

Skills Guide

All skills should be applied in an age appropriate way:

Primary		
Recognise	Identify, name or label something or someone previously seen, heard or encountered.	To appreciate the significance of something.
Retell	Tell a religious story again in any form.	
Describe	Give an accurate account in any form of the role of a person, a religious rite or symbol.	
Make links/connections	Show the relationship between a variety of sources as evidence to inform knowledge and understanding.	
Understand	Correctly perceive the meaning of beliefs, practices and sources actions and the links between them.	
Explain	Make something clear and easy to understand by giving a detailed account focusing specifically on causes and reasons. To show the meaning of a text or area of study in context.	
Construct arguments	Present a logical chain of reasoning, supported by appropriate knowledge, understanding and evidence in support of a particular position or point of view.	
Make reasoned judgements	To synthesise, evaluate and weigh the relative strength and weaknesses of arguments and evidence to arrive at a logical and justified conclusion.	
Recognise diversity	In this context, diversity refers to the differences of belief and practice that exist between denominations of Christianity and between Christianity and other religions.	
Analyse	Examine methodically and in detail, typically to explain and interpret.	
Interpret	To elucidate the meaning of a text by understanding different ways it can be understood. This could be with reference to, for example, the influence on believers, its historical context, its authorship, its intended audience or the ways in which different communities have used the text.	
Evaluate	To consider the relative merit of different points of view and arrive at a judgement supported by reasons and evidence.	

Glossary

Areas of Study	The broad content areas that are listed in the sub-skill row “Developing Knowledge and Understanding” for each phase.
Authority	The hierarchical structures, writing or practices that decisively determine belief and practice for a religious community.
Beliefs	Something which a person holds to be important and true
Coherent	Consistent, clearly stated and supported by appropriate evidence.
Doctrine	A belief, or set of beliefs, held and taught by a community of believers.
Historical development	How religious belief and practice have changed over time.
Insightful	Accurate and deep understanding; perceptive, imaginative and showing a measure of original thought.
Judgement	The ability to make considered decisions and arrive at a justified conclusion.
Key figures	An important or pivotal person in either Scripture (e.g. Moses, Jesus, Mary), or the life of the Church locally or universally (e.g. a Eucharistic minister, a Bishop or the Pope)
Literary type	The genre of a piece of writing. In terms of Biblical texts, things such as Gospel, history, prophecy, letters, psalms, poetry, proverbs. In terms of Church documents, things such as encyclicals, exhortations, catechisms, creeds, theological works.
Local Church	A diocese, which is a geographical area under the authority of a bishop which also includes parish communities.
Meaning	The inner, symbolic, or true interpretation, value or message of something. What a person understands is being communicated by words or actions.
Meaning and purpose	The study of those actions, rules and values which form and shape our lives. This includes comparing and critically evaluating critically both personal responses and those of others who do not share our views.
People of God	Historically it refers to the Israelites, the chosen people with whom God established His covenant. For Christians it means the Church, of which one becomes a member not by birth but by faith in Christ and through baptism.

Point of view	A particular attitude or way of considering something or someone
Religious actions	When a person does something because of a religious belief e.g. giving money to others, fasting, forgiving others
Religious beliefs	Something which a person holds to be important and true because of the religion to which they belong.
Religious stories	Stories that teach us about God and our relationship with God, especially those found in Scripture.
Religious worship	An expression of reverence or adoration either as an individual or as part of a community directed towards God.
Significance	The importance and implications of, for example, texts, beliefs, viewpoints, actions, events.
Signs and symbols	A sign or symbol is a thing or an action that indicates or refers to something else or instructs about something, e.g. Lectern, a candle, lighting a candle, crucifix, water, pouring of water, laying on of hands.
Source	<p>Foundational texts and teaching at the root of belief and practice. For example, in the Catholic context: Scripture, magisterium and tradition.</p> <p>By Scripture is meant: Sacred writings e.g. the books of the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament that constitute the Bible</p> <p>By Magisterium is meant: The teaching authority of the Church, exercised by the Pope and Bishops, found in, for example the definitions and documents of Church councils, Papal encyclicals and exhortations, the Catechism of the Catholic Church.</p> <p>By Tradition is meant: The living transmission of the faith of the Church, expressed through belief and practice, handed down from the Apostles to every generation under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is found in the practice and life of the Church, her belief and her prayer. For example: the Liturgy, the Sacraments, Sacred art and the lives of the Saints.</p>
Textual context	The understanding of text, either Scripture or Church documents within their historical and political context, including an appreciation of their authorship and audience. It also includes the place of a text within the canon of Scripture in the case of Biblical texts.
Theological concepts	Concepts that can be found in Scripture, Church documents and the writings of theologians to capture complex ideas and beliefs. For example: incarnation, grace, salvation, transubstantiation.
Universal Church	The world-wide Catholic community.
Values	Important beliefs or ideals that influence behaviour and attitudes. Those standards by which people make important choices and which we recognise as ultimate guides to life.