

Christian Values in Education Interdisciplinary Learning

Supplementary Information (to be read together with Topic Plan)

Title: Christmas Truce, 2014

Name of School & Local Authority:

Middleton Park School, Aberdeen

Background

Our World War One context was for the whole school. It was a context that engaged the parents and wider community. It was a context where specialists were able to share their expertise to develop the children's learning further.

Our Christmas Truce was a collaborative learning experience for Primary 4 and 5. Using the context of WW1, the pupils were able to explore and reflect on the meaning of Christmas by recreating their own Christmas Truce film from 1914. The reflected on the question, "What is so special about Christmas, that it gave the soldiers the hope of peace?"

This was a rich learning experience involving many partners. The pupils worked with a school chaplain, a local artist, football coaches and the school vocal instructor. By creating a film, the pupils were able to not only consider the question themselves but to allow a much wider audience, including pupils, parents and the wider community to reflect on those amazing events of 1914.

Our film can be viewed on the following link - <https://vimeo.com/114475809>

Activity

Both classes had already been engaged in the whole school WW1 context which gave them background knowledge for this learning experience. Their main learning experiences were:

- Working with Sue Thomson, Children's Minster to reflect on the meaning of the Christmas Story and its impact in 1914 and 2014.
- Creating art work with artist Graeme Milne to create two collages depicting the Christmas Truce in 1914 and the Nativity Story.
- Using their critical skills to interpret the script and create their own dramatisations. The script they worked from was from Tear Fund and written by Sue Langdale.
<http://www.tearfund.org/~media/Files/Main%20Site/Resources/Church%20resources/Silent%20Night%202014/CHRISTMAS%20TRUCE%20SCRIPT.pdf>
- Our Vocal Instructor helped our pupils to perform Silent Night in German.
- Both classes also receive four coaching sessions from AFC to develop their skills and techniques in football.
- Pupils led the directing, filming and editing of the work using iPads. Green Screening was introduced.

Every week, Middleton Park School shares their learning by broadcasting a film. This allows our pupils to share their learning, gives them a genuine audience and a purpose to their learning. It also allows our parents to have another window into 'Life at Middleton Park School.'

Our Christmas Truce film was uploaded in December 2014 and has since had over 900 uploads and has been watched in 19 different countries.

Assessment

Say: The pupils will be able to recall the events of the Christmas Truce and talk about the significance of the Christmas Nativity during the War and in present time.

This was assessed through group and class discussions. Pupils recorded their own reflections and these were used as an ending to the film. They also shared something new that they had learned about the Christmas Story. Our pupils have been empowered to have a genuine voice in discussions about belief and faith.

They now have a better understanding of the key elements of Christianity. It has engaged our pupils in a personal search for meaning and moral values through being fully involved as active participants. And it has certainly built on the learning skills identified in the four capacities.

Other related activities at our school

Further activities can be seen on our WW1 Blog -
<https://worldwaronecontext.wordpress.com/>

A **Remembrance Service**, planned collaboratively by the school and local church was held in the school. A school prayer for peace was written. Pupils used their WW1 knowledge to consider what they would remember. The whole school, so clearly moved by all they had learnt, sat perfectly quiet and still as they experienced, many for the first time, the traditional act of Remembrance and learned how our nation remembers. The service was filmed and then shared with the wider community.

<https://vimeo.com/112735635>

Primary 7 delved into the **Ten Commandments**. If everyone had followed the Ten Commandments would World War One have happened? What commandments would you make to prevent another war? Why did God not stop the war? Is all killing wrong? There were big questions and big answers! They shared their learning and reflections at a school open day where parents were invited to take part in several reflective stations.

Key to the success has been our collaborative partnership with Sue Thomson, parent and Children's Minister. This experience has allowed the staff to reflect and embrace a fresh and innovative approach to delivering Christianity to improve learners' experiences. This will include embedding Christianity in established learning contexts as well as using Bible Stories, not just for RME, but as rich learning opportunities across the curriculum. Our chaplain and the school have now planned the piloting and creation of a bank of resources to support Bible stories from Nursery to Primary 7.

Ten key stories have been chosen e.g. using David and Goliath to explore measurement, problem solving, STEM.

We hope these resources will support Bible Stories in the curriculum and be a useful resource for both teachers and chaplains across Scotland.

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