



Moment Two: Families of Faith

Tuesday: Our School Family

Keywords:

CATHOLIC
NUCLEAR FAMILY
CARING
BELIEF
DISCIPLES
INCLUSION

Pope Francis describes the Church as a 'family of families' (AL 87). Our Catholic school, as part of the Church, is also a family of families – it is a 'family of faith'.

D

Discussion

- What makes our school a family of faith?
- How would you know that our school is a Catholic school?
- What do you think it means for a school to be a Catholic school?

We all come from different families, and all families are different! Together we all belong to the larger family of our school community. Pope Francis says that growing up in families 'makes for a beautiful experience of caring for and helping one another' (AL 195).

He also explains that 'the nuclear family needs to interact with the wider family' and that this means, our grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins, and also our neighbours (AL 187).





W Watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2pHqKrlXxo (3 min)

R **Reflective Exercise**

Having watched the video, answer the following questions:

- How does this video make you feel?
- Have you ever seen another student who seemed to be lonely or who felt excluded? What was your response?
- What do you think Pope Francis means when he speaks of the 'beautiful experience of caring for and helping one another'?

R **Reflective Exercise**

A lawyer once asked Jesus 'Who is my neighbour?' Jesus' response was to tell the parable of the Good Samaritan. Read the parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25–37).

- What can we learn from this parable? Write down your own thoughts.



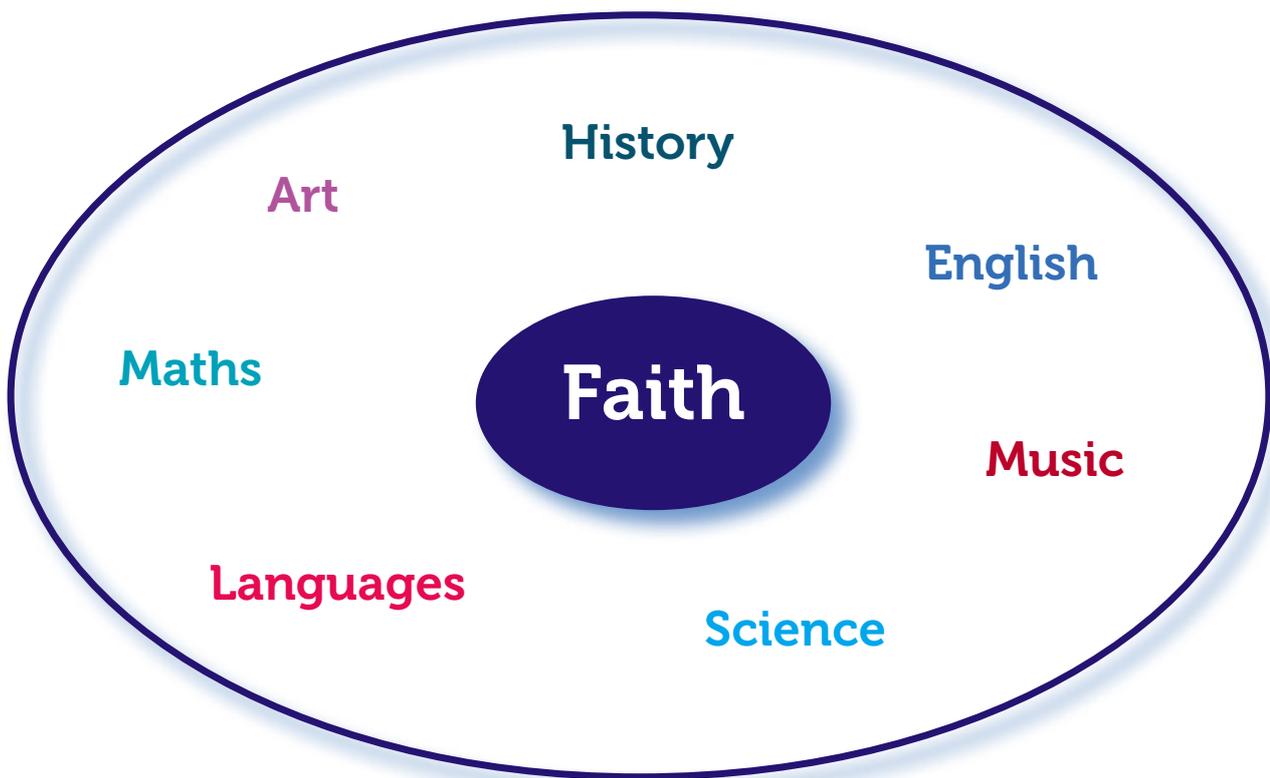


A

Activity

Write the word **Faith** in the centre of an A3 sheet of paper.

In groups, give examples of things you have learned – from subjects other than Religious Education – about the influence that faith, in particular Christianity, has had on our world. Add the subjects from which these lessons came to the sheet.



Note: We can *learn* about religious belief; however, if we are not *living* the teachings of Jesus in our everyday lives then our faith is not really alive.



W

Watch: www.catholicschools.ie/useful-publications/useful-publications-for-catholic-post-primary-schools/secondlevelprocess/csp-school-manual-dvd-2/

D

Discussion

- What is your reaction to this video?

R

Reflective Exercise

'This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth' (1 Jn 3:16–18).

In groups, give examples of ways in which our school reflects the teachings of Jesus. Write these examples on an A3 sheet of paper.

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS ...



D

Discussion

Stick the A3 sheets around the classroom. Ask students to walk around and read what each group has written. Discuss what surprised you about what you learned.



A

Activity

Create a poster for Catholic Schools Week advertising our school as a family of families in which faith in Jesus is lived each day.

E

Extension Exercise

Write a reflection for an assembly welcoming first years to your school. Outline all the good things about your school which reflect that it is a community of faith.