

CATHOLIC

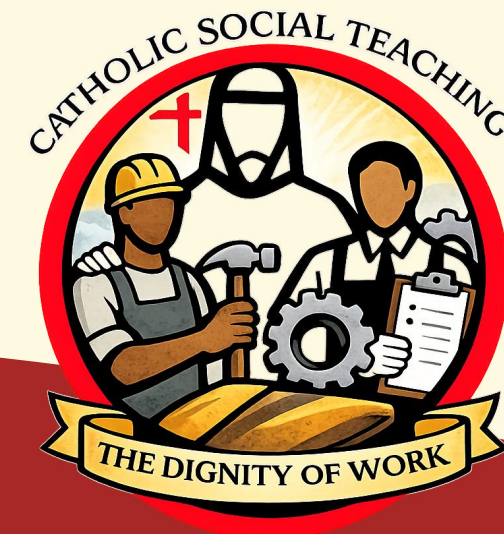
SOCIAL

TEACHING



Catholics worldwide aim to mirror Jesus' way of treating others. He warmly welcomed those whom society rejected and showed deep compassion for the afflicted and impoverished. Jesus urges us to do the same - to help the hungry, clothe the naked, and embrace strangers.

The Church outlines seven essential principles of Catholic Social Teaching that guide us in understanding how to respond to the needs of those around us. At Holy Family, these principles are at the heart of everything we do. They shape our mission, vision, policies, curriculum, learning experiences, relationships, and services. Alongside our core values, they underpin everything we do.



**'Aspire not to have more, but to be more.'**

**St. Oscar Romero**

CATHOLIC

SOCIAL

TEACHING



All people are sacred, made in the image and likeness of God. People do not lose dignity because of disability, poverty, age, lack of success, or race. This emphasises people over things, being over having.

# WHAT WE DO

At Holy Family, we are committed to upholding the dignity of every person through inclusive teaching practices that meet diverse learning needs and through resources that celebrate diversity. Every student is valued and respected, regardless of ability or background.

Strong pastoral support underpins our work, with a clear focus on the holistic development of each child and targeted support for those facing challenges.

We actively promote a culture of respect, inclusion, and acceptance. Our diverse student body is celebrated through assemblies, PSHCE, and Religious Education, where students explore the sanctity and intrinsic worth of all human life and develop empathy and understanding of others.

Staff model respect for human dignity in their daily interactions, demonstrating kindness, fairness, and compassion across all aspects of school life. The belief that every person is created in the image and likeness of God is embedded in prayer and reflection, nurturing reverence for human life.

Our commitment to dignity is also expressed through charitable action. This academic year, students have supported families locally through collections for the SVP, raised funds for CAFOD appeals, contributed to the White Ribbon campaign, donated to our Christmas Hamper appeal, and sent school supplies to students in Jamaica following a hurricane.

CATHOLIC

SOCIAL

TEACHING



The human person is both sacred and social. We realise our dignity and rights in relationship with others, in community. “We are one body; when one suffers, we all suffer.”

# WHAT WE DO

At Holy Family, we promote the Common Good by encouraging students to contribute positively to the life of the school, the parish, and the wider community. Our House Leaders lead and promote community service initiatives that foster a strong sense of responsibility towards others, including supporting parishioners in preparing the Church for Advent, organising a Christmas party, participating in community litter picks, and reading to residents in a local care home.

Through Relationships, Sex and Health Education and Religious Education, we place a strong emphasis on the dignity of the human person and the importance of respectful, life-giving relationships. Anti-Bullying Week is marked annually through assemblies and activities, and our Positive Behaviour Policy reflects our commitment to inclusive Catholic education rooted in Catholic Social Teaching and inspired by St Oscar Romero’s call to “aspire not to have more, but to be more.”

A strong sense of belonging is fostered through peer support systems in which older students guide and support younger pupils, strengthening relationships and community cohesion. Collaborative learning and shared experiences, including student leadership roles, Sports Day, and Big House Celebration Day, further promote teamwork, mutual respect, and collective responsibility, reflecting the call to work together for the Common Good.

CATHOLIC

SOCIAL

TEACHING



People have a fundamental right to life, food, shelter, health care, education and employment. All people have a right to participate in decisions that affect their lives. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities to respect the rights of others in the wider society and to work for the common good.

# WHAT WE DO

At Holy Family, students are taught that the right to a high-quality Catholic education carries clear responsibilities. All students are expected to attend regularly, behave respectfully, and engage positively in their learning so that everyone can flourish in a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment. Our policies and curriculum promote personal accountability, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to learning, ensuring that the rights of all members of the community are upheld.

Students are encouraged to live out these responsibilities beyond the classroom through charity work and service projects led by our House team. These opportunities help students to recognise their responsibility to others and to understand how rights and responsibilities operate within society, particularly for those whose rights are compromised.

We strengthen this understanding through partnerships with local, national, and international organisations, including CAFOD, SVP, Haven House, Project Zero, the White Ribbon Campaign, MIND, Carefree Kids, Wickers, MacMillan, and the Mizen Foundation. Through this work, students learn to act justly, promote dignity, and take responsibility for building a fairer society.

CATHOLIC

SOCIAL

TEACHING



The moral test of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members. The poor have the most urgent moral claim on the conscience of the nation. We are called to look at public policy decisions in terms of how they affect the poor.

# WHAT WE DO

At Holy Family, we demonstrate a clear commitment to the preferential option for the poor through inclusive policies that ensure students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds can fully access education and school life. Support such as bursaries, targeted academic intervention, and access to extracurricular activities removes financial barriers and promotes equity.

Our curriculum is intentionally shaped to develop students' understanding of poverty, injustice, and inequality. Across subjects, students engage with case studies and discussions that highlight social justice issues and the moral responsibility to advocate for the poor and vulnerable. This learning is put into action through the work of our Justice and Peace Group and Young SVP Group, who organise events, guest speakers, and workshops focused on poverty and social injustice. Students are encouraged to advocate for systemic change through activities such as letter-writing campaigns, petitions, and engagement with decision-makers.

Our commitment is also reflected in staff actions. Rather than running a traditional 'Secret Santa', staff chose to purchase gifts for some of our most vulnerable students, ensuring that those most in need were prioritised.

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SOCIAL

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# WHAT WE DO

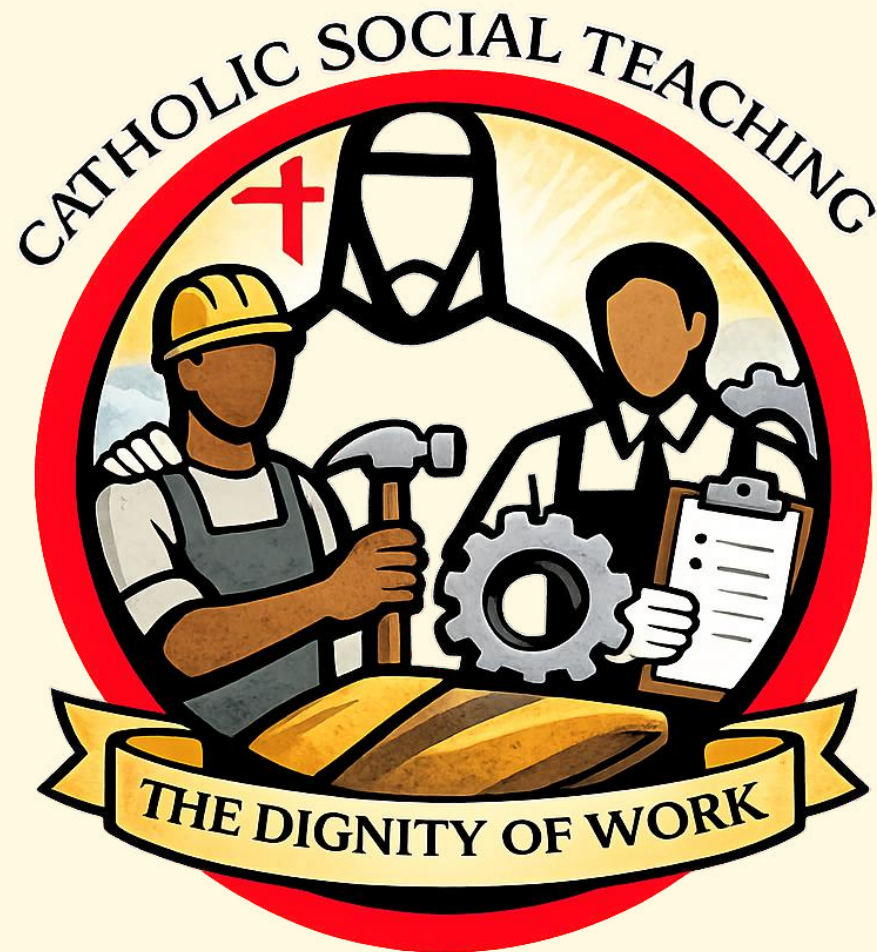
At Holy Family, care for God's creation is an integral part of school life and is rooted in the call of Laudato Si'. Our Eco Club leads practical initiatives including promoting recycling, maintaining clean school grounds, and developing sustainable gardens across both sites.

We are proud to have achieved the CAFOD Live Simply Award, with students playing a central role in driving improvements in sustainability and embedding Laudato Si' values within the school community.

Student leadership is further demonstrated through the work of our House Leaders and Pupil Leadership Team, who led whole-school initiatives during COP28 week. These encouraged staff and students to adopt energy-saving practices, reduce waste, and conserve water.

Our prayer gardens are cared for by a dedicated student team and provide a space for reflection on the beauty and sacredness of God's creation. Through prayer, scripture, and liturgy, students are encouraged to recognise their responsibility as stewards of the earth and to deepen their relationship with the natural world.

The goods of the earth are gifts from God. We have a responsibility to care for these goods as stewards and trustees, not as mere consumers and users



People have a right to decent and productive work, fair wages, private property and economic initiative. The economy exists to serve people, not the other way around.

# WHAT WE DO

At Holy Family, we promote the dignity of work and the rights of workers through both our curriculum and the lived experience of our school community. Across all key stages, students learn that work is a vocation through which human dignity is expressed, and that workers have the right to fair treatment, just conditions, and respect. Ethical business practices and workers' rights are explored through subjects such as Business, Economics, History, Politics, and Sociology, particularly at Key Stage 5, where students are encouraged to consider social responsibility and the moral impact of economic and political decisions.

This learning is strengthened through work experience opportunities in Years 10 and 12, which help students to understand the value of work, develop employability skills, and recognise their own responsibilities and rights within the workplace.

Our commitment to the dignity of work is also reflected in how we care for staff. Staff wellbeing is a strategic priority, and governors actively champion policies that recognise teaching as a vocation grounded in moral purpose. These include enhanced PPA time, reduced cover expectations, access to coaching, and a day-off scheme that supports work-life balance.

Professional development is consistently mission-aligned, enabling staff to grow in confidence not only as educators, but as spiritual and moral role models, reinforcing a culture where the dignity of work and the rights of workers are respected and upheld.



We are one human family. Our responsibilities to each other cross national, racial, economic and ideological differences. We are called to work globally for justice.

# WHAT WE DO

At Holy Family, we actively promote solidarity by helping students to recognise their shared humanity with people locally, nationally, and globally, and by encouraging them to stand alongside those experiencing injustice, conflict, or poverty. Students are supported to understand that solidarity involves both compassion and action. This commitment is demonstrated through our engagement in global social justice initiatives. Recently, students raised funds through a bucket collection following our Christmas Carol Service in support of CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal, expressing solidarity with communities affected by conflict and humanitarian crisis.

Solidarity is also embedded across the curriculum, where students are given opportunities to explore diverse perspectives and global issues. Through English, Religious Education, Geography, History, Sociology, and PSHCE, students examine themes such as inequality, conflict, migration, and human rights. These lessons promote empathy, critical thinking, and a sense of moral responsibility, encouraging students to recognise their role in building a more just and inclusive world.

Through prayer, reflection, and collective action, students are encouraged to see solidarity as a lived commitment rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, shaping how they respond to the needs of others both within and beyond the school community.