






Catholic Social Teaching

 A circular logo with a yellow background. At the top, the text "Care of Creation" is written in a white, curved font. In the center, there is a stylized illustration of a globe with green continents and blue oceans, topped with a pink and white figure that resembles a dove or a similar symbol.	<p>Autumn term 1: Care for Creation</p> <p>Children learn that the earth and all it contains has been created by God. God has given us the earth as a gift, given to all and for the good of all. As Stewards of Creation, we are called to look after the resources of the earth, our Common Home, now and for future generation. Our work on Pope Francis's encyclical, <i>Laudato Si</i>, is well known to pupils. Pope Francis calls for us to be <i>'Protectors of Creation, Protectors of God's plan, Protectors of one another and Protectors of the environment.'</i> Unfortunately, our Common Home is not always protected. Pope Francis described the destruction of creation as <i>'like saying to God, 'I don't like it...Care for creation is care for God's gifts to us, and it means saying to God, 'thank you'.</i> As Stewards of Creation, we have a role to play in showing God how thankful we are for the beautiful earth he has given us. How we care for the earth is another sign of Christians show God's love in the word and help put Love into Action. At St. George's, we have a special focus on this in Autumn term 1 and refer to it throughout the school year. Our Green Team take an active part in helping to be Stewards, including going litter picking, taking part in the RSPB Bird Watch and holding a Christmas stall at the 2023 Christmas Fayre (with money going towards Asthma and Lung UK and CAFOD World gifts) and holding an ice cream stall to buy spider plants for every class in school.</p> <p>We have supported Catholic Concern for Animals (as chosen by our past House Captains in St. Francis of Assisi House) and were fortunate to welcome Chris from Catholic Concern for Animals in October 2024, where we learnt that although there are millions of adults, there are trillions of animals, and we are called to look after every one, as we are all God's creatures, great and small.</p> <p>Our Year 2 children wrote their own Psalm, praising God for their favourite part of Creation. They were aided by our music teacher, Mr Cox, who played along with the ukulele.</p>
 A circular logo with a purple background. The text "Preferential Option for the Poor" is written in a white, curved font around the top. In the center, there is a stylized illustration of a group of people of various colors and heights, some holding hands, symbolizing community and support.	<p>Autumn term 2: Preferential Option for the Poor</p> <p>The Church teaches us that we should all have a special focus on supporting, walking alongside and sharing with people who are living in poverty – we call this preferential option for the poor. We learn that Jesus came to the poor, <i>'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.'</i> (Luke 4: 18). We also learn from Scripture that we are called to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and help the most vulnerable in society, <i>'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me... Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'</i> (Matthew 25: 35-36, 40)</p> <p>Our Caritas Ambassadors are helping to support the non-profit charity, Hands On, Hands Out, to help our homeless friends in London. For our Harvest Festival, we donated to North Enfield Foodbank. This Advent, we also donated to the Caritas Advent Gift Giving Calendar, with donations going to St. Monica's Foodbank.</p>

	<p>Spring term 1: Solidarity and Peace</p> <p>We learnt that Solidarity means to be united—it is a commitment we have to look after one another, those close by and those far away. We believe that we are all brothers and sisters, made in God’s image and likeness. We were reminded of St. John Paul II’s words, <i>‘We are all really responsible for all.’</i> - every one of us. We reflect on ways in which we can be Peacemakers. We have linked our work on Solidarity and Peace with the Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope logo – with the four figures embracing showing us that solidarity and friendship and reminding us that we should be one united, global family. We are reminded of the theme of 2023’s Racial Justice Sunday, ‘Let us walk together, pray together and work together’.</p>
	<p>Spring term 2: Community and Participation</p> <p>We are called to live in community, with others, growing together and flourishing as a result. We are also called to actively engage in our community, locally and globally. Reflecting on one of the lines of our school hymn, ‘The talents you gave, I’ll use, not save, to show them to the world.’ We are called to help build a better world. We are reminded of our Mission Statement to help put Love into Action. Our work on Community and Participation helps us understand the role we all have to play in creating a fair society and strong communities.</p>
	<p>Summer term 1: Dignity of Workers</p> <p>We learn that work is more than being able to earn money- it is about being able to support yourself and your family and finding a role and place in society. Work can provide fulfilment and a sense of purpose and worth. It is important that people are paid a just and fair wage, work fair hours and have the facilities they need to carry out their work with Dignity. The Catholic Church supports they Living Wage and Fair Trade movements. We look forward to working with our local parish Justice and Peace group in Summer 2025 to see what we can do to help put this Catholic Social Teaching principle into action. The children will learn that it is important that everyone is treated with dignity at their place of work.</p>
	<p>Summer term 2: Human Dignity</p> <p>Dignity is the underlying principle of all Catholic Social Teaching. The dignity of every human person, whoever they are, is the starting point for the Church’s teaching around social justice. The Church teaches us that we are all made lovingly in God’s image and likeness. This message is constantly reiterated throughout the year and was the main theme of our Summer 2024 Spirituality Day as part of our work on Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity- Made in the Image and Likeness of God. We looked at Pope Francis’s encyclical ‘Fratelli Tutti’ to support this. We are all brothers and sisters. Dignity was the key principles of our Caritas Ambassadors Social Action project, with the phrase <i>‘Thrive, Not Just survive’</i> used to create a beautiful work of art that can be seen on the Christian Art website. We are reminded of the words of St. Therese of Avila, <i>‘Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands, no feet, on earth but yours, yours is the eyes with which he looks compassion on the world.’</i> At St. George’s, all are welcome.</p>