



St Margaret's CE Primary School

RE – Understanding Christianity Coverage and Progression of Skills

Religious Education is taught through regular lessons in each year group. As a school we use the resource 'Understanding Christianity' which has been developed by 'The Church of England Education Project'. This resource aims "to help all teachers support pupils in developing their own thinking and their understanding of Christianity, as a contribution to their understanding of the world and their own experience within it" (The Church of England Education Office, 2016). We also use resources developed by Diocese of Guildford to support our teaching of different faiths and beliefs.

Within 'Understanding Christianity', there are two focuses that we work on. One of these is learning about Christianity itself and 'understanding the text'. The other is digging deeper to 'understand the impact' of the text and 'make connections' between this, a Christian's beliefs and the way in which they live their lives. Similarly, within the teaching of other faiths and beliefs, there are two focuses. One of these is the 'learning about' a religion, where children develop knowledge of the people who are important to these religions, their history, where people worship and how their beliefs affect the way they live. The other focus is 'learning from' a religion. This is where children are encouraged to reflect on how they can learn from other people's beliefs.

Concept	Reception	Year 1 / Year 2	Year 3 / Year 4	Year 5 / Year 6
God		<p>What do Christians believe God is like? Y1</p> <p>Pupils will know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Trinity and Incarnation Y4 (See Incarnation)</p>	<p>What does it mean if God is holy and loving? Y5</p> <p>Pupils will know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians believe God is omnipotent, omniscient and eternal, and that this means God is worth worshipping. • Christians believe God is both holy and loving, and Christians have to balance ideas of God being angered by sin and injustice (see Fall) but also being loving, forgiving, and full of grace. • Christians believe God loves people so much that Jesus was born, lived, was crucified and rose again to show God's love. • Christians do not all agree about what God is like, but try to follow his path, as they see it in the Bible or through Church teaching. • Christians believe getting to know God is like getting to know a person rather than learning information.
Creation	<p>Why is the word God so important to Christians?</p> <p>Children will know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The word God is a name. 	<p>Who made the world? Y1</p> <p>Pupils will know that Christians believe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God created the universe. 	<p>What do Christians learn from the creation story? Y3</p> <p>Pupils will know that Christians believe:</p>	<p>Creation and Science: conflicting or complementary? Y6</p> <p>Pupils will know that:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians believe God is the creator of the universe. • Christians believe God made our wonderful world and we should look after it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God the Creator cares for the creation, including human beings. • As human beings are part of God's good creation, they do best when they listen to God. • The Bible tells a story (in Genesis 3) about how humans spoiled their friendship with God (sometimes called 'the Fall'). • This means that humans cannot get close to God without God's help. • The Bible shows that God wants to help people to be close to him – he keeps his relationship with them, gives them guidelines on good ways to live (such as the Ten Commandments), and offers forgiveness even when they keep on falling short. • Christians show that they want to be close to God too, through obedience and worship, which includes saying sorry for falling short. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is much debate and some controversy around the relationship between the accounts of creation in Genesis and contemporary scientific accounts. • These debates and controversies relate to the purpose and interpretation of the texts: for example, does reading Genesis as a poetic account conflict with scientific accounts? • There are many scientists through history and now who are Christians. • The discoveries of science make Christians wonder even more about the power and majesty of the Creator.
People of God			<p>What is it like to follow God? Y3</p> <p>Pupils will know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Old Testament tells the story of a particular group of people, the children of Israel – the People of God – and their relationship with God. • The People of God try to live in the way 	<p>How can following God bring freedom and justice? Y6</p> <p>Pupils will know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Old Testament pieces together the story of the People of God. As their circumstances change (for example, from being nomads (Abraham, Jacob) to being city dwellers (David)), they have to learn new ways of following God.

			<p>God wants, following his commands and worshipping him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They believe he promises to stay with them, and Bible stories show how God keeps his promises. • The Old Testament narrative explains that the People of God are meant to show the benefits of having a relationship with God, and to attract all other nations to worshipping God. • Christians believe that, through Jesus, all people can become the People of God. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The story of Moses and the Exodus shows how God rescued his people from slavery in Egypt; Christians see this story as looking forward to how Jesus' death and resurrection also rescue people from slavery to sin. • Christians apply this idea to living today by trying to serve God and to bring freedom to others, for example by loving others, caring for them, bringing health, food, justice, and telling the story of Jesus. • Christians see the Christian Church as part of the ongoing story of the People of God, and try to live in a way that attracts others to God, for example as salt and light in the world.
<p>Incarnation</p>	<p>Why do Christians perform nativity plays at Christmas?</p> <p>Children will know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Why does Christmas matter to Christians? Y1</p> <p>Pupils will know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>What is the Trinity? Y3 The Trinity and Incarnation Y4</p> <p>Pupils will know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians believe Jesus is one of the three persons of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. • Christians believe the Father creates; he sends the Son who saves his people; the Son sends the Holy Spirit to his followers. • Christians worship God as Trinity. It is a huge idea to grasp, and artists have created art to help to express this belief. 	<p>Was Jesus the Messiah? Y5</p> <p>Pupils will know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus was Jewish. • Christians believe Jesus is God in the flesh. • They believe that his birth, life, death and resurrection were part of a longer plan by God to restore the relationship between humans and God. • The Old Testament talks about a 'rescuer' or 'anointed one' — a messiah. Some texts talk about what this 'messiah' would be like. • Christians believe that Jesus fulfilled these expectations, and

		<p>Jesus' coming.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians believe the Holy Spirit is God's power at work in the world and in their lives today, enabling them to follow Jesus. 	<p>that he is the Messiah. (Jewish people do not think Jesus is the Messiah.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians see Jesus as their Saviour (see Salvation).
<p>Gospel</p>		<p>What is the good news that Jesus brings? Y2</p> <p>Pupils will know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>What kind of world did Jesus want? Y4</p> <p>Pupils will know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians believe Jesus challenges everyone about how to live – he sets the example for loving God and your neighbour, putting others first. • Christians believe Jesus challenges people who pretend to be good (hypocrisy), and shows love and forgiveness to unlikely people. • Christians believe Jesus' life shows what it means to love God (his Father) and love your neighbour. • Christians try to be like Jesus – they want to know him better and better. • Christians try to put his teaching and example into practice in lots of ways, from church worship to social justice. 	<p>What would Jesus do? Y5</p> <p>Pupils will know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians believe the good news is not just about setting an example for good behaviour and challenging bad behaviour: it is that Jesus offers a way to heal the damage done by human sin. • Christians see that Jesus' teachings and example cut across expectations – the Sermon on the Mount is an example of this, where Jesus' values favour serving the weak and vulnerable, not making people comfortable. • Christians believe that Jesus' good news transforms lives now, but also points towards a restored, transformed life in the future (see Salvation and Kingdom of God). • Christians believe that they should bring this good news to life in the world in different ways, within their church family, in their personal lives, with family, with their neighbours, in the local, national and global community

<p>Salvation</p>	<p>Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter garden?</p> <p>Children will know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>Why does Easter matter to Christians? Y2</p> <p>Pupils will know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Why do Christians call the day Jesus died Good Friday? Y3 / Y4</p> <p>In Year 4, Children will build upon their Year 3 learning and dig deeper into this topic.</p> <p>Pupils will know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians see Holy Week as the culmination of Jesus' earthly life, leading to his death and resurrection. • The various events of Holy Week, such as the Last Supper, were important in showing the disciples what Jesus came to earth to do. • Christians today trust that Jesus really did rise from the dead, and so is still alive today. • Christians remember and celebrate Jesus' last week, death and resurrection. 	<p>What did Jesus do to save human beings? Y5 What difference does the resurrection make to Christians? Y6</p> <p>Pupils will know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians read the 'big story' of the Bible as pointing out the need for God to save people. This salvation includes the ongoing restoration of humans' relationship with God. • The Gospels give accounts of Jesus' death and resurrection. • The New Testament says that Jesus' death was somehow 'for us'. • Christians interpret this in a variety of ways: for example, as a sacrifice for sin; as a victory over sin, death and the Devil; paying the punishment as a substitute for everyone's sins; rescuing the lost and leading them to God; leading from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom. • Christians remember Jesus' sacrifice through the service of Holy Communion (also called the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist or the Mass). • Belief in Jesus' resurrection confirms to Christians that Jesus is the incarnate Son of God, but also that death is not the end.
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Kingdom of God			<p>When Jesus left, what was the impact of Pentecost? Y4</p> <p>Pupils will know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians believe that Jesus inaugurated the 'Kingdom of God' – i.e. Jesus' whole life was a demonstration of his belief that God is king, not just in heaven but here and now ('Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven'). • Christians believe Jesus is still alive, and rules in their hearts and lives through the Holy Spirit, if they let him. • Christians believe that after Jesus returned to be with God the Father, he sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to help the Church to make Jesus' invisible kingdom visible by living lives that reflect the love of God. • Christians celebrate Pentecost as the beginning of the Church. • Staying connected to Jesus means that the fruit of the Spirit can grow in the lives of Christians. 	<p>What kind of king is Jesus? Y6</p> <p>Pupils will know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus told many parables about the Kingdom of God. These suggest that God's rule has begun, through the life, teaching and example of Jesus, and subsequently through the lives of Christians who live in obedience to God. • The parables suggest that there will be a future Kingdom, where God's reign will be complete. • The Kingdom is compared to a feast where all are invited to join in. Not everyone chooses to do so. • Many Christians try to extend the Kingdom of God by challenging unjust social structures in their locality and in the world.

Pedagogy

Understanding Christianity offers a coherent approach to teaching and learning about Christianity, in the wider RE curriculum. Understanding Christianity has identified eight core concepts at the heart of mainstream Christian belief. It sets out some knowledge 'building blocks', to clarify what pupils should know and understand about these concepts at each school phase. It provides a teaching and learning approach to unpack these concepts and their impact in the lives of Christians in the UK and the world today, making connections with the world of the pupils and their wider understanding.

Understanding Christianity's approach to teaching about Christianity builds up pupils' encounters with these core concepts through biblical texts, placing the texts and concepts within the wider Bible story. Each unit addresses a concept, through some key questions, exploring core Bible texts, their impact for Christians, and possible implications for pupils. Each unit incorporates the three elements below:

Making sense of the text: developing pupils' skills of reading and interpretation; understanding how Christians interpret, handle and use biblical texts; making sense of the meanings of texts for Christians.

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.

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.

Pupils' achievement can be assessed against the knowledge building blocks and against end-of-phase outcomes related to the elements above.

This approach offers coherence and progression in terms of pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding. It supports pupils' abilities to handle texts, as well as understanding how and why Christians interpret biblical texts differently. It takes seriously the role of the pupil as reader, bringing their own world to the text whilst giving them the opportunity to allow the text to enlarge their understanding of the world.