



Catholic Social Teaching Across the Curriculum



Love - Inspire - Shine

'United in love and the light of Jesus, we inspire one another to learn, grow and shine.'

Our Lady and St. Gerard's is a Catholic school where the message of Christ inspires the curriculum and all aspects of school life. We follow the Come & See Religious Education programme. This programme is progressive in the teachings of domestic, local and universal church, the sacraments and other faiths. We allocate 10% of curriculum time to RE to teach the curriculum content from the RECD, as directed by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Our faith teaching extends much wider than this 10%.



We aim to bring Jesus into our school; at all times, in everything. As a Catholic school, our Faith in God and His only son Jesus, guides our ethos and daily life. Jesus Christ is "the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6) and by proclaiming this, we promote the fullness of Christian life. We strive to celebrate the uniqueness of all our children and our staff; allowing each person to recognise their place and calling from God. Our school is a community of strong relationships built on Gospel Values. We value and respect each other and use love and reconciliation to make Christ known in our school.

The School aims to provide an education which enables each pupil, in accordance with his or her ability, to become a responsible citizen. The personal, spiritual and moral development of our children is guided by our love of Jesus Christ. In the modern world, we want our children to be agents of change - protecting God's earth, showing kindness to those less fortunate, showing compassion and solidarity during times of conflict. Our expectations and standards for all children is high as the children, entrusted to us, are our hope for the future. We guide our children to explore the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching across the school year. We consider how we can put our faith into action. Our faith calls us to love God and our neighbours, showing support locally, nationally and globally.

CST in the curriculum

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world, since we can all make a difference in making our world a better place for all. Christ shows us how to walk in his footsteps, bringing love and care to those both near and far. It is our vocation to live as Jesus and saints throughout the ages, bettering our world for everyone.

- Our curriculum uses 'Big Questions' which allow our pupils to think wider, make links in their learning and consider their role in being ambassadors for Christ and being the best we can be.
- Our curriculum uses stories, events and achievements of inspirational people and leaders to encourage our children to consider how they too could impact on God's world for the common good of all peoples.
- Our curriculum teaches children about the value of relationships and treating people with dignity.
- We learn to communicate and collaborate effectively in our learning and in play.



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- Our curriculum is ambitious and builds on prior learning so that we learn more, remember more and can be more in the future; joining the world of work and fulfilling our rights and responsibilities.
- We consider the resources and approaches we use in our lessons; we are not wasteful and we consider eco-friendly approaches where we can, in order to be stewards of God's Earth.

Using the Caritas in Action resources, we bring the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching to the forefront of our minds at the start of each half term. The seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

Family & Community – God made us all to be part of communities, families and countries so we can all share and help each other.

'Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.' (Exodus 20:12)

At OLSG we show we are part of the community by:

- Learning about our place in our own families and wider communities. We learn about how we show love to others.
- Working together with our families, the parish and the wider community
- Working for the common good
- Participating and engaging in events
- Being active members of our community
- Our Pastoral Team support families to reduce barriers to learning
- Our School Council ensure that children feel part of our school community and have a voice within it.
- Our GIFT team lead us to put our faith into action through organising community events



Stewardship of God's Creation – The world was made by God, so we take care of all creation. It is in caring for creation that we show our love and respect for its creator.

'We must care for nature so that nature can care for us.' (Pope Francis)

At OLSG we show we care for creation by:

- Learning about nature, animals, habitats and our duty to care for these. We learn about growth, planting and eco-friendly approaches.
- Taking responsibility for our environment
- Making environmentally responsible choices
- Having awe and wonder for the natural world
- Our Laudato Si group lead us in projects such as composting, energy saving and encouraging nature into our gardens
- Our GIFT team lead us in prayer and activities which encourage stewardship

Dignity of the human person – God made each person; every life is important and should be protected. We want each person to reach their full potential and realise their human dignity. We aim to serve each person to find meaning in their lives through a relationship with God.

'Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.' (Jeremiah 1:5)



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At OLSG, we recognise the dignity of others by:

- Learning about God's love for us. We learn to value people and their strengths and how our love for others pleases God.
- Being 'kind and respectful'
- Raising awareness of diversity and rights (celebrating our culturally rich and diverse community)
- Celebrating the strengths and talents of those in our school and in other inspirational people (class names and house teams)
- We keep ourselves and one other safe
- Being a 'learner' and being the best we can be
- Our relational and restorative approaches to behaviour promote empathy, forgiveness and compassion

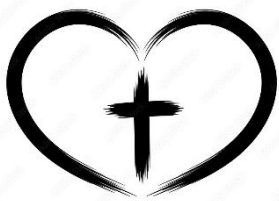


Solidarity & the Common Good – God made everyone, so we are all brothers and sisters in God's family, wherever we live. We want each person to be formed to take an active part in social life.

'In truth I tell you, as you did this to one of these brothers of mine, you did this to me.' (Matthew 25:40)

At OLSG we show solidarity by:

- Learning about friendship and how we can work together as people of peace
- Raising awareness of social justice
- Praying for others
- Working hard to protect our futures
- Making socially responsible choices
- Working collaboratively



Option for the Poor & Vulnerable – God wants us to help the poor and vulnerable who don't have enough food, a safe place to live or a community. 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.

'You are not making a gift of your possessions to the poor person, you are handing over to them what is theirs.' (St Ambrose)

At OLSG we show a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable by:

- Learning about God's gifts and how we can share with others. We learn about fairness and justice and how we can be Christ's voice and body for those in need.
- Our GIFT team lead our fundraising and support for charitable causes
- Raising awareness of local and global needs
- Treating others with dignity and respect



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Dignity of work and the right of workers – Work is important in God's plan for adults and their families, so jobs and pay should be fair. 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.

'The Lord wants to turn your hands, my hands, our hands, into signs of reconciliation, of communion, of creation' – Pope Francis.



At OLSG we recognise the dignity of work by:

- Learning about our mission to do God's work. We learn that we need all our gifts to build God's world.
- We work hard and enable others to aim high, for brighter futures
- Respecting all workers
- Contributing to our community and society
- Making responsible economic choices
- Supporting wellbeing and workers' rights
- Sharing our talents with others

Rights and Responsibilities – God wants us all to be safe and healthy and to have a good life. We have choices to make which, when guided by God, can have a positive impact on others.

'...there is no authority except from God and those that have been instituted by God.'
(Romans 13:1)

At OLSG we acknowledge our rights and responsibilities by:

- Learning about what makes people happy and how we can help those with barriers to this happiness. We learn about sharing and our responsibilities to others.
- Recognising our duties as members of a community (service)
- Standing up for what is right
- Using our strengths, gifts and talents as God intended
- Following our school Behaviour Charter 'Be safe, be a learner, be kind and respectful', wherever we are
- Our pupil leaders support us in each area of our mission





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Values & Virtues

Through all of the above, our policies and our day-to-day practices, we are living out the Gospel. The Beatitudes 'depict the countenance of Jesus Christ and portray his charity'. (Christ at the Centre)

Matthew 5

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said:

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.*

*Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Beatitudes reveal the goal of human existence, the ultimate end of human acts and as such are the objective 'values' given by Christ himself. Our aim is to enable our school community to make sense of and use these values to guide their thoughts and actions. Although the values and virtues are part of our daily life, explicit links are made with CST principles to strengthen the understanding of these Gospel values.

The Gospel values based on the Beatitudes may be summarised as follows:

Faithfulness & Integrity

Dignity & Compassion

Humility & Gentleness



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Truth & Justice

Forgiveness & Mercy

Purity & Holiness

Tolerance & Peace

Service & Sacrifice

Pupil Leadership

We value all our children and respect their views, ideas and opinions. Christ said "Let the children come to me" and we know that Jesus is our model in how to listen to others. We love to hear their thoughts and ideas; through pupil leadership, discussions and debates, we aim provide them with opportunities to give opinions. We encourage children to make change in the world by their actions. Our pupil leaders act as positive role models as agents of change and ambassadors for Christ. Their leadership promotes and supports our commitment to Catholic Social Teaching. Our Caritas Ambassadors work with our Laudato Si group and Worship leaders to lead projects which help us to put faith into action. These groups form our G.I.F.T (Growing in Faith Together) Team. Our other pupil leaders also contribute to our mission as a Catholic school through other projects and initiatives.

Staff Leadership

We recognise the skills, strengths and talents in our staff members. We aim to provide Continuous Professional Development to support and nurture our staff. Training for teachers and staff at our school focuses around improving outcomes for pupils; staff are trained both formally via courses and informally via staff meetings. Our teachers lead curriculum subjects and support pupil leader groups. Training on effective subject leadership enables our leaders to have high expectations for the curriculum, for the greater good of our pupils. The formation of our staff is central to our mission as a Catholic school. Formation is a lifelong process of listening to what the Holy Spirit is calling you to be and to do, and then getting the appropriate information, training and guidance to enable you to fulfil that mission. Formation is Christ-centred. It is scripturally rich and grounded in the Church. Formation is intentional, ongoing and reflective. It starts from people's lived experiences and focuses on the growth of individuals and communities in spiritual awareness, theological understanding, vocational motivation, and in capabilities for mission and service in the world.