

KEY STAGE 1 INTRODUCTION

UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIANITY

TEXT IMPACT CONNECTIONS

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KEY STAGE 1



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INTRODUCTION

This resource offers ideas and support in helping teach about Christianity in KS1. It builds on work done in EYFS settings, helping to lay the foundations for pupils' understanding in RE as they move through school.

THE UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIANITY APPROACH COMPRISES:

- three elements which run through all of the units, from EYFS to KS3:
 - making sense of the text
 - understanding the impact
 - making connections.
- core Christian concepts, which tell the 'salvation narrative' or 'big story' of the Bible
- knowledge 'building blocks' which set out core learning.

These are all outlined below, and more details are given in the *Teacher's Handbook* that came with this pack.

This resource looks to encourage excellent and creative teaching by giving teachers confidence about the subject knowledge required, and offering a wide range of tried and tested activities for the classroom.

KEY PURPOSE

The key purpose of these materials is to support pupils in developing their understanding of Christianity, as a contribution to their understanding of the world and their own experience within it.

It does this by integrating pupils' developing understanding of significant theological concepts within Christianity with their own self-understanding and understanding of the world, as part of their wider religious literacy.

AIMS

- to enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living world faith, by exploring core theological concepts
- to enable pupils to develop knowledge and skills in making sense of biblical texts and understanding their impact in the lives of Christians
- to develop pupils' abilities to connect, critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding of religion and belief (particularly Christianity), of themselves, the world and human experience.



THE APPROACH

Understanding Christianity explores core Christian concepts. It starts with exploring what the Bible says, placing these ideas within the wider Bible story. Each unit addresses a concept, such as Creation or Salvation, through some key questions. It looks at some important teachings found in key Bible texts, and then explores their impact for Christians. Pupils have opportunities to learn from the ideas explored. Each unit incorporates the three elements below:



The units of work usually begin with a 'way in', then flow from **Making sense of the text**, on to **Understanding the impact** of the text and the concept on the Church community and Christian living, then explore **Making connections**. This means that the move from text outwards through the world of the Christian and to the world of the pupil runs through each unit.

There is flexibility and freedom within this structure, however, hence the overlapping circles in the above diagram, and teachers are free to weave together activities from different elements to enable pupils to achieve the outcomes.



ACHIEVING THE OUTCOMES

This means that teachers are not expected to do all of the activities suggested, nor necessarily in the order presented. They should select activities as appropriate to their class's age and stage, in order to enable them to achieve the outcomes. If they achieve the outcomes quickly, teachers can move on. Any additional activities can be used to embed understanding further.









CORE LEARNING AND DIGGING DEEPER

It is intended that all schools do the 'Core Learning' units, which provide around 6-8 hours of teaching and learning. Some classes may make swift progress and so teachers may like to move on to deepen pupils' learning by using the 'Digging Deeper' unit. This section is also intended for those VA Church schools who might be studying Christianity for two thirds of their RE provision.



CORE CONCEPTS AND THE 'BIG STORY' OF THE BIBLE

In order to give KS1 teachers the background to the resources, this is a summary of the core concepts that are explored as part of the 'salvation narrative' of the Bible, as understood within Christianity. The KS1 units introduce the concepts of God, Creation, Incarnation, Gospel and Salvation from this list:

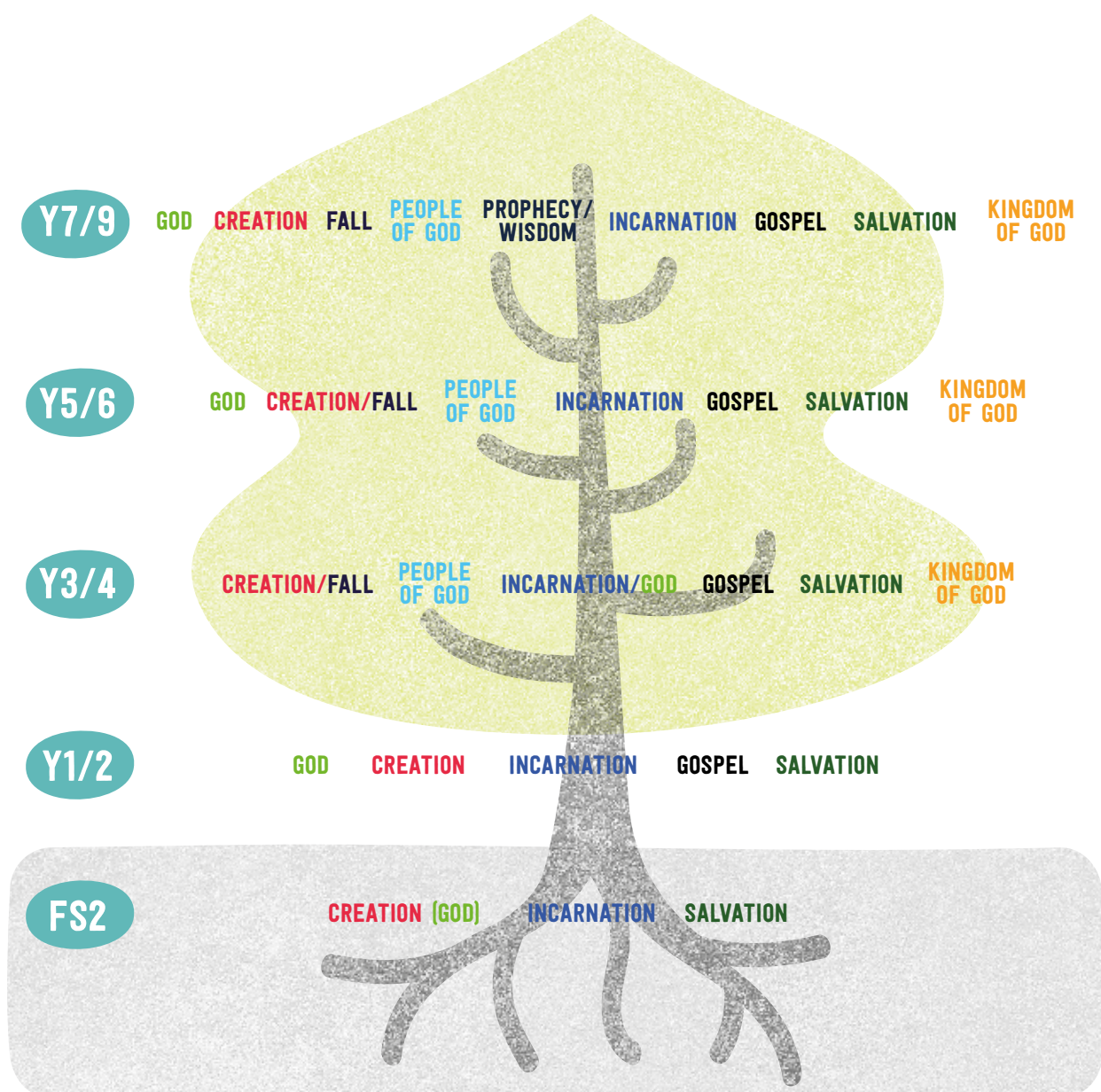
	GOD	Fundamental to Christian belief is the existence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
	CREATION	The universe and human life are God's good creation. Humans are made in the image of God.
	FALL	Humans have a tendency to go their own way rather than keep their place in relation to their Creator. This attitude is called sin, and Genesis 3 gives an account of this rebellion, popularly called 'the Fall'. This describes a catastrophic separation between God and humans, between humans and each other, and between humans and the environment. This idea that humans are 'fallen' and in need of rescue (or salvation) sets out the root cause of many problems for humanity.
	PEOPLE OF GOD	The Old Testament tells the story of God's plan to reverse the impact of the Fall, to save humanity. It involves choosing a people who will model a restored relationship with God, who will attract all other people back to God. The Bible narrative includes the ups and downs of this plan, including the message of the prophets, ¹ who tried to persuade people to stick with God. The plan appears to end in failure, with the people of God exiled and then returning, awaiting a 'messiah' – a rescuer.
	INCARNATION	The New Testament presents Jesus as the answer – the Messiah and Saviour, who will repair the effects of sin and the Fall and offer a way for humans to be at one with God again. Incarnation means that Jesus is God in the flesh, and that, in Jesus, God came to live amongst humans.
	GOSPEL	Jesus' incarnation is 'good news' for all people. ('Gospel' means 'good news'.) His life, teaching and ministry embody what it is like to be one of the people of God, what it means to live in relationship with God. Jesus' example and teaching emphasise loving one's neighbour – particularly the weak and vulnerable – as part of loving God.
	SALVATION	Jesus' death and resurrection effect the rescue or salvation of humans. He opens the way back to God. Through Jesus, sin is dealt with, forgiveness offered, and the relationship between God and humans is restored.
	KINGDOM OF GOD	This does not mean that no one sins any more! The Bible talks in terms of God's 'Kingdom' having begun in human hearts through Jesus. The idea of the 'Kingdom of God' reflects God's ideal for human life in the world – a vision of life lived in the way God intended for human beings. Christians look forward to a time when God's rule is fulfilled at some future point, in a restored, transformed heaven and earth. Meanwhile, they seek to live this attractive life as in God's Kingdom, following Jesus' example, inspired and empowered by God's Spirit.

¹ Prophecy is a key concept that will be explored in the project resources, along with the concept of 'wisdom' – which encompasses writing and teaching about how Christians should live and behave in relationship with God.

Pupils in KS1 will begin to understand some of the main beliefs and practices of Christianity. It is not necessary for pupils to grasp the 'big story' in any detail, but they should begin to see that most Christians see this wider 'big story', and it will help the teacher to see where the core concepts of Creation, Incarnation, Gospel and Salvation fit. The 'big story' frieze is a simple way in, which can be used throughout KS1 and KS2 to help pupils see how the story fits together.

Teachers can see in the diagram below where pupils' learning will go as they move up the school, by noting the way core concepts are re-visited in older year groups.

The core concepts fit into a spiral curriculum, whereby concepts are revisited and explored in more depth as pupils move through the school. These are explored through key questions, however, and so are not applied exclusively – links and connections will be made between concepts during units.



KEY QUESTIONS

CONCEPT	EYFS	Y1/2
GOD		1.1 What do Christians believe God is like?
CREATION	F1 Why is the word 'God' so important to Christians?	1.2 Who made the world?
INCARNATION	F2 Why do Christians perform nativity plays at Christmas?	1.3 Why does Christmas matter to Christians?
GOSPEL		1.4 What is the good news that Jesus brings?
SALVATION	F3 Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter garden?	1.5 Why does Easter matter to Christians?



KNOWLEDGE BUILDING BLOCKS

These indicate the kind of knowledge and understanding pupils are expected to begin to grasp through their RE activities in EYFS and KS1. The resources offer opportunities for pupils to grasp more than these, of course, but the intention is that it is better to focus on developing a deeper understanding of these few concepts than trying to go too broad too young.

GOD

EYFS

End KS1 (7)

Pupils will know that:

- Christians believe in God, and that they find out about God in the Bible.
- Christians believe God is loving, kind, fair, and also Lord and King; and there are some stories that show this.
- Christians worship God, and try to live in ways that please him.

CREATION

EYFS

End KS1 (7)

Children will know that:

- The word God is a name.
- Christians believe God is the Creator of the universe.
- Christians believe God made our wonderful world and so we should look after it.

Pupils will know that Christians believe:

- God created the universe.
- The Earth and everything in it are important to God.
- God has a unique relationship with human beings as their Creator and Sustainer.
- Humans should care for the world because it belongs to God.

INCARNATION

EYFS

Children will know that:

- Christians believe God came to Earth in human form as Jesus.
- Christians believe Jesus came to show that all people are precious and special to God.

End KS1 (7)

Pupils will know that:

- Christians believe that Jesus is God and that he was born as a baby in Bethlehem.
- The Bible points out that his birth showed he was extraordinary (e.g. he is worshipped as a king, in Matthew) and that he came to bring good news (e.g. to the poor, in Luke).
- Christians celebrate Jesus' birth; Advent for Christians is a time for getting ready for Jesus' coming.

GOSPEL

EYFS

End KS1 (7)

Pupils will know that:

- Christians believe Jesus brings good news for all people.
- For Christians, this good news includes being loved by God, and being forgiven for bad things.
- Christians believe Jesus is a friend to the poor and friendless.
- Christians believe Jesus' teachings make people think hard about how to live and show them the right way.

SALVATION

EYFS

Children will know that:

- Christians remember Jesus' last week at Easter.
- Jesus' name means 'He saves'.
- Christians believe Jesus came to show God's love.
- Christians try to show love to others.

End KS1 (7)

Pupils will know that:

- Easter is very important in the 'big story' of the Bible. Jesus showed that he was willing to forgive all people, even for putting him on the cross.
- Christians believe Jesus builds a bridge between God and humans.
- Christians believe Jesus rose from the dead, giving people hope of a new life.




END-OF-PHASE OUTCOMES



OUTCOMES

Each of the three elements of the teaching and learning approach is important, and pupils should make progress in all of them. Below are the end-of-phase outcomes related to each element. Each unit takes bullet points from these end-of-phase outcomes and applies them specifically to the unit questions.

Teachers are expected to use these alongside the knowledge building blocks within the assessment systems used within their own schools. See the *Teacher's Handbook* for more details.

Teaching and learning approach	End KS1 outcomes <i>Pupils will be able to:</i>
 <p>ELEMENT 1: Making sense of the text</p> <p>Developing skills of reading and interpretation; understanding how Christians interpret, handle and use biblical texts; making sense of meanings of texts for Christians.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise that God, Creation, Incarnation and Salvation are part of a 'big story' of the Bible. • Identify at least two different types of texts from the Bible; for example, examples of a story, a parable, a gospel account of Jesus' life, and instructions about how to behave. • Tell stories from the Bible and recognise a link with a concept; for example, Creation, Incarnation, Gospel and Salvation. • Give clear, simple accounts of what the texts mean to Christians.
 <p>ELEMENT 2: Understanding the impact</p> <p>Examining ways in which Christians respond to biblical texts and teachings, and how they put their beliefs into action in diverse ways within the Christian community and in the world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give at least three examples of ways in which Christians use Bible concepts, stories and texts to guide their beliefs, in their individual lives and in their church communities. • Give at least three examples of how Christians put their beliefs into practice in church worship.
 <p>ELEMENT 3: Making connections</p> <p>Evaluating, reflecting on and connecting the texts and concepts studied, and discerning possible connections between these and pupils' own lives and ways of understanding the world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think, talk and ask questions about whether the text has something to say to them, exploring different ideas.



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