

Whitley Memorial C of E First School- Awe and Wonder at Newcastle Cathedral

On Wednesday 25th January 2017, the Year 4 children from The Whitley visited Newcastle Cathedral.

The main aim of the visit was to enrich the RE curriculum, especially the topics of Prayer and Places of Worship.

On arrival, the children and staff were warmly welcomed by Canon Steven who talked about the structure of the day and gave background information about the cathedral. The children sat calmly, silenced by the awe and wonder of their new environment.



Following the introductory session, the children were split into groups to partake in a carousel of three different workshops/experiences.



Canon Steven led one of the workshops, which was about prayer and key pieces of cathedral furniture. The children listened very carefully and successfully answered the questions. They really enjoyed the practical demonstration of baptism, performed by the Canon. Everyone was fascinated by the explanation of why the tower has moved over the years; it was caused by digging work to lay pipes for the first gas lights in the world on Mosley Street.

Another experience was led by Mrs Gibb. The focus of this activity was to learn about icons through the medium of craft work. The children created their own icons by choosing and drawing a Biblical figure. They successfully used their imagination to decorate and embellish their designs. The icons will be displayed in the school and on their website.



The third session was Godly Play and was led by Mrs Robertson and Mrs Scarlett. This was the first experience of Godly Play for both the children and staff and everyone was extremely impressed. It was a very spiritual experience for all and gave everyone a time to question, wonder and reflect in a calm and peaceful environment. After the story, the 'feast' was a great success and a lovely sharing time for both the children and adults.



Overall, everyone had a fantastic religious experience which not only fulfilled both AT1 and AT2 of the curriculum but also delivered so much more. It was an outstanding visit which the school would highly recommend to others.

The Whitley would like to express praise and thanks to the welcoming and professional staff who led the visit and also to the children whose behaviour and positive attitude to the experiences made the school very proud.

A conversation overhead from one of the children on the way home summed up the whole day: "I don't want this visit to end as I have had such an awesome day."

