

## What is Catholic Social Teaching?

Drawing from the Gospels and the rich traditions of our faith, **Catholic social teaching (CST)** provides a framework for understanding and responding to contemporary social problems.

At its core, CST is a set of principles that uphold the dignity of every human person, promote the common good, and advocate for justice and peace.

For young children, engaging with CST calls them to action. It challenges them to apply their faith in practical ways, whether through service to others, advocacy for the vulnerable, or efforts to be stewards of God's creation. By embracing CST, children are empowered to become agents of positive change in their communities and beyond.

Our pupils learn about each of the Catholic Social Teaching Principles in an age-appropriate way. It is woven through our Religious Education curriculum, our Celebration of the Word and through our Catholic Life and Mission of our School.

As you walk around the school, our Nursery, Reception, Year 1,2 and 3 classroom doors display our Catholic Social Teaching Animals. You will also see them on our doors to our main Reception.

**Read** below to see what each animal represents.

**Click** on the link to discover the 'story' behind each animal.

## What are the 9 Catholic Social Teaching Principles?

Read the story behind each animal and their CST principle [here](#).

## Everyone is special

### Human dignity

Each of us is made in God's image. Every person has an innate human dignity no one can take away.



## Thinking of everyone

### The Common Good

Our actions have an impact on everyone. When we make decisions, we should consider the good of all.



## Taking part

### Participation

We live in community with others, growing together. We are called to be active participants in all that we do.



## Everyone should have a say

### Subsidiarity

Subsidiarity involves making sure that decisions are made at the most appropriate level, so all those affected can contribute and have a voice.



## Caring for God's gifts

### Stewardship

Stewardship is all about caring for the many gifts that God has given to us. These include our environment, our own talents and other resources.



## Showing we care

### Solidarity

Being in solidarity is recognising others as our brothers and sisters and actively working for their good.



## Sharing fairly

### 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.



## Being peacemakers

### Promoting Peace

Peace is not just the absence of war. It is part of God's nature, and a value we should all seek to live out in our daily lives.



## Putting people most in need first

### Preferential option for the poor

Preferential option for the poor means that we think first about the needs of those who are the most vulnerable.

