

SECTION ONE

SCHOOL RESOURCES



STUDENT LESSON PLANS

LESSON FOUR: Religious Education is Important in Our School

From the *Aims of the Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland*

Lessons for fifth/sixth classes with adaptable suggestions for use in special schools and classes.

Level 4

Strand: Christian Faith

- Develop their understanding of the Church as a community of faith.
- Understand how to express their own faith in the presence of others and to respect the expression of faith and/or belief on the part of others.

Strand: Liturgy and Prayer

- Make connections between liturgical practices of the Church community and the beliefs and teachings proclaimed.
- Develop their understanding of personal and communal prayer.

Strand: Christian Morality

- Explore how Christians' relationship with Jesus, their beliefs and values affect their words and actions, as exemplified in their lives.
- Develop their understanding of factors that call for, influence and promote moral behaviour.
- Develop an awareness of social justice, ecological justice, universal solidarity and responsibility.
- Explore how Christians' relationship with Jesus, their beliefs and values affect their words and actions, as exemplified in their lives.
- Develop their understanding of the Church as a community of faith.

Teacher Notes

This lesson focuses on how religious education is an essential part of Catholic schools. Religious education in Catholic schools aims to form pupils in the Catholic faith. This formation is based on supporting pupils to build a relationship with the person of Jesus and become aware of the beliefs and traditions of the Church.

Introduction

Begin the lesson by reminding pupils that our school is a Catholic school and in this lesson we will be exploring all the different things we learn in school. Begin a brainstorming session or mind map of all the different things we learn in school. This can include the traditional subjects such as English and maths, as well as specific skills such as being a good friend.



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Development

To develop the lesson, explore with pupils that often subjects have symbols and signs associated with them and give some examples. For example, when we think about maths we often think of a plus or division sign. Distribute copies of activity page one and allow pupils to come up with symbols for the things listed. Focus on religious education. Religious education in a Catholic School is about much more than our daily lesson. It involves getting to know the person of Jesus and learning about the Christian community and how to live as a follower of Jesus. Part of religious education in a Catholic school is about welcoming and including everyone who comes to our school and treating others as we would like them to treat us.

Conclusion

To conclude the lesson, talk about each of the pictures on activity page two and explore each one to see if they are part of religious education in our school.

Church: Do we learn about/go to the church as a school/class? Participate in celebrations in our parish, serve Mass, etc.?

Statue of Mary: Do we have statues or symbols in our school that remind us we are a Catholic school?

Bread and Wine: Do we prepare for First Communion and receive communion regularly?

Trócaire Box: Do we support local charities, help those in our community, participate in the Trócaire Lenten campaign?

Baptismal Font: Do we learn about the importance of the sacraments and being a member of the Christian community?

Sacred Space: Do we have prayer spaces in our classroom/school?

Easter and Advent: Do we celebrate special times in the Church Year? Do we know about times like Advent and Easter?

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ACTIVITY PAGE ONE

Draw a symbol to represent the different things we learn in school

Maths	
English	
History	
Being a good friend	
Religious education	
Art	



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ACTIVITY PAGE TWO

A simple line drawing of a small white church with a steeple and a cross on top.	A blue and white line drawing of the Virgin Mary, standing with her hands at her sides and a halo of stars around her head.
A golden chalice filled with red liquid, with a round loaf of bread resting on its base.	A blue box set for a DVD or Blu-ray collection titled "JOIN THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE". The cover features a collage of diverse people's faces.
A grey, ornate ciborium with a wide, shallow bowl and a pedestal base.	A photograph of a religious display on a table. It includes a small altar with a cross, a chalice, and bread, surrounded by flowers and other religious items.
Three colorful Easter eggs with different patterns: one with blue and white stripes, one with pink and green stripes, and one with yellow and green stripes.	Four lit candles in shades of purple and pink, arranged in a row and surrounded by a green holly wreath with red bows.

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SUGGESTIONS FOR LESSON ADAPTION

Special Education Guidelines

Strand: Christian Morality

- Have an awareness of belonging to a 'class' or to a 'group'.

Attending	Responding	Initiating
The child should be enabled to:	The child should be enabled to:	The child should be enabled to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• participate in turn taking activities/games• become aware of rules in the school and community that may concern him/her	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• participate in activities that require everyone to give and share something• observe appropriate school and community rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• care for and cooperate with each other• independently observe community and school rules

Pupils Attending

Use activity page two as flash cards to explore with pupils the different things we learn as part of religious education in our Catholic school.

Pupils Responding

Introduce activity page two as flash cards to explore with pupils the different things we learn as part of religious education in our Catholic school. Allow pupils to take it in turns to hold up or point to a picture as a teacher describes each picture.

Pupils Initiating

Introduce activity page two as flash cards to explore with pupils the different things we learn as part of religious education in our catholic school. Question pupils on what each picture means. Allow pupils to take it in turns to hold up or point to a picture as a teacher describes each picture.