

Draft Core Curriculum Statement

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

May 2014

INTRODUCTION

In August 1997 the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference adopted the policy, *Fostering Hope*, for religious education in Catholic schools. The policy was revised in 2006 to bring it in line with developments in National Education.

When referring to curriculum, the policy advocates a number of different dimensions such as classroom programmes (p. 14), school prayer and liturgical worship (p. 10), religious societies and pastoral care programmes (p. 8), the observance of national days, and outreach projects (p. 11).

In most instances broad guidelines are given, and the individual school is encouraged to develop its own policy in the light of these.

CLASSROOM CURRICULUM

It would be helpful to distinguish at this point the difference between the broad curriculum which encompasses all these dimensions, and the more formal aspect of classroom teaching and learning. *Fostering Hope* (p. 15) gives the following guidelines with respect to the formal classroom curriculum:

- *We ensure a well-rounded R.E. curriculum¹, and check that neither the thinking nor the feeling sides of R.E. are neglected.*
- *We put the learners first, rather than any planned programme, but make sure the course that results is a wholesome blend of processes, and that it gives due attention to the different dimensions of learning.*
- *We keep the programme open to respond to the needs of the times, and to the local (South African) Church's current concerns about our country's and our world's needs. We link into suitable local, national, and international efforts.*
- *We agree on common basic reference-points for the planning of each school's R.E. programme so as to facilitate common support and practical co-operation between schools.*
- *We find creative ways of harmonising our Religious Education with the National Curriculum so that neither is compromised.*

CLASSROOM PROGRAMMES

In response to the guidelines quoted above, the Catholic Institute of Education developed the series *Lifebound* for Grades R to 7 and Lesson Handbooks with suggested programmes to accompany the already existing *CORD* Curriculum (Grades 8-12). Programmes such as these are optional though some owners, whether dioceses or religious congregations, have written them into policy for the schools in their jurisdiction.

¹ An analysis of a well-rounded RE curriculum and its constituent processes and learning dimensions is offered in *CORD*, a curriculum design for R.E. by brother Michael Burke. *CORD* is recommended for use in Catholic Schools by the SACBC's Department of Christian Education and Liturgy. Although this programme is aimed at High Schools, *CORD*'s analysis of what R.E. involves is equally useful as a reference-point for Primary Schools.

In other cases – and they are quite numerous – the formal curriculum is determined locally, often left to the choice of the particular teacher or teachers charged with the delivery of Religious Education in the school.

Since there is no nationally agreed and recognised curriculum to guide schools, CaSPA has mandated the CIE to fashion such a core curriculum through a consultative process which will help us to “agree on common basic reference-points for the planning of each school's R.E. programme so as to facilitate common support and practical co-operation between schools” (*Fostering Hope*, p. 15).

Another reality calling for the development of a definitive, core curriculum is the difficulty schools experience in the face of the demands of the CAPS² and the encroachment of Life Skills and Life Orientation on time for RE, that even more than before causes the latter to be squeezed or even side-lined.

THE NATIONAL CORE CURRICULUM

Through an analysis of the Lifebound outcomes and learning opportunities in conjunction with the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements for Life Orientation/Life Skills, we come to the conclusion that, as an interim measure – until a new national curriculum statement for Religious Education is developed – the core classroom curriculum should consist of the set of the following processes identified both in Lifebound (Grade R-7) and CORD (Grade 8-12).

Core Processes

Theological Education

Spiritual Education

Prayer Education

Sacramental-Liturgical Education

Scriptural Education

Personal Moral Education

Education in Structural Morality

Education in Religious Community

However, it should be understood that the core is seen as the minimum, non-negotiable curriculum. Schools are encouraged, where possible, to expand their offering. The following processes should not disappear from the curriculum: rather they should be integrated into the core processes as mediums for experience, reflection and expression.

Integrated Processes

Education by Arts

Education by Story

Education by Models

Philosophical Education

Finally, the classroom process not yet mentioned should be integrated into Life Orientation/Life Skills, the whole of which would be offered from a Catholic perspective.

Life Skills/Life Orientation

Education for Personal Growth and Development

² Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements

CURRICULUM MATERIALS

Lifebound

To identify the core curriculum for Grades R to 7, one needs to turn to the Lifebound Curriculum Guide (2010) where Chapter 16 *Learning Opportunities* (pp. 47-74) lays out the curriculum requirements by process. The Teacher Handbooks for each grade, however, take an integrated approach where any given lesson might span a selection of processes. This may lead to some uncertainty or confusion and the Appendix to this document contains suggested lists of lessons that will cover the required core.

CORD

For Grades 8-12, the CORD Lesson Handbooks provide the most accessible resource. Here the lessons are presented under each specific process with no integration formally attempted. The same sort of uncertainty should therefore not apply. While these handbooks do not spell out the curriculum in the same way as Lifebound does, it is implied in the individual lesson outcomes which follow closely the suggested process content in the original CORD Curriculum Statement. An overview of the processes for each grade can be found in CORD, p. 32-33.

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APPENDIX

Lifebound Lessons to cover the Core Curriculum (Grades R-7)

Grade R

NOTE: The core curriculum for Grade 1 consists of those lessons that are italicised in the programme below. Thus the core will be covered by lessons 1-16, 21-30, 32, 37-40, 45-48, 53-57, 59-64

FOCUS: This Is Me

- 1 I am wonderful (2.2.1, 2.6.1, 5.1.1, 13.2.3)*
- 2 I have a special name (2.6.2, 13.2.2, 13.2.3)*
- 3 Look at what I can do! (11.1.2, 13.1.2, 13.2.3)*
- 4 Jesus is like me (8.4.4)*

FOCUS: My Family

- 5 I am one of a family (10.4.1, 12.4.4, 13.9.4)*
- 6 I share love in my family (5.1.1, 11.1.2, 14.1.1)*
- 7 God gives me special people (2.6.3, 11.1.8, 11.3.4)*
- 8 I am part of a team. (14.1.1, 14.2.1)*

FOCUS: In My Class

- 9 We celebrate Lent (5.1.7, 5.1.8)*
- 10 We help prepare for Easter (2.6.3, 5.1.7, 5.1.8)*
- 11 Jesus is alive! (3.2.2, 5.1.8)*
- 12 Jesus is with us (3.2.2, 10.1.1, 14.1.1)*

FOCUS: Plants and Animals

- 13 God makes everything (2.1.1, 11.1.2)*
- 14 God gives us plants (2.3.1, 3.1.4)*
- 15 God makes all living things (2.3.1, 6.1.1)*
- 16 God wants us to care for creation (6.1.2, 12.1.1)*

FOCUS: My Senses

- 17 I can see! (3.1.2, 3.4.1, 13.2.2, 13.2.3)*
- 18 I can hear! (3.1.1, 3.1.2, 13.2.2, 13.2.3)*
- 19 I can feel and touch! (3.1.2, 3.1.3, 13.2.2)*
- 20 I can smell and taste! (3.1.2, 13.2.2, 13.2.3)*

FOCUS: Sharing Time

- 21 It is good to be together (3.2.1, 5.4.2, 7.3.1)*
- 22 I talk to God (3.2.1, 4.3.2, 4.5.2)*
- 23 Signs of God's love (3.2.1, 4.5.2, 5.4.1)*
- 24 Sundays are special days (3.4.3, 5.2.2, 5.4.2)*

FOCUS: Books

- 25 God's special book (8.2.1, 8.2.2, 8.6.1)*
- 26 The story begins (5.4.3, 8.3.1, 8.6.1)*
- 27 The story continues (7.3.1, 7.5.5, 8.6.1)*
- 28 Jesus, the happy ending (4.2.3, 7.3.1, 8.3.1, 8.6.1)*

FOCUS: Earth

- 29 Thank you, God (2.3.2, 6.1.1)*
- 30 Seeds, sun and water (3.1.4, 3.3.1)*
- 31 I can make things (6.1.4)*
- 32 I care for all things (11.1.3)*

FOCUS: Body

- 33 I am wonderfully made (3.1.5)*
- 34 I look after my body (12.1.2, 13.3.2)*
- 35 My body talks to God (5.3.2)*
- 36 I am growing (3.3.2)*

FOCUS: Helping

- 37 God loves all creation (2.1.2, 2.2.2, 10.2.1)*
- 38 Jesus is a friend (2.2.5, 7.2.1, 10.2.1, 10.4.2)*
- 39 I am a friend (7.2.1, 10.4.2, 11.1.1)*
- 40 Friends help and share (14.1.1, 14.2.1, 14.2.2)*

FOCUS: People

- 41 Jesus is presented in the temple (7.3.3)*
- 42 Jesus goes to the temple school (7.3.3)*
- 43 Jesus helps people (7.3.4)*
- 44 Jesus teaches us to do as he did (2.2.5)*

FOCUS: My Place

- 45 My home has special rules (11.3.2)*
- 46 Things that belong to others (11.1.3)*
- 47 I look after things (12.2.1)*
- 48 God's special rules (9.1.1)*

FOCUS: Hopes and Fears

- 49 Where can I find God? (10.2.2)*
- 50 The Burning Bush (9.1.1)*
- 51 The Lion's Den (9.1.1)*
- 52 Sometimes I am afraid (13.2.5, 13.2.6)*

FOCUS: Different Peoples

- 53 The children of Israel (8.4.2)*
- 54 Other children of God (9.1.1, 12.3.1, 12.3.2)*
- 55 We are all God's children (7.5.3, 12.3.2)*
- 56 We are each a little different (12.3.2, 12.4.2)*

FOCUS: In My Class

- 57 Birthdays are special times (5.1.1, 10.4.1)*
- 58 We do things together (6.1.1, 6.1.3)*
- 59 We prepare for special times (5.1.5, 5.4.5)*
- 60 We celebrate new beginnings (5.1.5, 5.4.5)*

FOCUS: Day and Night

- 61 We talk to God everyday (4.5.1, 14.2.3)*
- 62 We share God's love (4.5.2, 12.1.2)*
- 63 We learn to wait (5.1.8)*
- 64 Jesus' birthday (5.1.8)*

Grade 1

NOTE: The core curriculum for Grade 1 consists of those lessons that are italicised in the programme below. Thus the core will be covered by lessons 1-16, 21-30, 32-40, 45-48, 53-59, 61-64

FOCUS: This Is Me

- 1 I am special (2.2.1, 2.6.1, 5.1.1, 13.2.3)*
- 2 God calls me by name (13.2.2)*
- 3 Look what I can do! (11.1.2, 13.1.2, 13.2.3)*
- 4 When Jesus was a child (8.4.4)*

FOCUS: My Family

- 5 God gives me a family (10.4.1, 12.4.4, 13.9.4)*
- 6 We share God's love (2.6.3, 5.1.7, 11.1.8)*
- 7 The people in my life (11.1.8, 11.3.4)*
- 8 I belong to my class and school (14.1.1, 14.2.1)*

FOCUS: In My Class

- 9 We change our hearts (5.1.7, 5.1.8)*
- 10 The holiest week (2.6.3, 5.1.7, 5.1.8)*
- 11 New life (3.2.2, 5.1.7, 5.1.8)*
- 12 Recognising Jesus (3.2.2, 10.1.1, 14.1.1)*

FOCUS: Plants and Animals

- 13 God made the world (2.1.1, 2.3.1, 6.1.2)*
- 14 God made plants (2.1.1, 2.3.1, 3.1.4)*
- 15 God made the animals (2.1.1, 2.3.1, 6.1.1)*
- 16 God wants us to care (11.1.2, 12.1.1)*

FOCUS: My Senses

- 17 The gift of sight (3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.4.1)*
- 18 The gift of hearing (3.1.1, 3.1.2, 13.2.2)*
- 19 The gift of touch (3.1.2, 13.2.2, 13.2.3)*
- 20 The gift of smell and taste (3.1.1, 3.1.2, 13.2.2)*

FOCUS: Sharing Time

- 21 Sharing time with others (3.2.1, 3.4.3)*
- 22 Sharing time in prayer (3.4.3, 4.5.2, 5.4.2)*
- 23 Celebrating together (5.1.1, 5.4.2)*
- 24 Sundays are special days (5.2.2)*

FOCUS: Books

- 25 We celebrate God's word (5.4.3, 8.2.1, 8.2.2)*
- 26 God's story book, the Bible (8.3.1, 8.6.1)*
- 27 We listen to God's stories (7.3.1, 7.5.5, 8.6.1)*
- 28 The story of Jesus (4.2.3, 5.4.3, 8.3.1, 8.6.1)*

FOCUS: Earth

- 29 The things God makes (2.3.2)*
- 30 The things people make (2.3.2)*
- 31 We make gifts (6.1.4)*
- 32 Living things grow (3.1.4, 3.3.1)*

FOCUS: Body

- 33 I am a walking wonder (3.1.5)*
- 34 Handle with care! (12.1.2, 13.3.2)*
- 35 What does God say? (5.3.2)*
- 36 What will I become? (3.3.2)*

FOCUS: Helping

- 37 Being a friend (2.2.2, 10.4.2)*
- 38 The friendship of Jesus (2.2.5, 10.2.1)*
- 39 Sharing and helping (2.1.2, 7.2.1, 11.1.1)*
- 40 We belong together (14.1.1, 14.2.1, 14.2.2)*

FOCUS: People

- 41 Simeon and Anna (7.3.3)*
- 42 The teachers in the temple (7.3.3)*
- 43 Jairus' daughter (7.3.4)*
- 44 The cripple at the Beautiful Gate (2.2.5)*

FOCUS: My Place

- 45 God gives us rules (9.1.1)*
- 46 Yours and mine (11.1.3)*
- 47 Caring for my place (12.2.1)*
- 48 Living together (11.3.2, 12.2.3)*

FOCUS: Hopes and Fears

- 49 Where is God? (10.2.2)*
- 50 A boy and a special coat (9.1.1)*
- 51 David and Goliath (9.1.1)*
- 52 Hopes and fears (13.2.5, 13.2.6)*

FOCUS: Different Peoples

- 53 God's chosen people (8.4.2, 12.3.2)*
- 54 Children from other lands (7.5.3, 12.4.2)*
- 55 Welcome everyone (9.1.1, 12.4.2)*
- 56 We care for others (12.3.1, 12.3.2)*

FOCUS: In My Class

- 57 Born into a family (5.1.1, 6.1.3, 10.4.1)*
- 58 Preparing to celebrate (5.1.5, 5.4.5, 6.1.3)*
- 59 Pointing to Christmas (5.1.5)*
- 60 Doing things together (6.1.1, 6.1.3)*

FOCUS: Day and Night

- 61 We pray (4.5.1, 14.2.3)*
- 62 God listens and helps (4.5.2, 12.1.2)*
- 63 Waiting for Jesus (5.1.8)*
- 64 Jesus is born! (5.1.8)*

Grade 2

NOTE: The core curriculum for Grade 1 consists of those lessons that are italicised in the programme below. Thus the core will be covered by lessons: 5-7, 9-16, 18, 21-23, 25-37, 40-48, 53-64

FOCUS: Gifts and Abilities

- 1 God made me wonderful (13.2.4)
- 2 I am unique (13.1.3, 13.2.1)
- 3 The joy of being alive (10.1.1, 10.1.3)
- 4 God's best gift (11.3.1, 13.1.1)

FOCUS: Friends and Neighbours

- 5 Who are my friends? (10.4.2)
- 6 Jesus, my teacher and friend (2.2.5, 8.4.4)
- 7 Who is my neighbour? (12.4.3, 13.8.1)
- 8 Gift-giving (6.1.4, 6.1.10)

FOCUS: In My School

- 9 Jesus brings new life (3.2.3, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 8.6.1)
- 10 Celebrating God's love in the Eucharist (4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.3.3, 5.1.4, 5.4.1, 8.6.1)
- 11 Sacrifice (5.1.8, 5.2.1)
- 12 Jesus is risen! (5.1.8, 5.2.1, 6.1.3, 6.3.2, 7.3.2)

FOCUS: Sea, Land and Sky

- 13 This is our world (3.1.1, 3.1.3, 3.2.2, 6.1.1, 6.1.2)
- 14 What are we doing to our world? (3.4.4, 6.1.2, 6.4.1, 7.2.1)
- 15 The world is in our hands! (3.4.4, 6.1.2, 7.2.1, 9.1.1, 12.2.1)
- 16 We are God's hands (3.4.4, 6.1.1, 10.2.2, 11.1.2, 12.1.3)

FOCUS: Thoughts and Feelings

- 17 I deserve to be safe and happy (3.4.4, 10.1.2, 11.1.6, 13.4.2)
- 18 I choose to do what is right (11.2.1, 11.2.2)
- 19 I am loved and treasured (12.2.2, 13.2.4, 13.3.1)
- 20 I give and receive happiness (13.4.1)

FOCUS: Sharing Things

- 21 Family days (4.1.4, 4.4.2, 5.1.2, 5.1.7, 5.2.1)
- 22 Sharing stories (6.4.1, 7.2.1, 11.1.7)
- 23 Honest and true (11.2.3)
- 24 Careful and free (13.3.3, 13.3.4)

FOCUS: Meals

- 25 My daily bread (3.2.1)
- 26 Hearing God's Word (8.2.3)
- 27 Giving thanks to God (5.1.4)
- 28 The Eucharistic Liturgy (5.4.1)

FOCUS: Water

- 29 Life or death? (12.2.1)
- 30 Saved by the water (8.4.3, 12.2.1)
- 31 Crossing the waters (8.4.3, 12.2.1)
- 32 Reborn in water (5.1.3, 6.1.2, 6.1.4)

FOCUS: Mind

- 33 How do I show love for God? (3.4.4, 11.2.1)
- 34 What does God expect of me? (11.3.5)
- 35 What are my rights and responsibilities? (11.5.1, 12.5.1)
- 36 When do I say 'No'? (11.4.1, 12.5.3, 13.3.4)

FOCUS: Hurting

- 37 My choice (2.2.3, 11.2.1, 11.2.3)
- 38 Good times and bad (10.1.2, 12.5.1)
- 39 The rough and the smooth (13.5.1)
- 40 All is forgiven (2.2.3)

FOCUS: Times

- 41 Learning to pray (4.4.3)
- 42 Praying together (4.3.3, 5.2.1)
- 43 We celebrate God's work (3.1.6, 12.2.2)
- 44 We celebrate God's rest (5.2.2, 14.2.3)

FOCUS: My Neighbourhood

- 45 David, the shepherd boy (9.1.1, 11.1.3, 11.2.3, 11.3.2, 12.2.3)
- 46 I can be a shepherd (12.1.4, 12.2.1, 12.2.3, 14.2.2)
- 47 A shepherd keeps watch (12.1.4, 12.1.1, 12.2.2)
- 48 Jesus, the Good Shepherd (11.1.3, 11.2.3, 12.2.3)

FOCUS: Dreams and Promises

- 49 The Man of Dreams (3.4.2, 9.1.1)
- 50 Wherever you go, I will go (3.4.2, 9.1.1)
- 51 The King dreams of a statue (9.1.1)
- 52 A river and two dragons (9.1.1)

FOCUS: Different Ways

- 53 Families around the world (11.1.2, 11.1.6, 11.1.9)
- 54 Families in the neighbourhood (12.5.2, 13.8.2, 13.9.2, 13.9.3)
- 55 My family (12.4.4, 13.1.3)
- 56 The family of Jesus (9.1.2)

FOCUS: In My School

- 57 The Birth of John the Baptist (7.2.1, 8.6.1)
- 58 The Annunciation (5.1.6, 8.6.1)
- 59 The Visitation (7.2.1, 8.6.1)
- 60 The Birth of Jesus (5.1.1, 5.1.6, 5.4.5, 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.3.1)

FOCUS: Seasons

- 61 Growing things (3.3.1)
- 62 I am growing too (3.3.2)
- 63 Preparing the ground (5.1.8)
- 64 Planting the seed, Jesus (5.1.8)

Grade 3

NOTE: The core curriculum for Grade 1 consists of those lessons that are italicised in the programme below. Thus the core will be covered by lessons: 2-3, 5-6, 8-21, 23-31, 33-39, 41-44, 46-56, 60-64

FOCUS: Strengths and Weaknesses

- 1 Look at me! (13.2.6)
- 2 *The road of love (11.3.3, 11.3.5)*
- 3 *I miss you, God (2.2.3)*
- 4 I grow stronger (13.2.5)

FOCUS: Special People

- 5 *Look at Jesus (7.3.3, 8.4.5, 9.1.2)*
- 6 *Miracles of Jesus (7.3.4)*
- 7 *Saints alive! (9.2.1)*
- 8 *Who's who? (14.1.2)*

FOCUS: In My Parish

- 9 *Lent, the Season of Growth (5.1.8)*
- 10 *Easter, the Time for Rejoicing (5.1.8)*
- 11 *Church, the Family of God (2.4.1, 14.5.1)*
- 12 *Eucharist, the Family Meal (4.3.3, 5.2.2, 5.1.4, 5.4.1, 5.4.4)*

FOCUS: Beginnings and Endings

- 13 *Our school (14.3.1)*
- 14 *Our world (6.1.1, 8.4.1)*
- 15 *Take care (12.1.4)*
- 16 *It hurts! (10.2.3)*

FOCUS: Actions

- 17 *The choice is mine (11.5.1, 13.2.5)*
- 18 *Which house should I build? (11.4.1, 11.6.1)*
- 19 *What is prayer? (4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.2.4, 4.3.1)*
- 20 *Watch and pray (12.5.2, 12.5.3)*

FOCUS: Sharing Stories

- 21 *Listen! (12.3.2, 13.4.1, 13.8.3)*
- 22 *My favourite story (7.5.1, 7.5.2)*
- 23 *God's word (5.4.3, 5.4.5, 8.2.3)*
- 24 *Let us pray (4.2.2, 5.3.2)*

FOCUS: Signs and Symbols

- 25 *The Cross (5.3.1)*
- 26 *The Right Hand of God (5.3.1)*
- 27 *Reconciliation (5.4.4)*
- 28 *Eucharist (5.4.1, 5.4.4)*

FOCUS: Fire and Air

- 29 *The Story of Pentecost (5.4.4, 6.1.2)*
- 30 *The Holy Spirit (5.4.4)*
- 31 *Tongues of fire? (11.2.3)*
- 32 *Giving my word (6.1.4)*

FOCUS: Soul

- 33 *Where my treasure is (11.1.1)*
- 34 *Hello God, it's me! (3.2.1, 4.1.3)*
- 35 *I open my heart and my soul (3.4.3, 3.4.4)*
- 36 *I shout from the mountain top (5.4.2)*

FOCUS: Healing

- 37 *God heals (2.2.4, 7.3.4)*
- 38 *God forgives (2.2.4, 11.1.4, 13.8.4)*
- 39 *Respecting others (11.1.5, 12.2.3)*
- 40 *God has time for children (9.1.3)*

FOCUS: Places

- 41 *Where is God? (2.1.3, 10.2.2)*
- 42 *Places of worship (5.2.1, 5.4.6)*
- 43 *Reverence (4.4.1, 5.4.6)*
- 44 *Praying with others (4.3.1)*

FOCUS: My World

- 45 *Joseph in Egypt (9.1.1)*
- 46 *Making community (12.2.3, 12.4.1)*
- 47 *I choose to obey (11.3.1, 11.3.3)*
- 48 *I care for my world (12.1.3, 12.3.1)*

FOCUS: Choices

- 49 *Where am I going? (9.1.1, 11.4.2)*
- 50 *Crossroads (11.4.2, 11.5.1)*
- 51 *Baptism, the choice to follow Jesus (5.1.3)*
- 52 *I choose good (11.6.1)*

FOCUS: Different Gods?

- 53 *A South African creation story (7.4.2)*
- 54 *God's name in South Africa (2.5.1)*
- 55 *Then God said (7.4.1)*
- 56 *Who is God? (2.1.4)*

FOCUS: In My Parish

- 57 *Birthdays (5.1.1)*
- 58 *The meaning of Christmas (7.3.2)*
- 59 *Preparing for Christmas (6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.3.2)*
- 60 *Celebrating Christmas (5.4.5)*

FOCUS: Journeys

- 61 *Abraham follows God's call (8.4.2)*
- 62 *Israel goes down to Egypt (8.4.2)*
- 63 *Follow that star! (5.1.8)*
- 64 *My gift to the King (5.1.8)*

Grade 4

NOTE: The core curriculum for Grade 4 consists of those lessons that are italicised in the programme below. Thus the core will be covered by lessons 1-32, 37-45, 47-49, 52, 61-62

FOCUS: Who Is God? Who Am I?

- 1 Can I see God? (2.1.7)*
- 2 What does God look like? (2.1.5)*
- 3 We are partners with God (2.2.9)*
- 4 God is faithful. (2.2.6)*

FOCUS: God's Plan of Salvation

- 5 The story of a people (8.3.5)*
- 6 The story's heroes (8.1.1)*
- 7 A covenant relationship (2.2.9)*
- 8 The story today (2.2.8)*

FOCUS: Knowing the Bible

- 9 What's in the Bible? (8.3.2, 8.3.3)*
- 10 Using Bible references (8.3.4, 8.6.2)*
- 11 Judges and Kings (8.4.6)*
- 12 Prophets (8.4.7)*

FOCUS: The Liturgical Cycle

- 13 Seasons of the Church's Year (5.1.16)*
- 14 Feast days and festivals (5.1.9)*
- 15 The Passing Parade (5.1.9, 5.4.11)*
- 16 We change our lives (5.4.12)*

FOCUS: The Spirit and the Church

- 17 The mission of Jesus (2.4.3)*
- 18 A visible sign of God's kingdom (2.4.2)*
- 19 A community of saints (2.4.7, 2.4.9)*
- 20 Mary, the mother of Jesus (2.2.12)*

FOCUS: Models and Images of Church

- 21 Mary, Mother of the Church (9.1.6)*
- 22 A community of disciples (14.1.3)*
- 23 Called to serve (14.2.4)*
- 24 Bringing Good News (14.3.4)*

FOCUS: Sacraments of Initiation

- 25 Signs and symbols (5.1.10, 5.3.4)*
- 26 Baptism: Welcome to the family (5.1.10)*
- 27 Eucharist: We are nourished (5.1.10)*
- 28 Confirmation: We say yes! (5.1.10)*

FOCUS: The Eucharist

- 29 Exploring Eucharist (5.1.12)*
- 30 Visible signs (5.3.6)*
- 31 The Eucharistic liturgy (5.4.10)*
- 32 The parts of the liturgy (4.3.5, 5.4.7)*

FOCUS: Light and Darkness

- 33 Feelings (10.3.1, 11.6.2)*
- 34 Fears (10.3.2)*
- 35 Sickness and injury (10.1.4)*
- 36 Light and dark (10.3.4)*

FOCUS: Pointing to Life

- 37 Am I happy? (11.1.11)*
- 38 The way to play (11.3.6)*
- 39 God's way (11.3.7)*
- 40 God's will (11.1.11, 11.3.6, 11.3.7)*

FOCUS: Rights and Responsibilities

- 41 Give and take (12.2.4)*
- 42 Rights and responsibilities (12.5.4, 12.5.5)*
- 43 Child and family rights (12.5.6)*
- 44 Child protection agencies (12.5.7)*

FOCUS: The Environment

- 45 Don't litter! (12.1.6)*
- 46 Recycle! (6.1.10)*
- 47 Our garden (12.1.5)*
- 48 Our garden world (12.1.8)*

FOCUS: Our Wonderful Being

- 49 Mystery (3.1.8)*
- 50 Body wonders (13.6.1)*
- 51 Body systems (13.6.1)*
- 52 Treat your body! (12.1.7)*

FOCUS: Moods and Feelings

- 53 I am OK (13.2.9)*
- 54 Coping with negative emotions (13.3.5)*
- 55 Understanding stress (13.4.7)*
- 56 Coping with stress (13.4.7)*

FOCUS: Challenges

- 57 What's the message? (6.4.3)*
- 58 The media (6.4.3)*
- 59 Confidence (13.4.8)*
- 60 Challenge (13.4.8)*

FOCUS: Building Friendship

- 61 God's presence in others (3.2.5)*
- 62 Devotion (4.1.5, 4.1.8)*
- 63 Respect (13.6.3, 13.8.5, 13.8.6)*
- 64 Friendships (13.9.6, 13.9.7)*

Grade 5

NOTE: The core curriculum for Grade 5 consists of those lessons that are italicised in the programme below. Thus the core will be covered by lessons 2, 5-32, 34-39, 41-45, 47-52

FOCUS: The World We Live In

- 1 The Earth, God's creation (6.1.6)
- 2 *Created by God and for God (2.1.6)*
- 3 Science and creation (7.4.3)
- 4 Creation stories (7.4.4, 7.5.5)

FOCUS: Understanding the Bible

- 5 *Inspiration (8.2.6, 8.6.4)*
- 6 *Word and truth (8.5.1, 8.5.2, 8.6.5)*
- 7 *Word and symbol (8.5.3, 8.6.3, 8.6.5)*
- 8 *Proclaiming the Word (8.2.4, 8.2.5, 8.6.2)*

FOCUS: Lent and Holy Week

- 9 *Lent, the path to Easter (4.2.8, 5.1.13)*
- 10 *A meal to remember (5.1.14, 5.4.12)*
- 11 *We walk with Jesus (4.2.8, 6.3.3)*
- 12 *The man in the garden (5.1.15)*

FOCUS: The Church's Story

- 13 *New life in the Spirit (9.1.7)*
- 14 *Celebrating the saints (5.1.9, 6.1.5)*
- 15 *A new beginning (2.4.4, 14.3.2)*
- 16 *Division in the Church (4.1.9, 5.4.12, 14.3.3)*

FOCUS: Symbols in Worship

- 17 *Gestures in prayer (4.2.9, 5.3.5, 6.2.3)*
- 18 *Signs and symbols (5.2.3, 5.3.4)*
- 19 *Religious symbols and art (5.3.3, 6.2.2)*
- 20 *School assembly (5.4.11)*

FOCUS: Sacramental Life

- 21 *Jesus, the sacrament of God (2.4.5)*
- 22 *Church, the sacrament of Jesus (14.4.2)*
- 23 *The seven sacraments of the Church (2.4.6)*
- 24 *Salt and light for the world (2.4.5, 14.4.2)*

FOCUS: Sacraments of Healing

- 25 *Miracles (3.2.7)*
- 26 *Yes, Lord, I believe (3.2.7, 8.4.8)*
- 27 *Forgiveness and healing (5.1.11, 5.4.12)*
- 28 *God's healing love (5.1.11)*

FOCUS: The Teaching of Jesus

- 29 *New life in Jesus (2.2.11, 7.2.3, 7.2.5, 8.4.8)*
- 30 *Jesus prays to the Father (4.4.6, 4.5.4, 4.5.5)*
- 31 *Jesus the storyteller (7.3.5, 7.3.6)*
- 32 *The way to happiness (8.3.7)*

FOCUS: Right and Wrong

- 33 *For better or for worse? (10.3.3)*
- 34 *The power of the word (11.1.15)*
- 35 *What is sin? (11.2.4)*
- 36 *Cheating (11.2.8)*

FOCUS: The Golden Rule

- 37 *What does Jesus say? (11.3.8)*
- 38 *The new commandment (11.3.9)*
- 39 *The golden rule (11.3.9)*
- 40 *Footprints (9.2.3)*

FOCUS: Respect

- 41 *Self and others (10.4.3, 11.1.4)*
- 42 *Our elders (11.1.13, 12.3.4)*
- 43 *The disadvantaged (12.3.3, 12.4.5, 12.4.6)*
- 44 *Respecting technology (11.4.5)*

FOCUS: The Community

- 45 *Jesus serves (12.2.5)*
- 46 *We are Jesus' hands - Mother Teresa (7.2.3)*
- 47 *Looking at our environment (12.2.5)*
- 48 *Hands on service (12.2.5)*

FOCUS: Living Creatures

- 49 *Each living thing (3.1.9, 3.1.10)*
- 50 *God's gift of life (3.2.4, 3.4.5)*
- 51 *Thank You, God (3.2.6)*
- 52 *Continuous creation (3.3.3)*

FOCUS: Technology

- 53 *Moving pictures (6.4.2, 13.3.11)*
- 54 *Drugs - the consequences (13.3.8)*
- 55 *Safety and protection (13.3.9)*
- 56 *Benefits of technology (13.3.10, 13.3.11)*

FOCUS: Taking Responsibility

- 57 *I am gifted (13.2.8)*
- 58 *Self-discipline (13.3.7)*
- 59 *I can choose (13.5.2)*
- 60 *Peer pressure (13.9.5)*

FOCUS: Living Together

- 61 *Listen and respect (13.1.4, 13.5.4, 13.9.8)*
- 62 *Being sensitive (13.1.5)*
- 63 *Expressing affection (13.7.1, 13.7.2)*
- 64 *Affirming one another (13.1.6)*

Grade 6

NOTE: The core curriculum for Grade 6 consists of those lessons that are italicised in the programme below. Thus the core will be covered by lessons 1-32, 34-35, 37-40, 45-48, 52-56

FOCUS: Our Condition

- 1 In the beginning (2.2.7)*
- 2 Original sin (2.2.7)*
- 3 Sainthood (2.4.8, 7.2.4, 7.2.5)*
- 4 Fasting and silence (3.3.6)*

FOCUS: Who is Jesus?

- 5 Jesus in the Gospels (8.3.6, 9.1.5)*
- 6 Life, death and resurrection (2.2.11)*
- 7 Son of God (2.2.10)*
- 8 Revealer of the Trinity (2.1.5)*

FOCUS: Responsible Living

- 9 Covenant (2.2.9, 2.4.8, 2.6.4)*
- 10 Believing in God (2.1.7, 2.6.5, 10.1.5)*
- 11 Hoping in God (3.1.1, 2.6.5, 6.1.8)*
- 12 Loving in God (2.3.3, 2.6.5)*

FOCUS: Religious Traditions in South Africa

- 13 God in Hindu scriptures (2.5.2, 9.2.3, 12.4.8)*
- 14 God in the Jewish scriptures (2.5.2, 12.4.8)*
- 15 God in Islam (2.5.2, 8.1.2, 12.4.8)*
- 16 God in African Tradition (2.5.2, 8.1.3, 12.4.8)*

FOCUS: Special times and places

- 17 Festivals and celebrations (5.1.17)*
- 18 Prayer and worship (5.2.4)*
- 19 Places of worship (5.4.13)*
- 20 Why go to church? (14.2.5)*

FOCUS: Understanding sacrament

- 21 Gestures and movement in worship (5.3.5)*
- 22 What is sacrament? (5.3.7)*
- 23 Sacraments in the Catholic Church (5.3.8)*
- 24 The Church as sacrament (14.4.2)*

FOCUS: Religious communities

- 25 The community of disciples (14.1.3)*
- 26 Religious communities in SA (3.1.7, 6.2.1)*
- 27 The origins of Islam (14.3.5)*
- 28 The origins of Hinduism (14.3.5)*

FOCUS: Playing my part

- 29 Ministries in the church (14.1.4, 14.5.2)*
- 30 Called to service (14.1.5, 14.4.1)*
- 31 Considering service (5.4.8, 5.4.9, 5.4.12)*
- 32 Celebrating our call (5.4.8, 5.4.9)*

FOCUS: Seeking Truth

- 33 Truth (10.3.5)*
- 34 Listening to our conscience (7.5.6, 11.2.5)*
- 35 Living the gospel values (11.1.12, 11.6.4)*
- 36 Life beyond death? (10.2.5)*

FOCUS: Freedom and Choice

- 37 Free choice? (11.4.3, 11.4.4)*
- 38 Right choices (11.1.11, 11.2.6, 11.2.7, 11.5.2)*
- 39 Self-discipline and peer pressure (10.3.6, 11.6.3)*
- 40 Substance abuse (11.4.5, 11.4.6)*

FOCUS: Relationships

- 41 Ways of relating (10.4.4)*
- 42 Restoring relationship (10.4.6, 11.1.10)*
- 43 Rites of passage (10.4.5, 13.9.9)*
- 44 My sexuality (11.1.6)*

FOCUS: Religious Practices

- 45 A way of life (10.2.4)*
- 46 Other ways (12.4.7)*
- 47 Features of Judaism and Islam (12.4.8)*
- 48 Features of Hinduism and African Tradition (12.4.8)*

FOCUS: My Unique Self

- 49 I am unique (3.3.4, 13.2.7)*
- 50 Self-confidence (13.2.10)*
- 51 My faith journey (7.5.7)*
- 52 Tuned in to God (3.4.10)*

FOCUS: Prayer and Meditation

- 53 God's will (3.2.8, 3.2.9)*
- 54 Guided meditation (3.3.5, 3.4.9)*
- 55 Prayer foci (4.1.6, 4.1.7, 4.2.5, 4.4.5)*
- 56 Being present to God (3.4.6, 4.2.7, 4.4.4)*

FOCUS: Growth

- 57 Growing up (13.4.3, 13.4.4)*
- 58 Coping with change (13.4.5)*
- 59 Sexual development (13.6.2)*
- 60 Success and failure (13.2.9, 13.3.6)*

FOCUS: Building Relationships

- 61 Mood swings (13.4.6, 13.5.6)*
- 62 Conflicts (13.5.3, 13.5.6)*
- 63 Handling pressure (13.5.5, 13.5.6)*
- 64 Compassion (13.7.3, 13.7.4)*

Grade 7

NOTE: The core curriculum for Grade 6 consists of those lessons that are italicised in the programme below. Thus the core will be covered by lessons 2-6, 11-16, 17-26, 29-31, 33-38, 41-42, 45-48, 49-62, 64

First Quarter Lessons

NO.	PROCESS	TOPIC	LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
1	Spirituality	We Are Lifebound	3.2.10, 3.3.6, 6.1.12, 6.1.15
2	Scripture	Holy Books	8.1.4, 8.1.5
3	Scripture	Bible Library	8.2.9, 8.3.8, 8.3.9, 8.3.10, 8.3.11
4	Scripture/Theology	History of Salvation	2.2.14, 8.4.9
5	Scripture	The World of Jesus	8.4.10, 8.4.11
6	Sacrament & Liturgy	The Sacraments	5.1.20, 5.3.10, 5.3.11, 5.3.12
7	Personal Growth	Created in God's Image	12.5.12, 13.1.7, 13.1.8
8	Personal Growth	Personal Uniqueness	13.2.11, 13.2.13, 13.2.14
9	Personal Growth	Men and Women in Society	13.2.12, 13.7.5
10	Personal Growth	Expressing Sexuality	13.2.12, 13.6.4, 13.6.5, 13.7.6, 13.7.7, 13.7.9
11	Personal Morality	Knowing Right from Wrong	7.2.6, 7.3.7, 11.2.9, 11.6.5
12	Personal Morality	Choosing Right from Wrong	11.2.10, 11.4.7
13	Prayer	Reconciliation	4.4.11, 5.4.14
14	Sacrament & Liturgy	Eucharist	5.3.9, 5.4.16, 6.3.5
15	Spirituality/Prayer	Looking at Prayer	3.3.7, 3.3.8, 4.1.10, 4.1.14, 4.5.9
16	Prayer	How to Pray	4.1.13, 4.2.10, 4.4.8, 4.4.9

Second Quarter Lessons

NO.	PROCESS	TOPIC	LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
17	Models	Images of Jesus	9.1.8
18	Theology	The Nature of God	2.1.8
19	Theology/Scripture	Creation	2.1.9, 2.2.18, 8.5.4
20	Spirituality	The Universe	3.1.13, 3.1.14, 7.4.5
21	Theology/Scripture	Science and the Bible	2.1.10, 8.5.4, 8.5.5
22	Structural Morality	Caring for the Earth	3.1.12, 12.1.9, 12.1.10, 12.1.11, 12.1.12
23	Scripture	Using the Bible	8.6.6, 8.6.7
24	Spirituality	My Inner World	3.4.11, 3.4.12, 3.4.13, 3.4.14, 6.1.13, 8.2.7, 8.2.8
25	Theology	The Human Condition	2.2.13, 2.2.15, 2.2.17, 2.2.19
26	Theology	Eternal Life	2.3.4
27	Philosophy	Religious Differences	10.4.7, 10.4.8
28	Philosophy	The Occult	10.2.7
29	Structural Morality	Human Rights	12.5.8, 12.5.9, 12.5.11, 12.5.12
30	Structural Morality	The Marginalised	12.3.5, 12.3.7
31	Structural Morality	Ubuntu	12.5.9, 12.5.10, 13.9.11
32	Models	Mother Teresa	9.2.4, 9.2.5, 9.2.6

Third Quarter Lessons

NO.	PROCESS	TOPIC	LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
33	<i>Church Life</i>	<i>Faith Communities</i>	14.1.7, 14.1.8, 14.3.10, 14.3.11
34	<i>Theology</i>	<i>The Church</i>	2.2.16, 2.4.10, 2.4.11, 2.4.12, 2.4.13
35	<i>Church Life</i>	<i>The Church in the World</i>	14.3.8, 14.3.9, 14.5.4
36	<i>Prayer</i>	<i>Why Pray?</i>	4.1.11, 4.5.8
37	<i>Personal Morality</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	10.3.7, 11.4.8, 11.5.3, 11.5.4
38	<i>Personal Morality</i>	<i>Values</i>	11.1.17, 11.1.18, 11.1.19
39	<i>Personal Growth</i>	<i>Values for Relating</i>	13.7.8, 13.8.8
40	<i>Personal Growth</i>	<i>Skills for Relating</i>	13.5.7, 13.5.8, 13.5.9, 13.8.7
41	<i>Personal Morality</i>	<i>Bible Wisdom</i>	11.3.10, 11.3.11
42	<i>Personal Morality</i>	<i>Moral Issues</i>	6.4.4, 6.4.5, 11.3.12, 11.4.7
43	<i>Personal Growth</i>	<i>Coping with Pressure</i>	10.1.6, 13.3.12, 13.3.14, 13.3.15, 13.3.16, 13.4.9
44	<i>Personal Growth</i>	<i>The Need for Community</i>	13.9.10
45	<i>Church Life</i>	<i>The Church in Africa</i>	14.3.6
46	<i>Church Life</i>	<i>Worldwide Church</i>	14.3.7, 14.3.10, 14.3.11
47	<i>Prayer</i>	<i>The Prayer of the Church</i>	4.2.11, 4.2.12, 4.3.6
48	<i>Theology</i>	<i>The Search for Truth</i>	2.5.3, 2.5.4, 2.5.5, 2.6.6, 2.6.7

Fourth Quarter Lessons

NO.	PROCESS	TOPIC	LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
49	<i>Spirituality</i>	<i>Holiness</i>	3.2.10, 3.2.11, 3.2.12
50	<i>Church Life</i>	<i>Vocation and Mission</i>	14.4.3, 14.4.4, 14.4.5, 14.5.3
51	<i>Sacrament & Liturgy</i>	<i>Sacraments of Calling</i>	5.1.19
52	<i>Sacrament & Liturgy</i>	<i>Mary in the Church</i>	5.1.21, 9.1.9
53	<i>Sacrament & Liturgy</i>	<i>Seasons</i>	5.1.23
54	<i>Sacrament & Liturgy</i>	<i>Festivals</i>	5.1.22, 5.2.6, 5.4.15
55	<i>Prayer</i>	<i>Prayer in Other Traditions</i>	4.2.13, 6.1.15
56	<i>Structural Morality</i>	<i>Interreligious Dialogue</i>	12.4.10, 12.5.12
57	<i>Structural Morality</i>	<i>The Marginalised</i>	12.3.5
58	<i>Structural Morality</i>	<i>War and Peace</i>	12.4.9, 12.5.12
59	<i>Structural Morality</i>	<i>Gender Discrimination</i>	12.3.6
60	<i>Theology/Spirituality</i>	<i>Acts of God</i>	2.2.18, 3.2.13
61	<i>Church Life</i>	<i>Church Organisation</i>	14.1.6, 14.2.6, 14.2.7
62	<i>Sacrament & Liturgy</i>	<i>Confirmation</i>	5.1.18
63	<i>Story</i>	<i>Respond to Stories</i>	7.5.8, 7.5.9, 7.5.10
64	<i>Prayer</i>	<i>Closing Paraliturg</i>	4.2.13, 4.3.7