be visited time and time again as children and young people increase their understanding, grow in maturity and strengthen their skills and abilities to respond to the high level concepts within the curriculum framework. Embedded across all the Strands of Faith are important concepts which are central to children and young people's developing understanding of the Catholic faith. Guidance within This Is Our Faith exemplifies how these concepts might be explored with learners through a progressive programme of RERC. To illustrate the ways in which these concepts are all interconnected this is best presented as a circular template:

### *Mystery of God, In the Image of God, Revealed truth of God, Son of God,*

- Our sense of God's presence in our lives
- Creation
- Questions about our ultimate destiny
- Humans made in the image and likeness of God
- Made for relationship with God and others (true fulfilment & happiness found)
- Vocation to Love
- God as a Trinitarian community of Father, Son & Holy Spirit
- Revelation and Covenant
- Jesus is the Son of God
- Incarnation
- Salvation and Redemption (New Covenant)
- How Christian life is sustained
- Christ continues to be present through Sacraments
- Christ continues to be present through the Church (including role & structure of Church)
- The Marks of the Church (One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic)
- Scripture is the Inspired Word of God
- Teachings of the Church (Tradition and Magisterium)
- The ongoing mission of the Holy Spirit
- Prayer (personal and communal)
- Mary the Mother of God
- Liturgical practice
- Christian Heritage
- Living Gospel values
- Building the Kingdom of God
- Other World Religions

### *Sign of God, Word of God, Hours of God, Reign of God,*



As teachers work with this framework they will understand the spiral nature of the learning which is encompassed within the strands of faith. The contexts highlighted in the centre of this circle should be explored again and again through a range of teaching and learning approaches and in ways which are appropriate to the maturity and understanding of learners at each stage. Exploring the strands of faith in this way provides rich opportunities for increased depth, progression and application of learning as children and young people grow and develop. The very nature of faith, beliefs and practices as they are intertwined with daily living means that the significant aspects of learning in religious education are interconnected. Each aspect needs to be further explored and understood in the light of the guidance contained in This Is Our Faith and through approaches that encourage learners to make the connections across learning so that they understand better the relationships between faith, practices, traditions, values and issues and the need to respond through an informed moral conscience. Learning in religious education builds on and connects with children and young people's learning in the context of family and the wider parish community. Effective planning of learning therefore takes good account of the different roles and responsibilities within this home – school-parish relationship.