

LEARNING IN INSPIRING SPACES

ACTIVITY SHEET

Activity Faith, Worship and Belief

Activity type Cathedral activity

Duration 75-90 minutes

The children will:

- understand ways Christians worship in the Cathedral and how this worship expresses their faith and belief

They will do this by:

- learning about the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion – what happens and why?
- learning about the symbol of the cross and how that links with beliefs about Jesus
- beginning to explore the symbol of the trinity
- exploring some of the key objects used in worship – lectern and pulpit for example
- learning what makes a Cathedral different from a church
- discovering other symbols for Jesus – fish, alpha and omega, light of the world

Key vocabulary: Cathedral, font, cross, lectern, altar, bible, cathedra, sacrament, symbolic, alpha and omega, trinity, Eucharist

Please note: Some children will be invited to dress in robes worn by priests and bishops and are welcome to touch the water in the font when learning about baptism. **Please advise us of any children who would not be permitted to do this.**

Curriculum links:
(Northants and
Peterborough Agreed
Syllabuses)

**SMSC Ofsted Inspection
Handbook 2015**

AT1

- Describe the key aspects of religions, especially the people, the stories and traditions that influence the beliefs and values of others
- Describe the variety of practices and ways of life in religions and understand how these stem from and are closely connected with beliefs and teachings
- Identify and begin to describe the similarities and differences between and within religions
- Consider the meaning of a range of forms of religious expression understand why they are important in religion and note links between them
- Use specialist vocabulary in communicating knowledge and understanding
- Use and interpret information about religions from a range of sources

AT2

- Reflect on what it means to belong to a faith community, communicating their own and others' responses
- Discuss their own and others' views of religion truth and belief, expressing their own ideas
- Reflect on sources of inspiration in their own and others' lives

Breadth of study

- Worship, pilgrimage and sacred places: where, how and why people worship
- Symbols and religious expression: how religious and spiritual ideas are expressed

Experiences and opportunities

- Encountering religion through visitors and visits to places of worship
- Discussing religious and philosophical questions, giving reasons for their own beliefs and those of others
- Considering a range of human experiences and feelings
- Reflecting on their own and others' insights into life and its origins, purpose and meaning

Pupils' spiritual development is shown by their:

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning willingness to reflect on their experiences.

Pupils' cultural development is shown by their:

- understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and those of others
- willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities
- interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

Before the visit why not.....

- Introduce the children to the key vocabulary
- Prepare some questions – what do we want to find out? You can send them to us ahead of time
- Research about worship at the Cathedral – use the Cathedral website to find out what types of worship take place here
- Learn the meaning of 'symbolism', research signs and symbols around the school and in the local community

During the visit why not.....

- Teachers can take pictures of the Cathedral to use in follow up work
- Record the words and phrases children use to describe and respond to the building

After the visit why not.....

- Create a display of the Cathedral using photos taken and words generated– what you found out
- Reflect on the experience of being in the Cathedral – how did it make you feel?
- Visit another Christian place of worship to compare. This website lists many different churches in Peterborough www.churches-in-peterborough.org.uk
- Write to us – tell us about your visit and what you did on your return to school. We'll display your letters and pictures in the Learning Centre!

Preparing children for a visit to a place of worship

During your visit, there will be people in the building to pray. A member of the Schools and Families team will introduce the children to the Cathedral but it would be helpful if you could prepare them. Below are a few ideas:

- The Cathedral is a place of worship. **What is worship?** What does that mean to you?
- **Who worships at the Cathedral?** It is a Christian place of worship, and services (group worship) take place every day. The main service takes place on a Sunday but the Cathedral is open all year (except Boxing Day) for other services or for people to visit to pray on their own or in small groups or for general visitors
- **Will we experience worship on our visit?** If you are participating in a RE-focussed activity then you will learn about Christian worship. During your visit to the Cathedral there won't be services taking place but there will be people visiting to pray on their own or in small groups
- **What will they be doing?** Lighting candles, talking to the priests about their worries or concerns, reading the bible, sitting quietly on one of the chairs
- **How should we show respect to those people?** By moving round the building sensibly, slowly and quietly, removing a hat if wearing one, keeping to main parts of the church and away from areas roped off (these are the most holy (important) areas of the church to Christian people), by having our phones on silent and taking telephone calls outside, being mindful of people sitting on their own or in small groups or lighting candles – they could be saying prayers.
- **"I'm not a Christian though...."** All are welcome in the Cathedral regardless of whether they are Christian or not.

We hope you enjoy your visit to the Cathedral and look forward to welcoming you

Alex, Judi and all the team in the Schools and Families Department



Primary and Secondary Programme

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