

**REPORT FOR SACRE FOLLOWING OBSERVATION OF AN RE LESSON
AT St JUDES CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, SOUTHSEA ON 29 APRIL 2009
BY BRIAN HAY, DIOCESAN SCHOOLS' ADVISER**

INTRODUCTION

During the early part of 2009, following a suggestion from Georgina Mulhall, the RE AST, several members of SACRE agreed to observe some RE lessons at various Portsmouth schools.

The headteacher at St Jude's CE Primary, one of Portsmouth Diocese's Church of England schools, kindly offered this facility and a visit to the school was arranged for 29 April.

ARRANGEMENTS

Following discussions and a school tour from the head, I was introduced to Mrs Naomi Crossley and her class of 30 Year 6 pupils of mixed abilities. They were seated at desks in groups of 6 and the RE lesson to be observed formed part of the creative curriculum focusing on New Life. The topic to be covered concerned the Eucharist and was the fourth lesson in the RE series.

CONTEXT AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Taking place a fortnight after Easter, the context of the lesson was to focus on how Jesus' sufferings and death on the cross offers Christians new life through forgiveness.

The Learning Objectives were to contextualize and evaluate the following:

- To explain what the Eucharist is
- To explain how the symbols of the Eucharist represent the Body and Blood of Jesus.
- To evaluate how the symbols of the Eucharist have value to the Christian Faith.

The class had already studied the Easter story and used their emotions to create a freeze frame story of events including the Last Supper. The Vicar from St Jude's had also celebrated the Eucharist recently in the school.

INTRODUCTION

A brief re-cap covering the Easter story including the Last Supper was followed by an introduction to the concept of the Eucharist. A question and answer session followed with pupils asked to identify images displayed on the classroom computer whiteboard, which are associated with the Eucharist. What are they? Where would they be found? Who uses them and what do they represent? Although some responded more regularly than others, all members were guided into making a verbal response.

DEVELOPMENT

The pupils were then shown a clip of 'The Last Supper' from the 'Miracle Maker' video. This was familiar to most class members, but brought everybody up to the same level of interpretation. Artefacts, including several Crosses, Candles, Patens, and Chalice, were laid out on the tables. The pupils were then split up into pairs and

asked to question each other on the meaning and uses of these artefacts.

To the question 'What is the Eucharist for', the following answers were contextualized:

Christians give thanks to God.

Jesus' death on the Cross was to save our sins.

He will come again.

Bread is broken to symbolize the Body of Christ.

Wine is drunk to symbolize the Blood of Christ.

Frequency of the Eucharist Service eg daily, occasionally or never.

The pupils were now questioned about the various ways in which different Christian Denominations celebrate the Eucharist. Use was made of the REonline website, showing the different practices followed by the Roman Catholic, Anglican, Free Churches and The Salvation Army.

A minority of pupils had experienced taking part in a Eucharistic Service, but the majority understood the concept.

As part of a project to produce a powerpoint presentation on 'The Eucharist', pupils now worked in mixed ability partnerships to produce one or two slides for the presentation. It was noticeable that the more able children were able to clearly apply their ideas on paper, but Mrs Crossley and myself were able to offer suggestions to the weaker class members.

Pupils were asked to question each other and self evaluate their work. Most were able to satisfy the Success Criteria of explaining what the Eucharist is and why and how Christians celebrate the event.

REVIEW

The final piece of work involved the pupils thinking carefully and writing on a post-it note, what they thought was the most important piece of information about the Eucharist they had learnt from the lesson. These were then displayed on the classroom door.

In summary, all pupils were encouraged to participate in the lesson and benefited from the way the topic of 'The Eucharist' was covered.

I would like to thank Alan Matthews, the Headteacher at St Jude's for allowing me to visit the school and in particular to Naomi Crossley for letting me have a free hand in observing this RE lesson with her Year 6 class.

Brian Hay

Brian Hay
Portsmouth Diocesan Schools' Adviser

19 May 2009