

Early Years

BAPTISM/CONFIRMATION – BELONGING

Come and See for yourself

EXPLORE

Our lives are marked by many different experiences of being welcomed into new situations and groups.

We recognise the importance of welcome, of feeling comfortable with new situations and belonging to new groups. We belong to families, to work places and to social groupings.

- Q What experiences of belonging can you recall in the family, at work or in leisure time?
- Q Are these good experiences? Are there any difficulties?
- Q What difference does 'belonging' make in your life?

REVEAL

Christians believe that everyone is invited to share in the life and work of God through Baptism. The Bible recounts God's invitations to people to share in his life and work: among them are Moses, Samuel, the prophets, Mary and the apostles.

"Through Baptism, men and women are incorporated into Christ. They are formed into God's people and they obtain the forgiveness of all their sins. They become a new creation through water and the Holy Spirit. Hence, they are called and are indeed children of God. Signed with the gift of the Spirit in Confirmation, Christians more perfectly become the image of their Lord and are filled with the Holy Spirit. They bear witness to him before all the world and eagerly work for the building up of the Body of Christ." (*General Introduction to the Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults*)

Word of God

"The next day, John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi (which translated means 'Teacher'), where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day." (*John 1:35-39*)

- Q The call to follow Jesus is a personal invitation. Can you think of ways in which people respond to the invitation today?

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Baptism makes us members of the Body of Christ: 'Therefore... we are members of one another.'
Baptism incorporates us into the church. (CCC1267)

RESPOND

- Q How does the school enable new children, new staff and parents to enter into the life of the school?
- Q How may children be helped to appreciate what it means to belong to a faith community?

Prayer and Reflection

*Almighty and eternal God,
you keep together those you have united.
Look kindly on all who follow Jesus your Son.
We are all consecrated to you by our common baptism;
make us one in the fullness of faith
and keep us one in the fellowship of love.
Amen.
(Prayer for Various Occasions: for Unity of Christians)*

BAPTISM/CONFIRMATION – BELONGING: WELCOME – TOPIC OVERVIEW

NURSERY & RECEPTION 4 WEEKS | Baptism: a welcome for a new baby

TEACHERS' NOTES		
<p>The sacraments are actions and signs, which deepen communion with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At Baptism, the church invites and welcomes the person into the church family. The Sacrament of Baptism is the basis of all Christian life.</p> <p>Scripture: John 15: 9 <i>I love you just as the Father loves me; remain in my love.</i></p> <p>Catechism of the Catholic Church 1267: Baptism makes us members of the Body of Christ: 'Therefore... we are members of one another.' Baptism incorporates us into the church.</p>		
ABOUT THE TOPIC		
<p>Prior learning: children will have experience of belonging to a family and to a nursery/class group</p> <p>This Topic: learning outcomes</p> <p>Know and understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What it is to welcome and be welcomed – Explore • Baptism: a welcome to God's family – Reveal <p>Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above – Respond</p>		
SCRIPTURE	TRADITION	
Colossians 3:12	Baptism, a welcome to God's family I baptise you in the name of ... Rite of Baptism <i>Church's Story 1</i> ; pages 18-19, (Teachers' notes page 52) <i>Church's Story 2</i> page 33	
SOME QUESTIONS OF MEANING & PURPOSE	CORE VOCABULARY	
How do we show people that they are welcomed? How is a baby welcomed into a family? How are we welcomed into God's family?	welcome, welcomed, belong, school, class, Baptism, baptise, water, candle, In the name of ... Reception: family, priest, white garment, godparents, font	
RESOURCES	AREAS OF LEARNING	
<i>God's Story 1</i> pages 38-39 <i>Church's Story 1</i> pages 10-11, 18-19 <i>Church's Story 2</i> page 32 Welcome Poster Welcome in different languages	Areas of learning (England) Areas of Learning (Wales) Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)	
COME & SEE WEBSITE	STANDARD INDICATOR	
Images Simple symbols of Baptism	Learning about religion Beliefs, teaching & sources Learning from religion Engagement with own & others' beliefs & values Engagement with questions of meaning & purpose	
RE CURRICULUM DIRECTORY	LITURGICAL/PRAYERS LINKS	SONGS/HYMNS TO SING
Area of Study 1: Knowing and loving God, the Trinity, Jesus Christ, Son of God, The Holy Spirit Area of Study 2: What is the Church? One and holy, Catholic, Apostolic, Mission Area of Study 3: Liturgy, Sacraments, Baptism, Prayer	Sign of the Cross	See John Burland grid
POINTS TO REMEMBER		
Possibly not every child will have been baptised.		

EXPLORE

What it is to welcome and be welcomed

AREAS OF LEARNING

Early Learning Goals (England/Wales)

STANDARD INDICATOR

Some children will begin to **talk about** their own experiences and feelings of being welcomed.

Some children will begin to say what they **wonder about** how they can make others feel welcome.

KEY WORDS

welcome, welcomed, school, class

RESOURCES

- Welcome poster
- Welcome in different languages

NURSERY FOCUS: Celebration of welcome into school.

WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT

- Share a story about being 'welcomed'.
- Show the pictures *Church's Story 1* page 10-11 on the IWB. Share ways in which these children are being welcomed into school.
- Invite the children to share their memories of how they were welcomed into school on their first day.

RECEPTION FOCUS: Celebration of welcome into school, class or other setting.

WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT

- Share a story about being 'welcomed'.
- It may be appropriate to introduce a register song e.g.
Teacher: "First & Surname, First & Surname, where are you?"
Child: "Here I am, Here I am."
Teacher/Class: "We welcome you."
- Show the pictures *Church's Story 1* page 10-11 on the IWB. Share ways in which these children are being welcomed into school.
- Express signs of welcome: e.g. handshakes, hugs etc.
- Use a 'welcome' poster in different languages to show how we welcome everyone. Make signs for different areas of the classroom; e.g. welcome to the wet area/outside area etc. these could be decorated by the children.
- Share the children's stories of being welcomed into school, class or other setting.

NURSERY & RECEPTION

ADULT DIRECTED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Make and decorate a 'welcome' sign for the classroom door with a symbol of welcome e.g. hand prints.
- Decorate a 'welcome' card to give to someone else.
- Use an 'emotion faces chart' to recognise welcoming expressions.
- Discuss what makes children feel welcomed into the school community.

CONTINUOUS PROVISION

- Explore games and cards which show expressions of welcome.
- In the home corner, dramatise scenes of welcome at home or in school.
- Set up a role play area which links to your welcome story.
- Make a welcome sign for the class or school entrance.

REFLECTION ON SIGNIFICANCE

Gather round the display or prayer focus. Have a quiet moment together to reflect on and appreciate what it is to welcome someone and to be welcomed.

REVEAL

Baptism: a welcome to God's family

CONTENT: scripture – tradition – prayers

AREAS OF LEARNING

See Early Learning Goals (England/Wales)

KEY WORDS

family, Baptism, baptise, water, candle, In the name of the Father ..., priest, godparents, font, white garment

COME AND SEE WEBSITE

Images: symbols of baptism

STANDARD INDICATOR

Some children will begin to **recognise** some religious signs and symbols used in baptism.
Some children will begin to **use** some religious words and phrases from the Rite of Baptism.

RESOURCES

God's Story 1 pages 38-39
Church's Story 1 pages 18-19
Church's Story 2, page 32

TEACHING POINT

There are many kinds of families

NURSERY FOCUS WEEK 1: How we welcome people into a family.

WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT

- Display *God's Story 1* pages 38-39 on the IWB as a focus to 'You are the children of God. He loves you.' Talk about the ways the children in the picture are children of God and how God loves them. *Based on Colossians 3:12*
- Use the picture from *Church's Story 2* page 32 and with the picture from the website on the IWB, talk about how we welcome a new baby into our family.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q Who is in the picture?
- Q What is happening in the picture?
- Q What can you see?
- Q Why are there balloons and a cake?

ADULT DIRECTED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Recall how we show we are special by being given both an individual and family name as a sign of welcome to our family.
- If possible, invite a new mum with her baby into class.
- Invite children to draw a picture of their own family for a class display. Adult to scribe what the child says about being welcomed.
- Talk about how important a new baby is in a family and the love and joy they bring.
- Talk about the feelings of everyone in the family.
(Use the emotion expression chart.) Make a collage using baby cards, ICT, magazines to illustrate this.

CONTINUOUS PROVISION

- Set out the Home Corner for family activities.
- Provide malleable materials to make models of family members.
- Re-enact welcoming a baby.
- Use catalogues etc. to generate images of things that would make a new baby welcome. Cut these out and make a collage.

NURSERY FOCUS WEEK 2: Welcome into God's family through Baptism.

WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT

- Use the picture from *Church's Story 1* pages 18-19 to talk about what happens as a welcome into God's family.
- Using *Church's Story 1* pages 18-19. Talk about how we welcome a new baby into God's family through Baptism. Talk what happens at Baptism focusing on the water and who is at the Baptism, and the words '*N, I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*' (N- insert child's name)

ADULT DIRECTED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Set up a sorting activity using images for children to recognise those connected to Baptism.
- Use *Church's Story 1* pages 18-19 and talk about the people and objects in the picture.

CONTINUOUS PROVISION

- Set up a role play to re-enact a Baptism.
- Make Baptism cards to welcome a new member of God's family.

RECEPTION FOCUS WEEK 1: How we welcome people into a family.

WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT

Use *Church's Story 2* page 32 to talk about how we welcome a new baby into our family e.g. cards, gifts, party etc. Who would be invited to the celebration?

Use the following story or a similar one to talk about a welcome for a new baby. Use *Church's Story 1* pages 18-19 to talk about the picture.

Philip's mum, dad and little brother, Tom went to church with baby Matthew. It was baby Matthew's Baptism. Auntie Sarah and Uncle Dave were going to be Matthew's godparents. Godparents are people who promise to help parents to teach the baby all about Jesus and how to be his friend. Father Devine welcomed them to church and asked them, "What name have you given your child?" Mum and dad answered, "Matthew."

The family gathered round the baptismal font and watched Father Devine pick up a little shell and dip it into the water. Mum held Matthew over the font and Father Devine poured water over Matthew's head saying, "Matthew, I baptise you, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Auntie Sarah put a white shawl around Matthew and Father Devine said, "Receive this white garment."

After church all the family gathered together for a party to celebrate Matthew's baptism – his welcome into God's family.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q Why were the family going to church?
- Q What did Father Devine say?
- Q Why did they celebrate Matthew's special day?
- Q How did they celebrate Matthew's special day?

ADULT DIRECTED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Re-enact the story of Matthew's baptism. Include the following key events:
 - Father Devine welcomes Matthew into the Church.
 - Pours water over Matthew's head and says the words; '*Matthew, I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*'
 - Auntie Sarah wraps the shawl around Matthew and Father Devine says, '*Receive this white garment.*'
 - They have a welcoming party.
- Prepare for and celebrate a party.

CONTINUOUS PROVISION

- Re-enact a Baptism.
- Use malleable material and/or paint, to make *food* for a Baptism party.

RECEPTION FOCUS WEEK 2: Welcome into God's family through Baptism.

WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT

- Retell the story of Matthew's baptism, asking children to recall the names, actions, sequences and detail. Use the picture in *Church's Story 1* pages 18-19.
- Sing John Burland song Early Years CD 2 Track 4 *We welcome you to this place*. Talk about the words of the song.
- Reinforce making the Sign of the Cross.
- Wherever possible visit the church and find the font.
- If possible, ask the priest or deacon to enact a very simple Baptism.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q What are some of actions used in Baptism?
- Q Why do we make the Sign of the Cross?

ADULT DIRECTED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Use the images from *Church's Story*, talk about and label the names of people and objects used in Baptism.
- Make a Baptism candle with a name and symbols on it.
- Sequence photographs of the Baptismal Rite and talk about them.

CONTINUOUS PROVISION

- Re-enact a Baptism.

RESPOND

Remembering, celebrating and responding to what it is to welcome and be welcomed. Baptism: a welcome into God's family

Remember

Start the session with a moment of quiet reflection. Provide each child with the opportunity to engage with questions of meaning and purpose related to 'Welcome.'

Using the display, children may be able to contribute to the following through discussion, role play, drama, art, cue cards etc.

Ask the children if there is anything they wonder about

- How we are made to feel welcome?
- How do we show others that they are welcomed?
- How is a baby welcomed into a family?

Provide the opportunity, possibly by one of the means above, for the children to remember

- How are we welcomed into God's family?
- Who is at the Baptism?
- What will you see at a Baptism?
- What happens at Baptism?
- What will they hear said at the Baptism?

Rejoice

Remember to plan an end of topic class celebration. (*Download the Rejoice and Gather Form from the Come and See website.*)

Renew

The teacher helps each child to make an individual response, to what they have understood and celebrated from their own experience and the experience of the Church community.

Apply their learning

How can I welcome others?

Some suggested ideas

- Organise a small tea party where they invite and welcome children from another class.
- Draw a picture of their face with a welcoming smile.

Teacher evaluation

This is ongoing and will inform future teaching and learning, which will include assessment for learning.

STANDARD SUMMARY

Some children will begin to **talk about** their own experiences and feelings of being welcomed.

Some children will begin to say what they **wonder about** how they can make others feel welcome.

Some children will begin to **recognise** some religious signs and symbols used in baptism.

Some children will begin to **use** some religious words and phrases from the Rite of Baptism.

CHURCH TEACHING

This is an outline of the teaching of the Church covered in **WELCOME**:

- Welcome into the Church family.
- The Sign of the Cross.
- Baptised in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- The simple sequence of the Baptismal Rite.
- Some symbols used in Baptism: water and font.
- Introduction to the role of godparents.