

# Newcraigs School Protocol



Newcraigs is an independent church in the Newliston area of Kirkcaldy, Fife which has been in existence since 1986. We are aware of the privilege we have coming in to schools and have a distinct understanding of what we are doing there. We know how our approach contributes to the education of children within the parameters of the Curriculum for Excellence. We come with a serving attitude when we partner with a school and at the invitation of the Head-Teacher. In a school setting we are non-denominational and non-conversionary.

The church has a strong community presence in the Newliston, Blackcraigs and Redcraigs areas and has been running childrens' groups for over 25 years. This has ranged from pre-school 'Toddlers', primary-age 'Fusion' club to a teenagers evening group. Every year the church runs a Holiday Club for primary-age children which offers a week's programme of activities, fun, games and bible stories.

"All schools recognise the added value that partners can bring to the curriculum. There is scope for many schools to broaden the range of partners who support Religious and moral Education to give children and young people broader insights into the range of religious and secular beliefs which are part of our diverse Scottish society. This would help combat the stereotypical views of religious groups which children and young people are often presented with in and through the media"

Education Scotland RME-3-18 Curriculum Impact report, Feb 2014 p35

"I can expect my learning environment to support me to: understand and develop my physical, mental and spiritual well-being and social skills"

Health and well-being Experiences

Within schools we support the Religious and Moral Outcomes within the Curriculum for Excellence. The pastors within Newcraigs have been involved in chaplaincy within local schools since 2008; involved in school assemblies, classroom work and services. In the spirit of CfE we encourage the children to make and communicate their own ideas and decisions about beliefs and values. We believe that all children are of equal worth and are

there to the benefit of all children irrespective of gender, ethnicity, ability or disability, age or religious persuasion. We believe all children are made in the image of God, and all have the right to hear about different religious beliefs. We fully respect that individual children may commit to different religions and values, and although we are happy to discuss the differences between Christian belief and other world views, we would never criticise these.

We view our activities in schools as part of the contribution to the spiritual development of the children through helping them learn about Christian beliefs, see authentic faith in action and encourage the development of an understanding of their own beliefs and the beliefs of others.

"The Bible stories chosen would be appropriate to the context and the pupil. It would also be important to ensure that the 'message' in the story is a focus ...stressing the importance again of close liaison with local faith representatives"

Religious and Moral education Experiences and Outcomes, p10

We are able to deliver programmes using story-telling, drama, videos and multi-media that will help children to experience overviews of significant Bible stories and also major Christian Festivals such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We recognise that children learn in different ways, so ensure that audio, visual and kinesthetic methods are used to promote optimal learning conditions.