Year 1
The overarching theme of this year is revelation, how do people know about God? Pupils would not be expected to know the term revelation, but they will explore the different ways in which revelation is experienced, beginning with revelation through Creation, then moving on to revelation in the incarnation of Jesus. Again, though pupils may not use the term incarnation, teachers can make connections between the different branches to ensure that pupils make the link that Jesus is another way people meet God. Pupils will then understand a simple account of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection before encountering the language and imagery of the revelation of God in the Holy Spirit.

Branch 1: Creation and Covenant | Year 1

The focus of this branch is Revelation. The revelation of Creation is the first step towards the covenant God forges with his people (CCC 288). In an age-appropriate way, pupils will consider how the world exists and how all that is came to be. They will learn about the Christian belief that all that exists comes from God, the Creator, who Christians call Father, and that this belief is found in Scripture and the prayers of the Catholic Church. The Church teaches that with this belief come responsibilities to take care of the world God has gifted to humanity. One of the ways the Church expresses this responsibility is through the Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principles of stewardship, human dignity, and solidarity, which Pope Francis expresses in his encyclical 'Laudato Si" (2015).

Teachers should be aware that the Church does not teach creationism. Scientific study reveals the processes by which the world came to be, whereas the book of Genesis explores the beauty of God's wisdom in giving people this gift (CCC 295) as a loving Father. Therefore, when reading the first story of Creation with children, we recognise that it is a story about how God reveals his love, not a scientific account.

In this branch, pupils will hear the opening words of the Nicene Creed as they express the belief that all that is comes from God, who created all that is seen, and all that is unseen. Pupils are not expected to learn the words of the Creed. They will also come to know the words of the 'Our Father', which express God's love for all people and his presence in our daily lives. In religious education, all pupils will encounter these words as they reflect a teaching of the Church and show how beliefs and spirituality are interconnected. Pupils who share these beliefs will be able to participate in the prayers as part of a worshipping community. In this branch, all pupils are invited to reflect on what prayer means for them in their lives.

General guidance: Pupils of all ages should be aware of the Bible as the sacred text of the Christian faith, and teachers should reference a Catholic translation in religious education lessons. However, teachers should exercise professional discretion when choosing texts to study with pupils to ensure that they speak to the age and ability of their pupils.

Wherever possible, resources for teaching should always look to diverse representations from the Universal Catholic Church.

Teachers must teach the RED content through the lenses of Hear, Believe, Celebrate, and Live but do not have to follow the lenses in sequence.

Objectives: Ways of knowing

Understand

U1.1.1.
Recognise that the story of Creation in Genesis 1:1-4,24-26, is an ancient, prayerful, poetic reflection on God's world and retell this story in any form. (RVE)

U1.1.2.
Recognise in an age-appropriate way that the Church teaches that all that is comes from God, our Father, who made heaven and Earth. (RVE)

U1.1.3.
Recognise that though people cannot see God, they can sense his presence through the awe and wonder experienced in the beauty and order of Creation.

U1.1.4.
Recognise that the Church teaches that God gave human beings the responsibility for taking care of the world and its people and in doing this, we show love for God and each other.

U1.1.5.
Know that Pope Francis wrote a letter, called Laudato Si', about the gift of Creation and the importance of taking care of the world as it is everyone's home.

U1.1.6.
Recognise that prayer is a way of drawing closer to God.

Discern

D1.1.1.
Talking about how God's gift of Creation is expressed through the scriptures and diverse creative and artistic expressions, e.g., through art, music, or poetry and talk about their responses.

D1.1.2.
Talking about why caring for God's world matters for them and their local community. (RVE)

Respond

R1.1.1.
Reflecting on what the words of the Our Father and the opening words of the Creed say to them.

R1.1.2.
Reflecting on different ways to pray.

R1.1.3.
Listening to stories from different communities and their experiences about how they care for the world. (RVE)

R1.1.4.
Talking about how they can care for God's world. (RVE)

Lenses

Hear

By the end of this unit of study, pupils will have studied the following key texts:

- The Creation story in Genesis 1:1-4, 24-26 as an ancient, prayerful, poetic reflection on God's world.
- The opening of the Nicene Creed 'I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible'.
- An introduction to the ideas presented in Laudato Si' 13.

Believe

By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know that the Church teaches:

- That all that is comes from God.
- God is our Father.
- God's love and care for humanity is experienced through the beauty and order of Creation.
- Prayer is a way we draw closer to God.

Celebrate

By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know:

- That praying is a way people draw close to God.
- That, as a community, the Church prays the Creed and the Our Father to pray to God and worship him.

Live

By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know that the Church teaches:

- God wants us to love and care for the world because the world is God's gift to us.
- Caring for the world is one of the ways we love and care for each other.
- How a community in another part of the world cares for Creation.

Star words

God

Father

Creation

Pope Francis

Laudato Si'

Our Father

Creed

Suggested grouping of objectives including Ways of Knowing and Lenses

U1.1.1.
Recognise that the story of Creation in Genesis 1:1-4,24-26, is an ancient, prayerful, poetic reflection on God's world and retell this story in any form. (RVE)

- The Creation story in Genesis 1:1-4, 24-26 as an ancient, prayerful, poetic reflection on God's world.

D1.1.1.
Talking about how God's gift of Creation is expressed through the scriptures and diverse creative and artistic expressions, e.g., through art, music, or poetry and talk about their responses.

U1.1.2.
Recognise in an age-appropriate way that the Church teaches that all that is comes from God, our Father, who made heaven and Earth. (RVE)

- That all that is comes from God.
- God is our Father.

U1.1.3.
Recognise that though people cannot see God, they can sense his presence through the awe and wonder experienced in the beauty and order of Creation.

- God's love and care for humanity is experienced through the beauty and order of Creation.

R1.1.1.
Reflecting on what the words of the Our Father and the opening words of the Creed say to them.

- The opening of the Nicene Creed 'I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible'.
- God is our Father.
- That, as a community, the Church prays the Creed and the Our Father to pray to God and worship him.

U1.1.6.
Recognise that prayer is a way of drawing closer to God.

- Prayer is a way we draw closer to God.
- That praying is a way people draw close to God.

R1.1.2.
Reflecting on different ways to pray.

U1.1.4.
Recognise that the Church teaches that God gave human beings the responsibility for taking care of the world and its people and in doing this, we show love for God and each other.

- God wants us to love and care for the world because the world is God's gift to us.
- Caring for the world is one of the ways we love and care for each other.

D1.1.2.
Talking about why caring for God's world matters for them and their local community. (RVE)

U1.1.5.
Know that Pope Francis wrote a letter, called Laudato Si', about the gift of Creation and the importance of taking care of the world as it is everyone's home.

- An introduction to the ideas presented in Laudato Si' 13.

R1.1.3.
Listening to stories from different communities and their experiences about how they care for the world. (RVE)
How a community in another part of the world cares for Creation.

R1.1.4.
Talking about how they can care for God's world. (RVE)

'God creating the Sun, the Moon and the Stars' by Jan Brueghel
'And on the 7th Day' by Suzi Dennis.
'God created all things and made them perfect' by Aboriginal artist Max Conlan
'Seven Days of Creation' by Safina Stewart
'Creation Day One to Six' by Caroline Street
'Creation' by Sawai Chinnawong
'All Things were created by Him and for Him' by Jeremy Sams
'Heart of God' by Elizabeth Wang
'God saw that His creation was good and continues to care for it' by Elizabeth Wang
My god is a great big god