

St. Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Catholic Social Teaching Policy



"I came so that you may have life, life in all its fullness" John 10:10

St Michael Catholic Primary School and Nursery is a Catholic family of faith following the teachings of Christ. We strive to create an environment where all members of our school community respect the values of: Church, Independence, Resilience, Caring, Learning and Enjoyment for all. Belief in these values will nurture all as individuals and instil in them the confidence to meet their full potential, providing them with the best grounding for their future place in an ever-changing world.

Policy Date	September 2026
Signed by Head Teacher	Mrs N Collins
Review Date	September 2027

Values of Catholic Social Teaching in St. St Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School

The incorporation of Catholic Social Teaching at St. Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School serves to furnish students with a structured approach to comprehending and addressing societal concerns aligned with Catholic values and principles. Through this introduction to Catholic Social Teaching, the school endeavours to instil within students a profound sense of duty towards advancing social justice, compassion, and reverence for the dignity of all individuals.

Students will grasp and internalise the following concepts:

- **Human Dignity:** Recognising the inherent worth and value of every individual, regardless of their background, circumstances, or beliefs. This value teaches students to treat everyone with respect and kindness, fostering a sense of inclusivity and acceptance within the school community.
- **Solidarity:** Encouraging a sense of unity and interconnectedness among all people. By understanding that we are all part of God's global community, students learn to empathise with others and work towards a more just and equitable society, both locally and globally.
- **Subsidiarity:** Acknowledging that decisions should be made at the most local level possible, allowing individuals and communities to have a voice in shaping their own destinies. This principle empowers students to take an active role in addressing issues that affect them directly, fostering a sense of agency and responsibility.
- **Common Good:** Emphasising the well-being and flourishing of all members of society. This value encourages students to consider the broader impact of their actions and decisions, urging them to work towards creating a more just and inclusive community for all.
- **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable:** Prioritising the needs of the marginalised and disadvantaged in society. This value prompts students to be aware of inequality and injustice, and to actively seek ways to support and uplift those who are most in need.
- **Stewardship of Creation:** Instilling a sense of responsibility for the environment and all living creatures. This principle encourages students to take care of the world around them, recognising that it is a gift from God to be cherished and preserved for future generations.

- **Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers:** Valuing the importance of meaningful employment and ensuring fair treatment and just compensation for all workers. This principle teaches students to respect the contributions of each individual in society and to advocate for fair labour practices.
- **Promotion of Peace:** Advocating for non-violence, reconciliation, and justice in resolving conflicts. This value encourages students to be peacemakers in their interactions with others and to seek peaceful solutions to conflicts, both within their school community and in the wider world.

By incorporating these values into the curriculum, St Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School aims to nurture students who are not only academically capable but also morally and socially responsible individuals, equipped to engage with the world with compassion, empathy, and a commitment to social justice.

Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching (CST)

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is firmly anchored in Scripture, offering us a compass for embodying our faith as disciples of Christ within our local, national, and global communities. As the spiritual leader of the Church, the Pope provides guidance on applying these scriptures to our contemporary lives and steering the Church's response to the challenges of our modern era. Pope Francis has shared his insights in the encyclicals *Laudato Si'* (2015) and *Fratelli Tutti* (2020). Collaboratively, we partner with both CAFOD and Caritas to deepen our knowledge and grasp of how we can actively participate in CST.

The Importance of Catholic Social Teaching within the Whole School Curriculum

- a) Within our curriculum, we impart a structured comprehension of how Christian beliefs manifest in action, evident in practices like the Eucharistic celebration, fundraising endeavours, and active service to the local community. Through this, CST plays a pivotal role in fostering the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural growth of students throughout the school. It aids them in grasping the significance of faith both within the school and in the broader community.
- b) Exploring other religions and worldviews cultivates students' insight into their own community and reinforces the principles of British Values, particularly emphasising tolerance and mutual respect for those with differing faiths, beliefs, or none.
- c) CST allocates dedicated time for students to contemplate their own religious, spiritual, or

philosophical perspectives on perception, existence, belief, and belonging. It equips them with the knowledge, skills, and comprehension to discern and cherish truth and goodness, thereby enhancing their capability to make moral assessments and positive, healthful choices.

d) Whole-school assemblies create opportunities for students to engage in meaningful and informed conversations about life's fundamental queries, matters of purpose, and distinctions between right and wrong. Through these discussions, Religious Education lessons delve into worldwide topics such as adversity, justice, displacement, and strife, thereby significantly contributing to students' global education and preparing them to be responsible citizens in an interconnected world.

Leadership of CST

Catholic Social Teaching is a set of beliefs and teachings developed by the Catholic Church regarding social issues. The head teacher and the subject leader provides guidance on matters related to social justice and the common good as well as playing an important role in interpreting and applying these teachings to specific social issues.

Overall, the goal of Catholic Social Teaching is to promote a society based on justice, compassion and respect for all people. This involves addressing issues such as poverty, inequality, and discrimination and working towards the common good through community engagement and advocacy.

Each of the principles are now rooted in the St. Michael's rhythm of the year and were blended with our school circle values.

Care and Concern - We are kind, gentle and have empathy with others. We treat one another as we would like to be treated. We show respect for one another and property.

Independence - We always do our best and make the most of our time. We make our own decisions and take responsibility for our choices.

Resilience - We always try our hardest and persevere. We keep on task in class and manage distractions.

Church - We try to live our lives following the example of Jesus. We value the gifts and talents that God has given each of us.

Learning - Together, we work hard to succeed. We practise, revise and ask good questions. We imagine, create and question. We never stop learning.

Enjoyment - At St Michael's, we develop a love for learning