

## World View Studies

A course for Y7/8 pupils. This course will run over 2 years and will cover a variety of areas. I intend to make use of the Bar Mitzvah course compiled by the Bradford Christian School and this will supply a large section of the first year's curriculum; although there are a number of areas of this that will be omitted. I have also looked at the current Citizenship and PHSE specifications and plan to cover many aspects of those subjects.

Bar Mitzvah, Citizenship and PHSE overlap as they all look at the concept of helping the pupils to think about themselves as people and their place in the world. The difference is that we at Bethany (based on Bar Mitzvah) will make use of Scripture as we look at God's pattern for young people, using the examples of Biblical characters such as Joseph, Daniel, Esther and Jesus himself.

It is important at this stage that we acknowledge the differences in personal understanding of the pupils and do not make any assumptions regarding personal faith. However God's pattern for life is the true one and it is hoped that the pupils will understand that it is only by following God's ways that we can be secure and happy in this or any other generation. Consequently it is important that we consider what the world view of many of today's young people is and how influenced our young people are by the world in which they live. We definitely want to encourage the pupils to question their own beliefs in the light of The Bible.

As stated above the first part of the course will be a look at "myself". This part of the course will be practical as well as theoretical and will cover lifeskills such as basic housework and budgeting, as well as attitudes to parents, friends, teachers and others in authority.

A large section of the course will concentrate on the world in which we live and will therefore cover topics of present relevance eg. Iraq, terrorism, animal rights, crime, binge drinking etc. It is at this point that we will deal with the issue of the use and abuse of drugs.\* It is acknowledged that many of these issues will be covered by other subject areas and so there will be cross curricular links. It is hoped that, at times, outside speakers will be invited in to give the pupils views from agencies dealing with specific areas of interest eg. The Police.

A further area of study will be that of Comparative Religion. In our multi-racial, multi-ethnic society it is important that the pupils are given an opportunity to discover what other groups believe. We will need to consider how we, as Christians, should treat those whose views we do not accept. This, in turn, may well bring us back to earlier issues such as racism and the challenge that The Bible gives us to be peacemakers.

The final area for study will be a look at some of our local and national institutions. We will think about how our country is governed, the role of local government, why we pay taxes and our responsibility to obey those in authority over us. (Romans 13:1-2. "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.

The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgement on themselves).

It is hoped that by the end of the two years the pupils will see that the root cause of all the problems in individuals, families and society is sin and rebellion against God. Although there are no easy answers to solving the World's problems, the starting point must be in changed hearts which can only happen when The Holy Spirit works in individuals.

\*As with sex-education and careers guidance Bethany School believes that the best place for children to receive drug awareness teaching is in the home. Parents are made aware that information and advice is available from the school on request. However issues surrounding the use and abuse of drugs will be addressed in various parts of the curriculum. So in World View Studies the issue of drugs will be looked at alongside alcohol and smoking, as the pupils are encouraged to think about why people often abuse substances, the physical effects on the body of substance abuse, dangers of psychological dependence and the biblical principle of Romans 12v1-2. ("Therefore I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-which is your spiritual worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind").

The subject will also arise in other curriculum areas eg a discussion of the issues surrounding the growing of poppies for heroin when the Senior class look at farming in the Plants and Animals topic.