

## C. Learning theory undergirding Connect/CEP:

### *Understanding the student*

CEP curriculum draws on research that integrates development theory with knowledge of Biblical theology to understand the stage of development of students in a Special Religious Education class.

Areas considered are:

- **Language development:** This includes students' ability to engage with written text, use and understand more complex words and Biblical ideas, grasp time sequences and develop more advanced thinking and reasoning skills.
- **Interpersonal Development:** The effectiveness of relationships which are formed outside the family are shaped by a child's previous experience of trusting others. A consistent framework is needed where both justice and love are demonstrated.
- **Faith Development:** Students move from a faith that is intuitive, impressionistic, imaginative and unordered in their younger years to a faith that is more literal and events and experienced are ordered. For younger students, storytelling, play and relating the teaching to the everyday world of the student are crucial educational methods.