



Dear Parents

RE: NEXT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UNIT TO BE STUDIED IN YEAR FOUR 'The Spirit Who Strengthens (Confirmation)'

Emotions can be turbulent personal experiences. They can move people to acts of great nobility, and to acts of vengeance and violence.

Commonly we experience our emotions hampering our efforts to love, to do what we know to be right, to live ideals. This is not what the Creator of human nature originally intended.

To help them live as God originally intended, Jesus promised the Holy Spirit, who would strengthen them against emotional pressures to do wrong. The special strength of this Spirit is received through Confirmation.

The Religious Education unit begins with discovering and identifying different kinds of emotions, and working out if what emotions tell us is true. This leads people to wonder at the God who created emotions, and to celebrate what the nobler possibilities of emotions reveal about the Creator: that God loves us.

The unit then explores how Jesus expressed his emotions in loving ways, and further, that he promised the Holy Spirit to help his followers love like him. The children will describe how the world would be different if all people believed and could draw on the strength of the Holy Spirit to love like Jesus.

The second theme of the unit introduces to the children stories of the Holy Spirit strengthening others, in particular, Mary, the Mother of Jesus, St John the Baptist, St Peter and St Paul. This leads to the understanding that the Holy Spirit, through Confirmation, strengthens Catholics today.

Finally, the unit explores ways in which Christians are called to direct their emotions in ways that show love for others.

You could help your child during this unit by, for example:

- encouraging them to ponder and talk about their emotions
- asking questions such as: 'Is this emotion preventing you from seeing things clearly?'
- wondering with them about God, who created emotions and who loves us
- talking with them about your experiences of emotions. For example, times you have been happy; or times when your emotions have prevented you from seeing things clearly, etc.
- using current media examples to discuss how the world would be different if all people believed and could draw upon the strength of the Holy Spirit
- sharing memories, photographs, certificates of your own Confirmation or the Confirmation of other family members, friends, etc.
- talking about ways the Holy Spirit has helped you to listen to or direct the way you responded in ways that were good in emotional situations.

Yours sincerely

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Year 4 Teachers