

**Belonging – A Sacramental Topic**

**\*Note to parents**.

This work comes from the *Come and See* Religious Education programme which is taught in all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Liverpool. We have given a general guide to the learning opportunities that your child may have come across in school and have only suggested and selected a small amount of the programme. The activities aim to keep Religious Education practical and fun. They are in Year groups however, there is no harm in completing other lower year group work as well as this will help your child to remember and strengthen their learning***.***

The first part of learning is called – **EXPLORE**. This shares your child’s everyday experiences and helps them to see how the Catholic faith is lived in their everyday lives as the theme progresses. The second part, called – **REVEAL** shares bible stories, religious teachings, lives of saints etc. that can relate to their everyday life. There are suggested activities for each section. Choose those you wish to do and record them as best as you can sending any work undertaken to school.

This theme is a Sacramental theme and focuses on the Sacraments of Baptism (and Confirmation, Marriage and Holy Orders). We understand that not every child or parent will have been baptised, so alongside this document are notes about the Sacrament of Baptism that you may find useful. All the other information you will need is here.

**YEAR 3 - PROMISES - EXPLORE**

Belonging to a group involves promises and rules

* Children may be able to **ask** and answer questions about promises and say about what they **wonder** about why people make promises.
* Children may be able to **make links** between their actions and the promises made.

Talk about the groups or clubs they belong to.

* What is good about belonging to a group or club? What do they enjoy?
* What rules do they have to keep and why must they keep them? Are they difficult to keep?
* Was there a ceremony of enrolment or initiation?
* Did they make any promises, and if so, do they have to renew these promises? Why do they have to keep these promises?

Alternatively, you could tell the following story and discuss the above questions:

My name is Paul. When I first joined the karate club, my teacher, who is called Sensei (pronounced ‘Sensay’), told me you should count in Japanese.

One to ten in Japanese sounds like this:

1. **ichy**
2. **knee**
3. **san**
4. **she**
5. **go**
6. **roku**
7. **sichy**
8. **hatchy**
9. **coo**
10. **joo**

He also gives orders in Japanese. Start is ‘ashermay’ and line up is ‘shoyo.’ I had to learn about ‘catters’. There are punches, kicks and blocks. Sensei says, “The most important thing is to *promise* to do as you are told and never do karate in the playground.”

The belts are white, yellow, orange, red, green, blue, purple, brown, grey and black. You bow when Sensei says “ray.” Kicks are good leg techniques, and they exercise your legs, too. Punches are hand techniques and are very powerful. Blocks are important in karate. I’ve got to decide soon whether I’m going to keep coming. It is very strict here and it is hard work, but I think I’ll carry on. I’m a lot stronger already.

**Activities:**

* Make an advert for one of your clubs or for Paul’s Karate Club to let others know what it is all about. Make sure you illustrate the promise you or Paul had to make and say why it is important to keep the promises.
* Make a banner for one of the promises that you must keep at one of your clubs or for the scouts / guides (see below) and decorate your banner showing how important it is to live out the promise and keep it.

“On my honour, I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God and to The Queen, to help other people and to keep the Scout Law.”

"I promise that I will do my best, to be true to myself and develop my beliefs, to serve the Queen and my community, to help other people and to keep the (Brownie) Guide Law."

**YEAR 3 - PROMISES - REVEAL**

The meaning of the promises made at Baptism

* Children may be able to **recognise** and **give reasons** for the promises made in Baptism.
* Talk to your child about the promises made at Baptism:

The parents with the baby and godparents, go to stand around the font. The parents and godparents are asked if they will commit themselves to do all they can to help the child become a good Christian. In order to do this, they make **promises** to reject evil and all that means and promise to serve God faithfully as they renew their faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The priest/deacon asks the parents and godparents to renew their own faith by responding to three questions with the words *I do.*

***These are the promises that are made:***

**Priest/deacon**: *Do you believe in God, the Father, the Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?*

**Parents and godparents**: *I do*.

**Priest/deacon**: *Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?*

**Parents and godparents**: *I do*.

**Priest/deacon**: *Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?*

**Parents and godparents**: *I do*.

Look at how each section in turn asks parents and godparents to say they believe God the Father, in Jesus Christ his Son and in the Holy Spirit - the blessed Trinity. (Remind the children that Christians do this every time they make the Sign of the Cross.)

The parents and godparents are making a commitment on behalf of the child that she/he will grow up a member of the Church family and follow the way of Christ and serve God with the help of the Holy Spirit to guide them.

Talk together about:

* what the parents and godparents have to promise and why they do so
* why having a baby baptised is something that needs preparing for
* what it means to make a commitment. (Think back about belonging to a club etc.)

**Activity:**

* Using the template of a cross, (below) pick out key words and phrases from the promises, write them on the Cross and give reasons for your choices.

At the end of all your work on **PROMISES**, make a commitment to keep any promises that you make at any clubs that you belong to. You might like to pray for God’s help to do this.

