



Introduction to Religious Education

YEAR 6 INTO 7 TRANSITION WORK

Name:

Primary school:

Welcome to Religious Education at Blessed Robert Sutton!

As BRS is a faith school, all students study Religious Education from the start of year 7 until they leave. It is a compulsory GCSE subject. It's a really important subject to us for lots of different reasons:

- It helps us all to learn about faith, whatever our faith – even those people who don't have any faith at all.
- It gives us a chance to consider some of life's big questions: Why are we here? Where did the world come from? Why do people suffer? What happens when people die?
- It helps us to understand other people. We study a Catholic Christianity course but learn about other faiths and the perspectives of people who have no faith as well.
- It helps us to develop academic skills such as being able to explain complex ideas or interpret what different written texts are communicating.



Some questions you might have:

Isn't this subject just for people who want to do something religious when they're older?

Some people think that studying RE only qualifies a person to become a nun, monk or priest! That's not true: our students have gone on to do all different kinds of jobs from teaching to law, being a doctor to being a scientist! The skills you learn in RE and the understanding you develop about other people help to make you employable.

I don't have any religious faith at all. Will I offend you if I say that?

We won't be offended if you say that you don't have a religious faith. We know that not everyone has a religious faith and we can learn from you as much as you can learn from us. RE is an academic subject and we work hard to help all our students to make good academic progress. It is also a subject that is really important for many students because it is about their faith and so RE is designed to be supportive of faith too. However, you won't be forced to believe if you do not have faith.

I am from another religious community. Is that okay?

Of course it is! In our classrooms we will have a mixture of faiths. As it says above, our course is an academic course which is designed to support faith. However, it is not trying to convert anyone. We study different religions during the years you'll be at BRS and when we are discussing your faith, please speak up and tell us about your faith as we can learn from you!

I didn't go to a Catholic primary school. Will I be disadvantaged?

The point of this transition work is to give everyone the same input at the start of the year. You might find that your classmates from Catholic primary schools feel a bit more confident at first but if you keep working hard, listening to and acting on advice, you will do well too.

The course is designed for all students to learn together and there are lots of resources to support all students.

If you have any other questions, or want to discuss these more, please speak to your RE teacher when you start at BRS.



Task 1-

Key words and meanings:

Write down the definition of the following key words. If you do not know them, ask somebody at home or look them up. Then try to use them in a sentence.

Word	Meaning	Example of how this might be used in a sentence
Christian	A person who believes that Jesus was the Son of God and follows him.	"Jenny is a Christian"
Catholic		
Bible		
Prayer		
Apostle		
Faith		
Church		
Sacrament		
Jesus		
Priest		
Trinity		

What is religion?

Religion is a way for people to express what they believe. There are a number of religions in the world and Christianity is the largest of these religions. Religions have shared beliefs in some form of higher being or God, they will have holy books and particular ways of praying and worshipping to praise and try to experience the higher being (God). Religions have rules about how to live and many religious people feel that their religion helps them in life.

Where did the Christian faith come from?

Christianity is a religion. There are lots of different types of Christians, such as Catholics, Protestant and Orthodox Christians. All Christians believe in God and that Jesus was God's son on earth.

The Christian faith comes from Jesus who was a Jewish man who lived in Israel during the first century AD. This means that the Christian faith has its roots in the Jewish faith and the history of the Jewish people, thousands of years before Jesus.

What do Christians believe about God?

Jews and Christians share a belief in one God. This God is the God who the Bible teaches created the world, gave the Ten Commandments, spoke to prophets and helped Jesus' Jewish ancestors to go to the Promised Land.

Task 2- Jews and Christians agree that God has certain qualities. Look up the key terms and write them in the boxes:

He is omnipotent	
He is omni-benevolent	
He is omniscient	
He is transcendent	
He is eternal	

TASK 3- Choose ONE of the tasks below depending on how confident you feel.

Gold: I'm feeling really confident!

Why do you think it is important for God to have these qualities? Write about each quality individually, include your opinion and back up your points with evidence.

Silver: I can do this!

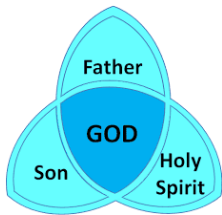
Write a letter to a friend to explain Christian beliefs about who God is. Try to add your own examples to explain the qualities of God (e.g. omnipotent)

Bronze: I'm going to stick to the basics for now.

Draw a picture for each key term to show what it means.

Christian beliefs about Jesus

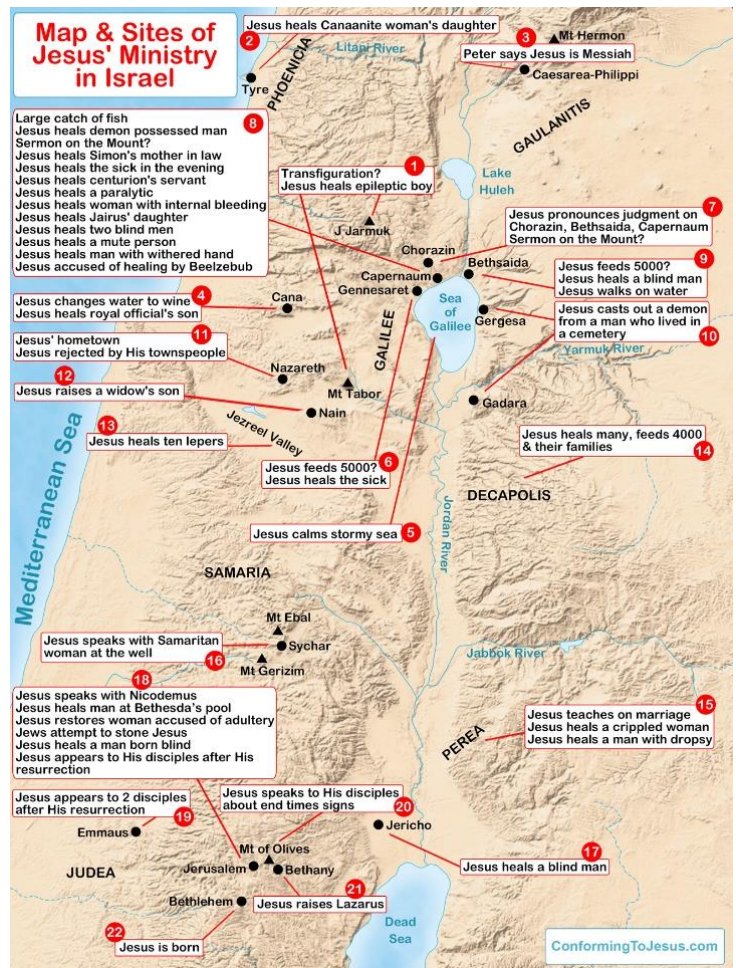
Christians believe that Jesus was God in human form. Christians believe in one God, experienced in three different ways.



This is called the Trinity. The Trinity is made up of God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All are God, but different ways of experiencing God.

Christians believe that Jesus' parents on earth were Mary and Joseph but that God had brought him into life. They believe that he lived a life of teaching people and helping them. They believe he died and rose from the dead, then went to heaven. His life was spent in Israel, which is a very important country to the Jewish people who call it the "Promised Land" since it was promised to Abraham, the Father of the Jewish faith.



The map shows Israel at the time of Jesus and makes connections between stories from the Bible that mention these places. It is clear that Jesus travelled a lot in his time on earth, taking his message of love and forgiveness to others.

Jews do not believe the same about Jesus as Christians do. They do not believe he was God.

Christians believe that God sent them the Holy Spirit to give them strength and courage to carry on being Christians even when it's hard. The Holy Spirit was given to Jesus' disciples who first spread the news about Jesus and Christians believe it is present in the world today helping them to make good decisions and feel close to God.

TASK 4- Choose ONE of the tasks below depending on how confident you feel.

Gold: I'm feeling really confident!

Write a letter to your RE teacher to explain some of the Christian beliefs about Jesus and why he is so important to Christians.



Silver: I can do this!

Write an answer page to “What do you already know about Jesus?” You have to write more information than is on this page! (Approx. half a page of writing).

Bronze: I’m going to stick to the basics for now.

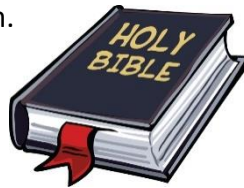
Using this page to help you, write down the “top ten” details about Jesus that you’ve learned so far.

Where do Christians get all this information from?

Christians all use a holy book, called the Bible. Christians believe that it is the Word of God – how He speaks to humans in their lives. There are two main halves to the Bible:

Old Testament: the time before Jesus was born. This time is very important for Jewish people as it a lot of their teachings but it also helps us to understand Jesus since it is about the history of the Jewish people that Jesus was born into. There are lots of connections between events in Jesus’ life and teachings and events from the Old Testament.

New Testament: the time that Jesus was born and lived on earth. This part of the Bible contains the Gospels which are the accounts of Jesus’ life on earth, his death and resurrection. There is also teaching about the earliest Christians and the letters that St Paul sent to them to encourage and teach them.



TASK 5- Choose ONE of the tasks below depending on how confident you feel.

Gold: I’m feeling really confident!

Think about what you’ve already learnt about the Bible. Write down, in your own words, one story from the Bible. Write an explanation of this story – what is the main message, why is the message important, what can we learn from it today?

Silver: I can do this!

Create a mind map, using the information here and, if you have any other ideas, about why Christians read the Bible. Underline your own ideas (if you have added any) in a different colour to make them stand out.

Bronze: I’m going to stick to the basics for now.

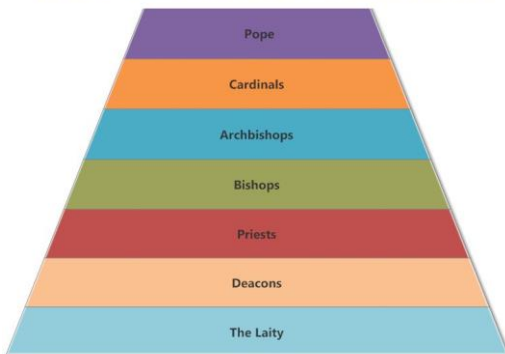
Write a short message about the Bible to teach someone else about it. It should be about the right length to send on a postcard.



Where else do Catholics get this information from?



HIERARCHY OF The Catholic Church



Catholic Christians are also taught by leaders in the Church community. In the Catholic community, there are lots of different people, who do slightly different jobs. All have the responsibility to teach others about their faith.

Pope: looks after the whole Catholic Church throughout the world. The Pope has the responsibility of being a good leader for all Catholics, for teaching and inspiring them and for making sure that the Church community works well. The current Pope is Pope Francis.

Cardinals: help the Pope to carry out his job. Cardinals have additional responsibilities. For example, some cardinals look after the Catholic faith in their country. Cardinals also help with other roles such as finance or education. One of the most important roles of a cardinal is to appoint a new Pope, when the Pope dies or retires.

Archbishops: some archbishops are also cardinals but others just have the role of looking after an archdiocese, which is a large geographic area. Archbishops help to pass on teachings from the Pope to the priests and people in their archdiocese.

Bishops: look after an area called a diocese. BRS is part of the diocese of Nottingham. Bishops are based at the main church or Cathedral for the diocese (called St Barnabas' Cathedral in Nottingham). Bishops make sure that the priests in the diocese give the teaching from the Pope and help with certain sacraments (special celebrations of God's love). Our current bishop is called Bishop Patrick.

Priests: are usually based in a Church community. Priests are only men in the Catholic Church and usually are unmarried. The main job for a priest is to help the people in his parish community to grow in faith. He does this through helping Catholics to celebrate the sacraments. Priests can help people who are going through difficulties and often go into schools, prisons or hospitals to support people in those places.

Deacons: help the priest in all his different jobs but can't do some of the special jobs that the priest does, such as forgiving people on Jesus' behalf or blessing the bread and wine at communion.

Laity: these are the people in the congregation / parish. They can help with the leadership of the Church community by helping others, such as by teaching people ready for sacraments, helping in church or visiting people and helping them.



Who else is important to Catholics?

There are lots of other people who are important to Catholics. This is just a small selection of some of them.

Mary, Jesus' mother: Catholics believe that Mary is very important because she was Jesus' mother. Catholics believe that she showed her faith in God by accepting this role. Catholics ask Mary to pray with them so that she can make their prayers stronger. Catholics have particular prayers for Mary but the most famous is the Hail Mary.



The apostles: These were twelve men chosen by Jesus to help him on earth. They came from lots of different backgrounds but worked together with Jesus. Apostle means messenger and the key message they took to people was about who Jesus was and how people could follow him in their lives.

The saints: These are people who lived particularly holy lives and who have been recognised by the Church for this. They are important to Catholics since they have inspiring life stories and many Catholics feel that they can learn a lot about how to follow God, by learning about their lives.

TASK 6- Choose ONE of the tasks below depending on how confident you feel.

Gold: I'm feeling really confident!

Take one of the paragraphs above and re-write it, adding in additional information. You can give specific examples of stories and explanations to show how much you know about the topic.

Silver: I can do this!

Write an explanation of why Mary, the apostles and the saints are important to Catholics.

Bronze: I'm going to stick to the basics for now.

Research the Hail Mary prayer. Write it out. Underline any words or phrases that you think tell you about who Mary was or what she was like.





The Sacraments of the Catholic Church

A sacrament is a **sign** of something that cannot be seen. Sacraments come from the word **'sacred'** and bring people closer to God. Christians can celebrate 7 sacraments in their lives. These are **baptism, the Eucharist, confirmation, reconciliation, holy orders, marriage and the sacrament of the sick**. The Catholic Church celebrates **7**. The Protestant Church celebrates **2**.

Baptism is the first Sacrament of initiation. Baptism removes original sin and welcomes a person into the Church. The sacrament is received by babies in the Catholic Church. Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist.

Holy Communion or First Eucharist is the second Sacrament of initiation. First Eucharist is the time when a person can begin receiving the bread and wine at Mass (The Body and Blood of Jesus) during Holy Communion.

Confirmation is the third Sacrament of initiation. It is the Sacrament when a person receives the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Reconciliation/First Confession is the Sacrament which gives people the chance to repair their relationship with God. By admitting we have done wrong and saying sorry we can be forgiven by God. Reconciliation is a Sacrament of healing.

People who are very ill receive the **Sacrament of the Sick**. It is a sacrament of healing. This helps a person to prepare to go to Heaven

Marriage is the Sacrament when a man and a woman get married by a priest in a church. The Marriage is sealed by God. Marriage is a sacrament of vocation.

Holy Orders is the Sacrament received when a man becomes a priest. Only men can become priests in the Catholic Church. Holy Orders is a Sacrament of vocation.

TASK 7- Choose ONE of the tasks below depending on how confident you feel.

Gold: I'm feeling really confident!

Why do you think the sacraments are important qualities? Write about each one individually and try to add some of the symbols that are used.

Silver: I can do this!

Write a letter to a friend to explain what the sacraments are and why they are important. Try to use key terms.

Bronze: I'm going to stick to the basics for now.

Draw a picture to represent each sacrament.



How do Catholics pray?



Catholics prepare themselves for prayer by making the Sign of the Cross. They say “In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

This shows that they are bringing themselves into the presence of God and that what they think or say during this time is going to be offered to God as a prayer.

Catholics pray in lots of different ways. They have a number of different types of prayers, such as asking prayers; contrition (sorry) prayers; thanksgiving prayers and supplication (asking) prayers.

Catholics have set prayers (also called formulaic prayers), such as the Our Father or the Glory Be, but also make up their own prayers (called extempore prayers) when they need to as well. Catholics can pray anywhere but are expected to go to Mass on Sundays.

Mass is a very special way for Catholics to worship and has many different features.

- There are sorry and asking prayers
- There are readings from the Bible
- There are prayers that everyone says such as the Our Father, the Creed and the Hail Mary
- The priest blesses bread and wine and Catholics believe that they become the body and blood of Jesus
- Catholics receive the communion (the body and blood of Jesus)
- Often hymns are sung and music is played

For Catholics, this Mass is the most important type of worship because they receive Jesus’ body and blood. This helps Catholics to strengthen their faith.

Catholics use different items in their prayers, such as candles or statues. These are to help to create a prayerful atmosphere and to help the person to focus on their prayers.

Churches are special places of prayer that have certain features that make it possible to celebrate the sacraments and have Mass. For example, there is an altar which is where the bread and wine are blessed and a font where baptisms can happen.

TASK 8- Choose ONE of the tasks below depending on how confident you feel.

Gold: I’m feeling really confident!

Your opinion: should Catholics say formulaic or extempore prayers? Try to come up with ideas for both types of prayers.

Silver: I can do this!

Write some advice about Catholic prayer for someone who doesn’t know about it. Use this information to help you but write in your own words. Add your own examples if you can.



Bronze: I'm going to stick to the basics for now.

Make a spider diagram about what happens at Mass and why Mass is important for Catholics.

What are the main rules for Catholics?

The biggest two rules are to love God and to love other people. These rules occur throughout the Bible and Jesus taught them as well. One of the most famous set of rules can be found in the Old Testament. They are called the Ten Commandments and were given by God to a man called Moses who had freed the Israelite people from slavery.

The Ten Commandments are:

1. I am the Lord your God, you shall not have any other gods before Me

This means to worship only one God and no others

2. You shall not take God's name in vain

This means not to use God's name as a way of swearing or abusing

3. Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy

This is the day where we remember that God rested following creating the world and that Jesus rose on a Sunday

4. Honour your mother and father

This is reminding us to care for parents when they become old and infirm

5. You shall not kill

This means not to take another person's life because only God can take life

6. You shall not commit adultery

This means that you should be faithful to the person you are married to and not have a relationship with anyone else

7. You shall not steal

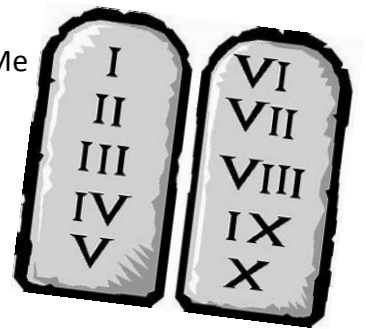
This means to respect what other people possess and to not take it from them unfairly

8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour

This means that you should not lie about other people

9. You shall not covert your neighbour's wife

This means that you should respect that your neighbour and his wife are married and you shouldn't be jealous about the wife that he has



10. You shall not covert your neighbour's goods

This means not to be jealous of what your neighbour owns and to respect his property

Jesus was asked which of these Ten Commandments was the most important. His reply was: "You should love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind and you should love your neighbour as yourself" – this is known as the Greatest Commandment. Jesus' Greatest Commandment contains all of the Ten Commandments:

You should love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind:

Commandments 1-3

You should love your neighbour as yourself: Commandments 4-10

Jesus also taught what is known as the Golden Rule: "Treat other people as you would like to be treated." This means that we need to think about our actions and consider whether we would be happy if someone behaved in the same way towards us.

Jesus taught people to love God and to love their neighbour. One story about loving God that he taught was when Jesus spoke about people who showed off about their religion so that other people would be impressed with them. These people would make a show of saying prayers, giving to charity or fasting (going without food) so that other people would think that they were in some way superior. Jesus said that to truly love God, a person must do these actions humbly and privately because they are between the person and God only.

A story about loving our neighbours is a famous story called the Good Samaritan which is about a man who is left on the roadside having been attacked. Two religious leaders walk by and do nothing to help him but a Samaritan (the enemy of the injured man) came to his aid and took him to rest and recover and even paid for his accommodation. Jesus is making the point that all people are our neighbours.

TASK 9- Choose ONE of the tasks below depending on how confident you feel.

Gold: I'm feeling really confident!

Write an explanation of the ways in which Catholics show love for God and love for others in their daily lives. Make reference to the teachings above, as well as other teachings you know. Give as wide a range of evidence of actions, attitudes and ways of worshipping as you can.

Silver: I can do this!

Using these rules and teachings write an explanation about why Catholics love God and others in their lives.

Bronze: I'm going to stick to the basics for now.

Make a table like the one below. Write down how Catholics can love God and love their neighbour, using these teachings to help you.

Love of God

e.g. Worshipping only one God

Love of neighbour

e.g. respecting people's property



Well done for completing this transition work! This will put you in a great position for starting RE at BRS. Your teachers are looking forward to meeting you 😊