A red circle with white arrows in it

Description automatically generated**Aid to the Church in Need**

#**RedWednesday 2023**

#RedWednesday occurs on 22nd November 2023. Schools will be able to make use of this assembly to support teaching about #RedWednesday across Key Stage 2 and to encourage pupils to commit to action through prayer and fundraising. The materials may support further engagement with the [LIVE STREAM](https://acnuk.org/event/acn-red-wednesday-livestream-event/) event. Equally the materials may support a specific lesson in KS2 focusing on the work of a Christian Charity. The primary materials talk about religious freedom, without going into the detail about religious persecution and encourage children to reflect on the fact that they can express their faith publicly without fear. They will come to realise, through engagement with these materials, that this is not the case for children across the world.

**1.0 Aims:**

**Through exploring these materials, pupils will:**

* Understand that they have religious freedom and can engage publicly with their faith.
* Appreciate that there are places in the world where religious freedom is not a given.
* Appreciate that the United Nations Rights of the Child include religious freedom.
* Understand that as a Christian there will be times in our life when we need to stand up for our faith.
* Understand the work of ACN in Africa to support Christians.
* Understand the work of ACN to promote and support religious freedom.
* Explore Catholic Social Teaching in action through the work of ACN.
* Engage pupils with fundraising and prayer to support the work of ACN.

**2.0 Catholic Self-Evaluation Document - Evidence**

Through using the materials provided in “#RedWednesday”, school leaders will be able to provide evidence to support judgements in the following aspects of the Catholic Self-Evaluation Document (CSED):

**Catholic Life and Mission (CLM)**

CLM 1.3 Moral Development

CLM 1.4 Catholic Social Teaching

CLM 2.8 Chaplaincy

**Religious Education (RE)**

RE 1.3 Religious literacy

RE2.6 Spiritual and moral development

RE 3.7 Enrichment

**Collective Worship (CW)**

CW 1.5 Impact

CW 2.1 Centrality

CW 2.4 Use of scripture

**3.0 ‘To know you more clearly’: Religious Education Directory (RED) Links**

The spiral structure of the curriculum enables a build-up, layering a critical dimension each year, deepening pupils’ understanding of the story of salvation, developing a common language, and exploring the ‘memory of the Church’ and her teachings and how these have formed part of the history of ideas in the development of humanity. The structure invites teachers to expose students to the beauty of Catholic Christianity and its shaping influence on culture through art, music, literature, science, and architecture historically and to the present day, which equips young people to dialogue with the beliefs and vision of the Church beyond intellectual remits and exposing them to the transcendent, a powerful pedagogy.

The spiral pathway students follow from their first steps into Catholic education means that teachers can plan for progression, moving through basic questioning and notional understandings to ever deeper levels of engagement with Christianity’s divine and human drama and its significance for humankind.” *(RED: To Know You More Clearly, 2023)*

The materials produced by ACN do not aim to cover the full progression and understanding required by the RED in its spiral curriculum. However, they do aim to supplement and enhance this learning. End of phase Age Related Expectations, that link to this assembly are listed below.

**Knowledge Lenses**

The RED identifies six knowledge lenses which detail what should be known by the end of each age-phase. The six knowledge lenses are Hear, Believe, Celebrate, Live, Dialogue & Encounter.

‘#RedWednesday’ could be used to enhance a deeper understanding of two of these lenses: Believe & Live

**Expectations Ages 7-9**

**Believe**

U4.5.6 Describe some ways in which the Church today (locally or globally) continues the work of Jesus.

**Live**

U4.3.6 Make simple connections between belonging to the Church and living out the ‘Works of Mercy’ in support of those in need.

U4.5.6 Describe some ways in which the Church today (locally or globally) continues the work of Jesus.

**Expectations Ages 9-11**

**Believe**

U6.5.5 Describe and explain, with examples, the different ways in which Christians bear witness to their beliefs now and in the past and make links with the life of a saint. .

**Live**

U6.5.6 Describe and explain, with examples, the different ways in which Christians’ bear witness to their beliefs now and in the past and make links with the life of a saint.

U6.2.6 Show understanding of the life of individual women today who are responding to God’s call in their life, making relevant links to Mary’s ‘Yes’ to God (Lk1:26-56), for example, describe and explain the role of women’s religious orders in the Church today, with reference to at least one example of a Catholic women’s religious order.

U6.6.2 Describe some ways Christians work together with people of different worldviews to promote the common good.

**Ways of Knowing**

The RED identifies three ‘ways of knowing’ in its Programme of Study that enable skills to be developed at an appropriate level. The development of these aspects allows each knowledge lense to be explored appropriately. The ways of knowing are Understand (led by the head), Discern (led by the heart) and Respond (led by hands).

#RedWednesday materials are rooted firmly in each of these strands and provides great opportunities to develop each of these ways of knowing in an age-appropriate manner.

**NOTES TO ACCOMPANY THE SLIDES IN THE PRESENTATION**

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| Slide 1 | You may want to unpack the images on this slide, or you may want to come back to them at the end to see what the children make of them. A duplicate slide (26) exists at the end of the presentation for this purpose. |
| Slides 2 - 5 | Link to the colour RED  Make reference to liturgical seasons when RED is used.  This is not about a liturgical season.  Link to the wider word – DANGER symbols  Link to MARTYRS who DIED for their FAITH  Link to #RedWednesday – do they know that there are some places in the world where it would be dangerous to be seen practising your Christian faith?  ACN looks after people in these countries. |
| Slide 6 | Introduce the concept of standing up / speaking out / breaking the silence.  Can they think of a time when they’ve had to do this – e.g., maybe they saw that someone was being bullied.  How hard is it to ‘speak out’ sometimes.  You may want to consider why. |
| Slide 7 -8 | These slides aim to get the students to reflect on symbols of safety for us (the Bible, the cross, rosary beads, praying hands, an ichthys (the fish symbol). They are safe because we associate them with the safety of God’s love.  Just imagine if these became symbols that could lead to danger.  Do the students know about the ICTHUS sign – the hidden symbol for Christianity used by early Christians – why did they need a hidden Symbol. Link to Saul (and his conversion to Paul). |
| Slide 9 | Offers the opportunity to reflect on a ‘what if’ which is the reality for many Christians in different place across the world today.  Link to Article 14 of the United Nations Rights of the Child.  Introduce the right to RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. |
| Slide 10 | Offers some data about religious persecution across the world.  This year the #RedWednesday’ focus is on Africa because in 23 out of 54 African countries, the right to religious freedom is denied.  The aim is to SPEAK OUT (BREAK THE SILENCE) about this. |
| Slides 11 - 13 | Reflect on the story of St Paul  It is a story of conversion.  What do they remember about the story?  Saul began as someone who was involved in the persecution of Christians.  He was blinded by a light on the road to Damascus. He recognised the resurrected Christ in this light.  He heard the voice of God: “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”  Blinded for three days, he was healed through the disciple Ananias. Baptised, he began new work preaching about Jesus. As a sign of the change, he used a new name, Paul.  You may prefer to read the story from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 9).  Or you may wish to tell the story using the free slides and narrative available at:  <https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/sb-saul-damascus/>  If you have recently explored the story of Saul’s conversion to Paul, you may just use slide 12 to recap the story.  An interactive map of the journeys of St Paul is available at:  <https://www.kidsbiblemaps.com/pauls-first-missionary-journey.html> |
| Slides 14 – 16 | St Paul was bringing the message about Jesus to people in places that were new to the message. This made it a dangerous job for him. He was beaten up, arrested and mocked for SPEAKING UP about a new way of life.  Reflect on what it means for the students to ‘be alert, stand firm, be brave be strong. Do all your work in love.”  This is good advice for anyone breaking the silence about #RedWednesday’.  Why? |
| Slides 17 & 18 | Encourage the students to pledge their support in prayers and fundraising for #RedWednesday  Unpick what a pledge means – a public commitment.  Whole communities, individual classes or individuals could make their own pledge. |
| Slide 19 | This film may need to be watched a few times. It gives examples of the things that you could do.   1. Pray the rosary dedicated to persecuted Christians across the world. 2. Go to Mass for someone who is in a country where they cannot go to Mass. 3. The school could hold a ‘Go Red’ day where pupils pay to come in wearing red accessories. Red prayer areas could be set up in the classroom or in main areas by your Chaplaincy Team. 4. Break the silence by talking about #RedWednesday at home, at school and in Church. The students could make posters or write to their parish priest or the Chair of the Parish Council to ask how the Church will be supporting #RedWednesday.   There are many ways to be a part of #TeamRed! |
| Slides 20 - 21 | ACN aims to raise £100,000 for Christians in Africa by Christmas as in 23 out of 54 African countries, the right to religious freedom is denied.  For every £1 raised ACN’s major funders will match that.  So … £100,000 could become £200,000! |
| Slide 22 | The pictures show some of the African projects, supporting communities with practical and spiritual needs. Refugees may have needed to leave their country for fear of their life and had to move with minimal belongings.  Alongside donations, these people desperately need your prayers. |
| Slides 23 - 24 | Introduce the prayer of St Teresa of Avila  Ask the students to consider how they are the hands and feet of Jesus through what they do.  How can they be His hands and feet through engagement with #RedWednesday?  There are some beautiful versions of this prayer set to music with accompanying video on You Tube. You may prefer to use one of these links:  <https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=eqVbLQh-lT0>  <https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=zoV6R6qk4vY>  <https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=wUbxOli4HcI> |
| Slide 25 | Prayer focusing on hands  The positive actions of greeting, waving, a high five, giving, guiding, holding and the more affirmative actions of saying stop! All such actions are part of our work on earth for Christ. |
| Slide 26 | Ensuring that prayers are offered as well as donations – both are equally important in offering assistance to people living in these areas.  Both are very much appreciated. |
| Slide 27 | Revisit the first slide. Can they suggest why the symbols are there? |

Fundraising for #RedWednesday

ACN are always grateful for the funds raised for its projects. Please note that the projects mentioned in this presentation are an example of its work. Your funding may go to these or similar projects.

Thank you for all that you do to support the work of ACN both in your fundraising and in your prayers which are equally important.

Please let us know how you have raised funds via

* Twitter (X): @acn\_uk
* Instagram: @aidtothechurchinneed\_uk

Use the hashtag #RedWednesday and #TeamRed.

We’d love to know more about your pledges in action. Please do let us know!

**The RED WEDNESDAY LIVE STREAM event is on Wednesday 22nd November 2023**

You can find out more about the LIVE STREAM event including how to register for it via the following link: <https://acnuk.org/event/acn-red-wednesday-livestream-event/>

In collaboration with the Mark 10 Mission and St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School & Sixth Form in Birmingham, the event will be led by the Mark 10 Mission. It will comprise of prayers, information, games and pre-recorded segments.

