**Overview**

The earth and all it contains has been created by God. It is a gift, given to all for the good of all. The resources of the earth are not infinite. They have been given to us and to future generations. How we have treated and continue to treat the earth has profound impacts on people now and in the future. Too often we have destroyed elements of the earth for a quick gain. At a General Audience in May 2014, Pope Francis described our destruction of creation as ‘like saying to God, 'I don't like it' ... Care for creation is care for God's gift to us, and it means saying to God, 'thank you, I am the custodian of creation, but to enable it to progress, never to destroy your gift'’. As stewards, or custodians, of creation we have a special role to play. How we care for the earth is another sign of how we are Christians, how we show God’s love in the world and put our love into action.

This section of the resources aims to introduce the children to the concept of caring for creation – what it means to be a ‘good steward’ and how they could look after our world. It is important that the children understand that the way we treat our common home affects everyone, in every country, now and in the future.

**RE Lessons**

One fully-planned lesson is provided, per phase. These lessons are intended to be ‘plug-and-play’ and include a PowerPoint, lesson plan, and differentiated activities. Teachers are encouraged to use the lessons as they see fit and to adapt the lessons/activities to suit their class.

Suggestions for cross-curricular links are provided, below:

**English**

* Write a letter to the local MP asking them to vote for eco-friendly policies
* **Drama** – write and perform:
  + A short play about how caring for the environment would improve the world
  + An advert promoting recycling

**History**

* Research the history of recycling

**Geography**

* Research marine pollution and what is being done to combat it

**Art**

* Design posters to promote green practices to be displayed around the school

**Music**

* Learn hymns that reference awe and wonder (*All Things Bright and Beautiful*) or looking after our world (*For the Beauty of the Earth*)

**Catholic Life and Mission**

Display Boards are a great way to show off of the children’s learning. Consider displaying work from all year groups in a joint display board in a communal area of the school. Use the graphics and colours that Caritas use for Care of Creation, provided in the PowerPoint.

**Pupil Leadership Groups**

The half-termly CST themes are a good opportunity to give the school’s Pupil Leadership Groups a direction in which to focus their efforts. Liturgy Leaders could be encouraged to lead the Praise and Worships sessions for the whole school or their classes. Liturgy Leaders could also be encouraged to find scripture that relates to Care of Creation or write a thematic prayer to be used during Assemblies.

Pupil Leadership Groups could research local greening projects and charities, and teach the whole school or their classes what they have learnt. Pupil Leadership Groups could also run a fundraiser for a local, related charity; write an explanatory insert for the school newsletter, or create and run a brief social action project in the local area.