

Christian Childs Religious Artefact Collection (CHCHILD)

The main purpose behind the faith child collection is to introduce a child from the faith to your pupils. This idea stems from sessions which the Suffolk County RE team have put into practice and found successful.

Each faith child has been given their own identity and bag full of artefacts that are important to their daily worship and religious way of life. The idea of having a bag is that these artefacts belong to a child who has brought them in to show the class. This provides an awareness that these are someone's possessions and are worthy of care and respect.

As the teacher delivers the artefacts from the bag in a show and tell session, they can describe them and their associated customs and beliefs. Children will have a greater understanding of what it is like to be a child from a different faith.

Say hello to Mary and examine all the different artefacts that she has brought to show you.



Questions you could ask children about the artefacts

Initial Discussion

- What is this object?
- Does it resemble anything the children have seen?
- What do you think the item is used for and by whom?
- Which religious belief is it used by?
- Does anyone know what it is called? Learn how to pronounce the name.
- What does it represent?
- How might it be used?

Collect any other questions the children might have about the artefacts and display them as you try to find the answers through your learning sessions.

- **What do the objects tell us about the faith?** *This last question can be returned to at the end of the investigation.*

All About the Christian Artefacts

Crucifix

An important symbol in Christianity representing Jesus on the cross. It is a visual reminder of Jesus' sacrifice.

Discuss its symbolism and learn about the story of Easter.

Rosary Beads

Rosary beads are used by some Christians, particularly Catholics, as an aid for prayer. They help keep track of the prayers and remind Catholics of what prayer to say. The beads focus the mind during prayer.

Thread beads or make own beads and decorate them and then use them in mindfulness activities.

Wooden Crosses

Reminder of the three wooden crosses at Calvary where Jesus was crucified. Some Christians also connect the three crosses with the concept of the Trinity (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit)

Tell the story of Jesus. His love, sacrifice and hope for salvation.

Certificates

Learn about Christenings, baptism, weddings. Explore the meaning of symbols such as water (cleansing), white robes (new life), candles (light of God) and discuss the promises made and the meaning of the certificates.

Reenact Christenings, baptisms and weddings and create own certificates.

Wooden Nativity Set and Children's Bible

Retell the story of Christmas and explore it through the different key figures. Hear stories from the old and new testament and understand why the Bible is important to Christians.

Useful Tips

- *Be sensitive using religious and cultural artefacts and understand any special requirements in handling them.*
- *Avoid creating stereotypes and understand that not all people from the same culture may use the artefact in the same way.*
- *Use the appropriate language to talk about the artefacts.*
- *Teach the children to handle and store the artefacts with respect and sensitivity.*