



Catholic Social Teaching

Loving and Learning

'God is within all things but not included; outside all things but not excluded. God is above all things but not beyond their reach.' (St Gregory the Great)

'In your school you take part in various activities that habituate you not to shut yourselves in on yourselves or in your small world, but to be open to others, especially to the poorest and neediest, to work to improve the world in which we live. Be men and women with others and for others, real champions in the service of others. To be magnanimous with interior liberty and a spirit of service, spiritual formation is necessary. Dear children, dear youths, love Jesus Christ ever more!' (Pope Francis)

Our curriculum at St Gregory's has been designed to provide opportunities for both our pupils and staff to develop knowledge and understanding of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, and, through good works and words, show we live out our faith in our local community and the wider world as a force for good.

As a Catholic School we believe that God has a plan for creation, a plan that continues to exist today, here in Bearwood. Our belief in God must permeate all aspects of our lives as responsible global citizens; as Pope Francis wrote in his encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti' we are '*a single family living in a common home*'. We teach the pupils about the dignity of the human person, how we are called to live as family and community, about their rights and responsibilities, their call to stewardship, their responsibility for the poor and vulnerable, about the dignity and rights of workers and about solidarity and the promotion of peace. We do this through RE (Religious Education) lessons, assemblies, outside visitors (e.g. Cafod, Father Hudson's and SVP), through drama, debate, and first-hand experience. As a result, our pupils feel that they are making a difference to the world by having an impact on Social Justice. Reflections on Catholic Social Teaching form an intrinsic part of the pupils' work in RE and our acts of collective worship.

The 7 Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

- ***Dignity of the human person***-Every human person is created in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, every person's life and dignity must be respected and supported from conception until the end of their natural life on earth.
- ***We are called to live as Family and Community***-The human person is not only sacred, but social. How society is organized, be it socially, economically, legally, or politically has a direct impact on the dignity and growth of every human person and community. Marriage and family should be supported and strengthened. Every person has a right to work to support themselves and their families as well as the building up of the common good for all.
- ***Rights and Responsibilities***-Every person has a fundamental right to life. It is this right that makes all other rights possible. Everyone has the right to food, health care, housing, education, and employment. We all need to strive to secure and respect these rights for others both locally and globally.
- ***We are called to Stewardship***-The world God has created for us has been entrusted to everyone and we are responsible and accountable to God as stewards of the earth. The world has been given to us as a gift, to enjoy and care for so that future generations can enjoy it too. It is in caring for creation that we show our love and respect for its creator.
- ***An option for the Poor and Vulnerable***-Society is judged on how it cares for the poor and vulnerable – our brothers and sisters. We read in scripture how God has a special concern for the oppressed, poor, vulnerable and those forced to the margins of society. The Church calls us to respond to the cry of the poor and put their needs first. This preferential treatment for the poor and vulnerable must be seen in action in our daily lives.
- ***The Dignity and Rights of Workers***-Work is a way in which we can continue to participate in God's creation. Work gives dignity to life and must be carried out in such a way that the basic rights of workers are respected. Everyone has the right to productive work, to fair and liveable wages, and to organize and join a union. The economy must be conducted so that it serves the needs of the people.
- ***Solidarity***-We are all People of God, one family. Therefore, what happens to one has an impact on all, locally, nationally, and globally. At the heart of solidarity is the pursuit of peace and justice. Our love for all calls us to work for a peaceful and just society where everyone has a fair share of the goods needed for a sustainable life, and opportunities for growth and development are offered equally. The dignity of every person is respected.
- ***Promotion of Peace***-The Church teaches us that peace is central to the gospel and represents a challenge to many contemporary attitudes and assumptions. Pope Francis has challenged Christians to be true peacemakers bringing forgiveness and non-violent solutions to situations of hurt and violence.