

Year 7 Induction Induction to the school community	Big Question   What is Community?
<p><b>CONTENT</b></p> <p>These introductory sessions will be devised by you to help all pupils settle in to their new school community. Content could include topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What it means to be a Catholic school.</li><li>• The Mission statement and how it is lived.</li><li>• God speaks to us - scripture.</li><li>• God speaks to us - prayer.</li><li>• How Mass is celebrated.</li><li>• Other topics as appropriate to your school community.</li></ul>	<p><b>OUTCOMES</b></p> <p>These will depend on the particular induction content that you choose for your school.</p>

## THEOLOGICAL NOTES FOR YEAR 7 UNIT 1

### Big Question: How can we know what is true?

#### Specific focus: Who is God?

The learning in this unit is focused on **Knowing and Loving God, Scripture, Creation and Trinity**. Please note, although all your pupils may not be Catholic, in the bullet points below, 'we' refers to the Church.

#### KNOWING AND LOVING GOD:

- God is one, existing in a trinity of persons.
- God is the eternal being who created and **sustains** all that exists.
- God is a personal God who is in a loving relationship with all creation.
- Through God's **Self-Revelation** we come to know that God's life is love, both given and received.
- We can know God with certainty through **natural revelation** (creation, reason and experience).
- We can also come to know God through **divine Revelation**.
- Through **grace**, God has revealed and given himself to human beings.
- God does this by revealing the **mystery** of God's **plan** of loving goodness, formed from all eternity in Christ, for the benefit of all people.
- God has fully revealed this plan by sending **God's beloved Son**, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the **Holy Spirit**.

#### SCRIPTURE:

- Scripture reveal the unfolding history of the **covenant relationship** and the variety of human response.
- Both **Old and New Testament** scriptures are presented as the **living Word of God**.
- Scripture is written through the **inspiration of the Holy Spirit**.
- Scripture has been received and handed on through the generations as has the **Tradition** and **Teaching of the Church**.

#### CREATION:

- Creation is presented as the first and **universal revelation** of God's love.
- Creation is the action of the **Trinity**, the first step towards the **covenant relationship** God seeks with all of humanity.
- Each human person is **created in the image of** God and called by **grace** to a covenant relationship with God and responsibility for **stewardship of God's creation**.
- The Father, through the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit constantly draws each of us to **this mystery**, seeking a **free and personal response**.
- Human nature is challenged in the struggle to **choose God alone**.

#### TRINITY:

- The God whom we come to know is **One God who exists in three Persons**: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- God is the **source of all life** and reaches out to us in **blessing**.
- As **Son**, God is the **Word** through whom all things are made and through whom all of us are invited into full **communion** of life.
- As **Spirit**, God leads the world, the **Church** and humanity into **truth**.
- Faith in the Trinity reveals to us a communion in love and truth as the pattern for life; the highest aim and goal of human life

## Year 7 Unit 1

| Who is God?

## Big Question

| How can we know what is true?

### CONTENT

#### 1. What can we know?

- Different sorts of truth, e.g.. scientific, religious, absolute, poetic, personal. Explore how we come to know what is true, for example the difference between knowing facts and knowing people. Raise issues of “mystery”.

#### 2. What do we mean by God?

- Explore different images and concepts of God, including the images that pupils have. Highlight keyterms such as creator, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, transcendent, immanent, eternal, infinite, all-loving, personal. Include a variety of images, including feminine images.

#### 3. What is Revelation?

- Introduce different types of revelation, particularly exploring natural revelation (creation, reason and experience), and divine revelation (Scripture and Tradition). Highlight different perspectives and interpretations of revelation, for example fundamentalist, conservative and liberal perspectives.
- Explore the idea that creation is a sign that God is love.
- Explore some of the concepts of God that come from Scripture, such as the fact that God is a personal God.
- Explore the difference between Catholic and Protestant views of revelation.

#### 4. What is the Trinity?

- The distinctive Christian concept of God, as one God in three persons. Explore this concept. Look in particular at the relational aspect of God in this concept.

#### 5. Who is God to me?

- Invite students to reflect on their own belief in God: do they believe in God, what do they believe God is like, etc?

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To know and understand that people see truth in different ways.
- To know and understand how Catholics find the truth about God.
- To know and understand what Christians believe about God as Trinity.
- To reflect on the question “Who is God to me?”

### LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At **Level 3**, pupils will be able to...

- \* Make simple links between biblical stories and beliefs about God.
- \* Compare their own views of God to other people’s views of God.

At **Level 4**, pupils will be able to...

- \* Make clear, multiple links between religious sources and beliefs about God.
- \* Consider what religion says about God’s existence and to reflect on how that influences their own beliefs about God.

At **Level 5**, pupils will be able to...

- \* Identify different beliefs about God.
- \* Demonstrate clearly beliefs about God and explain their own beliefs, with reasons.

**SOURCES: Suggested Scripture passages**

You are free to select from the following passages while teaching this unit. They are not prescriptive or exhaustive.

**Scripture for reflection and prayer:**

- Psalm 19:1-6, 14 (The heavens declare of God)
- John 18:28-38 [38] (Jesus before Pilate: What is Truth?)

**1. What can we know?**

- John 14:1-7 (The Way, the Truth and the Life)
- John 20:24-29 (Thomas: empirical truth)

**2. What do we mean by God?**

- Exodus 3:1-6, 13-15 (God in the burning bush: I Am)
- Deuteronomy 6:4-7 ("Shema": One God)
- Romans 1:18-23 (Knowing God through creation; false idols)

**3. What is Revelation?**

- Psalm 8 (Creation: natural revelation)
- Matthew 16:13-20 (Authority given to Peter and his successors)
- Acts 8:26-40 (Philip and the Ethiopian)
- Galatians 4:6 (God's Spirit in our hearts tells us that God is our Father)
- 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (All Scripture is... inspired)
- Hebrews 1:1-4 (God speaks through prophets, then his Son)
- 2 Peter 3:16-18 (Twisting Scriptures)

**4. What is the Trinity?**

- Genesis 1:1-2 (Creator God; Spirit; Trinity)
- Matthew 3:16-17, Mark 1:10-11, Luke 3:21-22 (Trinity)
- Matthew 28:16-20 (Great Commission – relationship between Trinity)
- John 14:1-17 (Trinity)

**SOURCES: Suggested Church teaching**

You are free to select from the following passages while teaching this unit. They are not prescriptive or exhaustive.

**1. What can we know?**

"Man cannot fully live according to the truth unless he freely acknowledges [God's] love and entrusts himself to his creator" [Gaudium et Spes, 19 CCC 1-3, 27-35](#)

**2. What do we mean by God?**

"God, who through the Word creates all things and keeps them in existence, gives men an enduring witness to Himself in created realities" [Dei Verbum, 3 CCC 74-100](#)

**3. What is Revelation?**

"God, the beginning and end of all things, can be known with certainty from created reality by the light of human reason..." [Dei Verbum, 6](#)  
 "...sacred tradition, Sacred Scripture and the teaching authority of the Church, in accord with God's most wise design, are so linked and joined together that one cannot stand without the others..." [Dei Verbum, 10](#)  
[CCC 1-3, 27-35, 74-100, 144-165](#)  
[CCC 39, 50-53, 74-83, 156, 295, 1954-1960](#) (See p.20 of the RECD – How can we know God exists?)

**4. What is the Trinity?**

"The mystery of the most holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith and of Christian life. God alone can make it known to us by revealing himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit." [CCC 261 CCC 238-248, 253-256](#)

**RE CURRICULUM DIRECTORY**

**Areas of Study** (pp. 11-12)

**Revelation: *Dei Verbum***

**1.1. Knowing and Loving God**

1.1.2 The Nature of Revelation: God's gift of himself

**1.4. The Trinity**

1.1.1. The Revelation of Jesus about God

**1.5 Jesus Christ, Son of God**

1.5.1 Jesus Christ, Son of God

**CORE RELIGIOUS VOCABULARY:**

Revelation, truth, belief, immanent, transcendent, eternal, infinite, creator, all-loving, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, God, Trinity, mystery, Holy Spirit, Scripture, tradition

**OTHER RELIGIOUS SOURCES:**

- Art, e.g., Rublev's Trinity, Da Vinci's Creation, etc.
- Celtic Knot
- Sign of the Cross
- Glory be
- Hymns