



Catholic Social Teaching at St Swithun's

The Seven Strands of Catholic Social Teaching:



Everyone is Special



Thinking of Everyone



Putting People in
Most need First



Taking Part



Promoting Peace



Showing we Care



Caring for God's Gift

At St Swithun's Catholic Primary School, Catholic Social Teaching (CST) shapes how we live, learn, and grow together. CST is the Church's way of helping us understand how to put our faith into action in the modern world. We follow seven strands of CST, which guide our pupils to serve others, care for creation, and live out the Gospel values every day.



Human Dignity – Everyone is Special



Everyone is Special

Every person is made in the image and likeness of God. That means everyone matters and deserves respect. At St Swithun's, we treat each other with kindness and fairness, celebrate the uniqueness of every child, and learn that dignity means respecting ourselves and others.

Examples:

- - ELSA and Family Support Worker support pupils through grief, loss and change.
- - Thursday class prayers focus on real-world problems, with children writing prayers for those in need.

Impact:

- - Pupil surveys show children feel valued and respected as made in the image of God.
- - Behaviour is exemplary; children articulate respect for those of all faiths and none.



The Common Good – Thinking of Everyone



Thinking of Everyone

The common good means doing what is best for all people, not just ourselves. At St Swithun's, we make decisions by thinking of others, work together as a community, and encourage pupils to care for both school and wider society.

Examples:

- - Mini Vinnies, School Council, Choir, Eco-Warriors, Prefects, Ambassadors work for the good of all.
- - Governors and leaders assess all decisions through the lens of CST and the Mission Statement.

Impact:

- - Pupils flourish in service, confident in linking their actions to Gospel teaching.
- - Community sees Catholic life as 'front and centre' with regular updates via newsletter and sway.



Option for the Poor – Putting People in Need First



Putting People in Most need First

We are called to make sure those most in need come first. At St Swithun's, we support charities and food banks, raise funds for those less fortunate, and encourage pupils to notice and respond to the needs of others.

Examples:

- - Food bank collections at Harvest; Big Lent Walk sponsorship for CAFOD.
- - Fundraising and almsgiving projects led by pupils.

Impact:

- - Pupils articulate theology of preferential option for the poor.
- - School prayer explicitly reflects CST and Mission, used in FGB meetings.



Participation – Taking Part



Taking Part

Everyone has a right and a duty to take part in family, school, parish, and society. At St Swithun's, we involve pupils in school decisions through Pupil Voice, encourage everyone to join in class worship and activities, and celebrate that every voice counts.

Examples:

- - Pupil Voice through councils and ambassador roles.
- - Older children lead worship and mentor younger peers in prayer.

Impact:

- - Pupils proactively shape school life, e.g. suggesting improvements to prayer and worship.
- - Children confidently link CST to curriculum subjects.



Peacemaking – Promoting Peace



Promoting Peace

Jesus calls us to be peacemakers. At St Swithun's, we learn to resolve conflicts peacefully, promote forgiveness, kindness, and reconciliation, and encourage pupils to build harmony in school and in their community.

Examples:

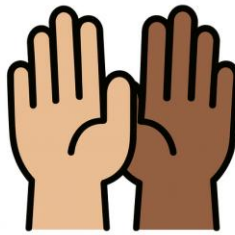
- - Restorative practice embedded in behaviour policy.
- - CST-linked rewards in WOW assemblies encourage peaceful conflict resolution.

Impact:

- - Children resolve conflict respectfully, upholding dignity of the individual.
- - Visitors comment positively on relationships and culture of welcome.



Solidarity – Showing We Care



Showing we Care

Solidarity means standing alongside others, especially those who are struggling. At St Swithun's, we support each other as one school family, learn that we are part of the global Church, and show care for those both near and far.

Examples:

- - Y6/YR buddies, cross-year worship and shared prayer.
- - International Days and Language Ambassadors celebrate diversity.

Impact:

- - Pupils feel part of the global Church, able to connect CST to world events.
- - Families and visitors praise inclusivity and welcome.



Stewardship – Caring for God's Gifts



Caring for God's Gift

We are entrusted with the care of God's creation. At St Swithun's, we protect our environment through eco-projects, reduce, reuse, and recycle in school, and thank God for the gift of creation.

Examples:

- - Eco-Warriors lead Laudato Si week.
- - Plans to renovate outdoor prayer/Mary Garden.

Impact:

- - Pupils actively protect environment, linking learning to Laudato Si.
- - Children embrace their 'Common Home' responsibility across curriculum.

By following these seven strands, our pupils learn to:

- See Christ in everyone.
- Act for justice and peace.
- Grow as responsible citizens of the world.
- Live out the mission of the Church in their daily lives.