

Catholic Social Teaching at St Augustine's



What is Catholic Social Teaching?

Catholic Social Teaching is rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders, and influenced by grassroots movement. It is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world.

Catholic Social Teaching is:

The underlying insight is that everyone has the right and responsibility to live in our world constructively, not destructively, and to ensure that we leave it in a better state than when we entered it.

Catholic Social Teaching has seven principles;

Dignity

Solidarity

The Common Good

The Option for the Poor

Peace

Creation and environment

The Dignity of Work and Participation

We follow these nine strands from CAFOD to allow children to understand these principles.

- Human Dignity

We believe every human person is made in the image and likeness of God. This is a gift that we all share as fellow human beings. God is present in every human person. Each one of us is unique and beautiful. We are called to treat every person and every creature with loving respect.

- Solidarity

Solidarity arises when we remember that we belong to each other. Solidarity spurs us to stand side by side with our sisters and brothers, especially those living in poverty and others whenever we can.

- The Common Good

The common good means that the fruits of the earth belong to everyone. No one should be excluded from the gifts of creation. We are all called to work for the good of each and of all.

- The Option for the Poor

The option for the poor reminds us of God's preferential love for the poorest and most vulnerable people. God's love is universal; he does not side with oppressors, but loves the humble. We remember the needs of these people should be put first and help where we can.

- Promoting Peace

Peace is a cornerstone of our faith. Christ, the Prince of Peace, sacrificed himself with love on the cross. We can be God's instruments of peace through seeking justice.

- Creation and environment - Stewardship

In the first pages of the Bible we read how God created the sun and the stars, the water and earth, and every creature. We believe Christ is the redeemer of all creation. We are guardians of God's creation, living sustainably and enhancing the wellbeing of our planet.

- The Dignity of Work and Participation

We all have the right and duty to participate fully in society. We live in community with others, growing together. We are called to be active participants in all that we do. We have a responsibility to be inclusive so that we allow all people to participate.

- Distributive Justice

God's plan was for all people to share in the goods of this world. This means that no person should struggle to have the basic necessities of life such as food, shelter and clothing. Distributive justice is all about fair allocation of resources.

- Subsidiarity

Subsidiarity involves making sure that decisions are made at the most appropriate level, so all those affected can contribute and have a voice. Everyone has important ideas and knows what is best for their families and communities. They need to have a say and the chance to influence outcomes.

The KCSP CST principle for the year is Promoting Peace, which we are focusing on as a school for the first term. Our faith calls us to love God and to love our

neighbours in every situation, especially our sisters and brothers living in poverty. Following in the footsteps of Christ, we hope to make present in our unjust and broken world, the justice, love and peace of God.

At St Augustine's we take each value in turn over a few weeks and promote this value across the school in our daily lives. Children will learn about the importance of these values and what they mean for us today and how we can see and show these values. Children and adults will then look out for others showing these values and nominate each other in assemblies in recognition of their work and good deeds. These values run through the core of our mission statement here at St Augustine's for everyone to show love, patience, respect, resilience and kindness.