

DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMME – SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION AND EUCHARIST

Background

When the Diocesan Programme for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion was published and launched in 2011, schools and parishes were told that the programme was suitable to be delivered in Year 3 or Year 4. This allowed flexibility according to local need.

Revisions to Programme

Feedback from schools has been that the Eucharist module was very content heavy and that fitting it into four weeks of 3x50 minute lessons was challenging. Following this feedback the programme has been revised and edited to make the content more manageable.

Recommendations for delivery from Diocesan Department for Education

The Sacramental Preparation programme was written before the introduction of 'Come and See', the primary RE scheme which is used by almost all of the primary schools in the diocese. In 'Come and See' in Years R, 1 and 2, the Eucharist topics do not cover a specific study of parts of the Mass. In Year 3 'Come and See', the Eucharist topic includes the study of parts of the Mass. Therefore if the Sacramental Preparation Programme is taught in Year 4, children are building on relevant prior knowledge as well as being of a more mature age to better understand the Sacraments. The Diocesan Department for Education therefore recommends that, where possible, and through discussion with the priest with pastoral responsibility and the parish, the Sacramental Preparation Programme is delivered in Year 4 and not in Year 3. If the programme is delivered in Year 3, it is recommended that extra curriculum time is allocated to the Religious Education curriculum in order to fully explore the Mass.