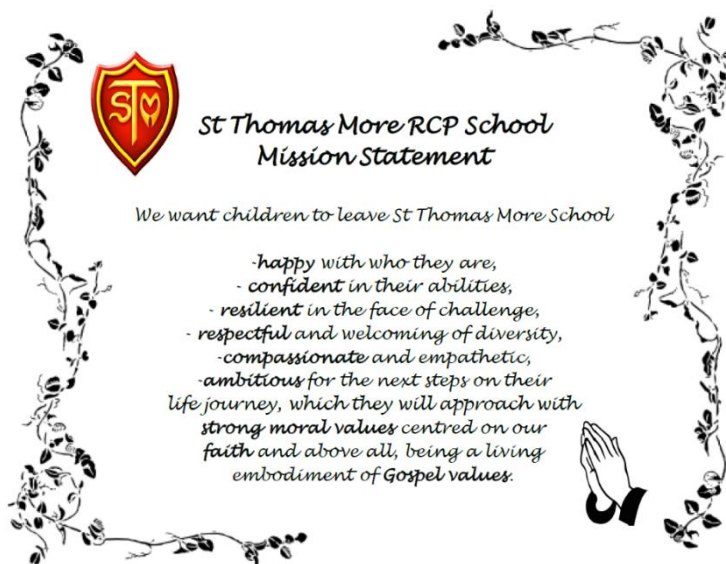


# St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

## Catholic Social Teaching Policy



At St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, we believe that the education, guidance and challenge pupils receive in school should permeate and be evident in all aspects of their lives. Pupils understand the commitment of the teaching and example of Jesus as expressed in the Gospels; developing an understanding of catholic Social Teaching and their role within this. They are given regular opportunities to study scripture and evidence for this is encompassed in all aspects of their Catholic life. Our belief in God, is not limited to Mass on Sunday or Feast Days but should be evident as we teach the children about growing up in the modern world as responsible global citizens. Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is anchored in Scripture, offering us a compass for embodying our faith as disciples of Christ within our local, national, and global communities.

The seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching that we are called to uphold are:

- **Human Dignity,**
- **Common Good,**
- **Participation**
- **Subsidiarity**
- **Stewardship**
- **Preferential Option for the Poor**
- **Solidarity**
- **Distributive Justice**
- **Promoting Peace**

Catholic Social Teaching is based on the belief that God has a plan for creation, a plan to build his kingdom of peace, love and justice. It holds that God has a special plan for every single one of us, whoever we are. Our part in this plan is not limited to things 'spiritual', or times when we do 'religious things' but involves every aspect of our lives from the things we pray about, to how we live as a responsible global citizen.

Our part in this story is a kind-of vocation for the common good, a call to treat everyone as our brothers and sisters. It is something that we all share. The Catholic Church has seven principles of social teaching that we share with our children through all that we do, through the curriculum, special events and activity and through our ordinary actions in school. At St Thomas More Catholic

Primary School, Catholic Social Teaching is incorporated into our curriculum. Children are asked to put their faith into action and reflect on how their learning enables them to do so.

Catholic Social Teaching underpins the essence of our daily school life. As members of the Catholic Church, we are all called upon to preserve the dignity of all human beings, to care for creation, and to reach out to our sisters and brothers in need. Pope Francis emphasises that it is our duty to work together to bring about a more just and peaceful world: to put love into action. It is vital that our children can articulate the connection between Jesus' teaching and doing good deeds.

The headteacher and RE Coordinators provide 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 the society based on justice, compassion and respect for all people. This involves addressing issues such as poverty, inequality, and discrimination and working toward the common good through community engagement and support.

We use the CAFOD Catholic Social Teaching resources and the animal mascots to support the children's understanding of principles.

### **Human Dignity – Everyone is Special**

St Paul tells us that each person is a work of art, created by God and chosen for a unique purpose. Ephesians 2:10

We recognise the human dignity of others by:

- being respectful
- treating people equally
- raising awareness of civil rights
- preferential option for the vulnerable

### **The Common Good– Taking Part in our Communities**

"You are not making a gift of your possessions to the poor person. You are handing over to them what is theirs." St Ambrose (340-397 AD)

We show we are part of a community by:

- working together
- working for the common good
- participating and engaging
- being active members of our community

### **Participation – The dignity of Work**

Do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honour. (James 3:17)

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:37-40

We recognise the dignity of work by:

- respecting all workers
- contributing to society
- making responsible economic choices
- supporting wellbeing and workers' rights
- sharing our talents with others

### **Subsidiarity– All people Should have a Say**

Blessed are they who maintain justice, who constantly do what is right- Psalm 106:3

Fear not for I am with you. I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

We acknowledge our rights and responsibilities by:

- recognising our duties as members of a community
- standing up for what is right
- following our school rules

### **Stewardship – Caring for God’s Creation and Gifts**

The ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion...Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience. Pope Francis - Laudato Si

We show we care for creation by:

- taking responsibility for our environment
- making environmentally responsible choices
- having awe and wonder for the natural world

### **Solidarity – We are One Big Family**

Blessed Pope Paul VI taught that "If you want peace, work for justice". The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers.

We show solidarity by:

- raising awareness of social justice
- writing to our local leaders
- praying for others
- making connections
- making socially responsible choices

### **Option for the poor – Some People need Extra Help**

‘For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ Matthew 25:35-40

We show a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable by:

- fundraising for charitable causes
- raising awareness

- treating others with dignity and respect
- thinking of the needs of others

### Distributive Justice – Being Fair

...we are agreed today that the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone.’ Pope Francis, Laudato Si’

We recognise the need to share the worlds resources fairly by:

- celebrating Fair Trade Fortnight
- becoming a Fair aware school
- by sharing our belongs

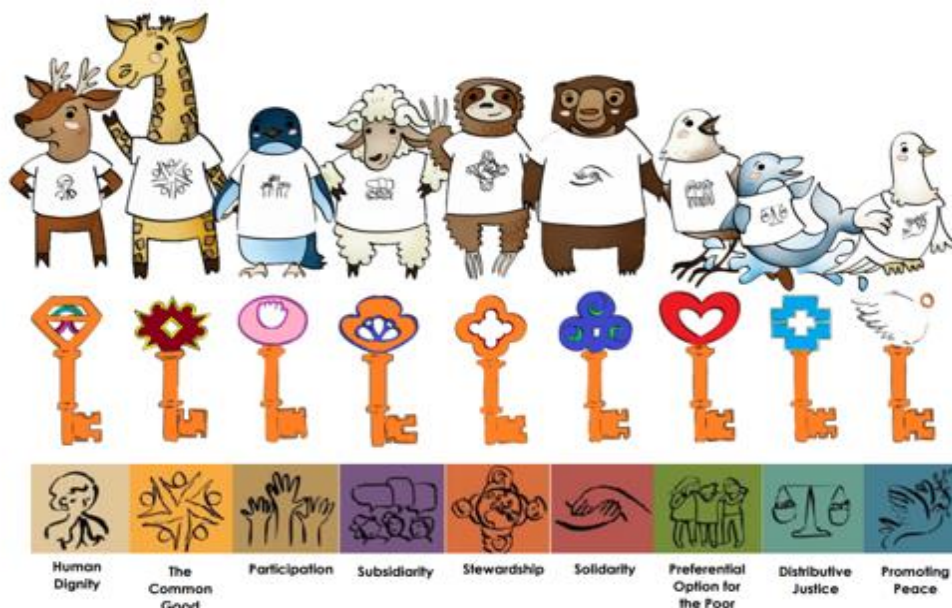
### Promoting Peace – We can be God’s instruments of Peace

“Our common bonds of humanity demand that we live in harmony and that we promote what is good for one another. These ethical implications are the reason why solidarity is a basic key to peace.” St John Paul II

We show we are people of peace by:

- treating each other kindly
- turning away from conflict
- creating bonds between people

By incorporating these values into the curriculum, St Thomas More Catholic Primary School aims to nurture pupils 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.



Review Date: June 2024

Next Review Date: June 2026