RE Knowledge Building Blocks – Early Years and Key Stage One

The Understanding Christianity scheme, uses carefully planned progressive steps to teach children key concepts. Throughout the school, these concepts are taught using 3 key steps.

MAKing SENSE of the text

Developing skills of reading and interpretation; understanding how Christians interpret, handle and use biblical texts; making sense of the meanings of texts for Christians.

Making Connections

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.

Understanding the Impact

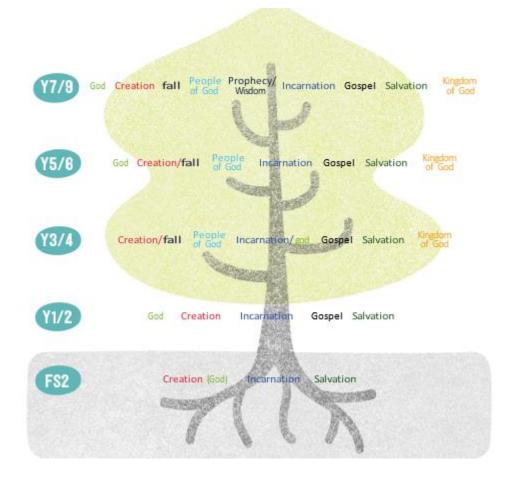
Examining ways in which
Christians respond to biblical
texts and teachings, and how
they put their beliefs into action
in diverse ways within the Christian
community and in the world.

The scheme uses 8 core concepts, which go through the 'Bog Story' of the Bible. Not all concepts are taught to each age phase but as the children's knowledge grows and develops, more concepts are taught. Concepts are taught with an over-arching 'key question' for the entire unit and concepts are re-visited regularly and explored in more depth each time allowing links and connections to be made between concepts during units.

V	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.
500	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, 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.

T	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 among 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.
0	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.

Plan of key concept delivery:



Key knowledge children will learn in Early Years and Key Stage One:

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	End KS1 (7)
Children will know that:	Pupils will know that:
 Christians believe God came to Earth in human form as Jesus. 	 Christians believe that Jesus is God and that he was born as a baby in Bethlehem.
 Christians believe Jesus came to show that all people are precious and special to God. 	 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	End KS1 (7)	
Children will know that:	Pupils will know that:	
Christians remember Jesus' last week at Easter.	 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. 	
 Jesus' name means 'He saves'. 		
 Christians believe Jesus came to show God's love. 	Christians believe Jesus builds a bridge between	
Christians try to show love to others.	God and humans.	
	 Christians believe Jesus rose from the dead, giving people hope of a new life. 	

Teaching and learning approach

End KS1 outcomes

Pupils will be able to:



ELEMENT 1: Making sense of the text

Developing skills of reading and interpretation; understanding how Christians interpret, handle and use biblical texts; making sense of meanings of texts for Christians.

- 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.



ELEMENT 2: Understanding the impact

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.

- 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.



ELEMENT 3: Making connections

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.

 Think, talk and ask questions about whether the text has something to say to them, exploring different ideas.

In EYFS, children also learn about stories.

Term 3: Which stories are special and why in the New Testament? Children will know:

- Christians believe Jesus' teachings make people think hard about their lives and show them the right way.
- Christians believe Jesus brings good news, including being loved by God, and being forgiven for bad things.
- Christians believe Jesus told stories called parables to teach people more about God.
- Christians believe that Jesus is God and that he performed miracles.

Term 5: Which stories are special and why in the Old Testament? Children will know:

- The Old Testament is in the beginning of the Bible.
- The Old Testament is special to Christian and Jewish people.

Term 6: Which stories are special and why- world faiths? Children will know:

- There are other world faiths and people of different faiths believe in different Gods to Christians
- They will be able to name some other faiths and retell stories

In Year 1, children also learn about Judaism:

Term 5: Who is Jewish and what do they believe? Children should be able to:

- Talk about how the mezuzah in the home reminds Jewish people about God.
- Make links between some Jewish teaching and how Jewish people live.
- Talk about how Shabbat is a special day of the week for Jewish people.
- Give examples of what Jewish people might do to celebrate Shabbat.
- express ideas about the value of times of reflection, thanksgiving, praise and remembrance, in light of their learning about why Jewish people choose to celebrate in these ways.

Term 6: Who is Jewish and what do they believe? Children should be able to:

- Retell a story the story of Chanukah.
- Suggest what this story shows Jewish people about God.
- Talk about how Chanukah is a special time for Jewish people.
- Talk about and suggest why the Synagogue is a special place for Jewish people.
- express ideas about the value of times of reflection, thanksgiving, praise and remembrance, in light of their learning about why Jewish people choose to celebrate in these ways.

In Year 2, children also learn about Islam:

Term 5: Who is Muslim and what do they believe? Children should be able to:

- talk about some simple ideas about Muslim beliefs about God, making links with some of the 99 Names of Allah
- re-tell a story about the life of the Prophet Muhammad
- recognise some objects used by Muslims and suggest why they are important
- ask some questions about God that are hard to answer and offer some ideas of their own.
- Find out about and respond with ideas to examples of cooperation between people who are different.

Term 6: Who is Muslim and what do they believe? Children should be able to:

- Make links between what the Holy Qur'an says and how Muslims behave.
- Identify some ways Muslims pray, worship and celebrate.
- Talk about the fact that Muslims believe in God (Allah) and follow the example of the Prophet Muhammad.
- Identify some ways Muslims mark Ramadan and celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr and how this might make them feel.
- Ask some questions about God that are hard to answer and offer some ideas of their