

Catholic Social Teaching, Mission and Sikhism in Reception 2023

On return to school from the Christmas break, the children were eager to share their news and it was evident that they had been blessed with gifts from family and friends. This was a timely point for the pupils to be introduced to the Catholic Social Teaching principles that are fundamental to our school ethos and provide lifelong guidance for their actions.

In Reception class, we focused on 'Stewardship' and taking care of God's creation. Initially, the children listened to 'The Creation Story' from the Old Testament in the Bible and learnt how Earth and everything in it was made. A beautiful mosaic picture of the creation story was made to demonstrate the children's understanding of how incredible our world is. In addition, they collected natural materials to make a sequenced picture of the story for a class display.

Later, the children contributed ideas to an 'Action Plan' by discussing ways to look after our special gift from God. They suggested keeping the indoor and outside classrooms tidy and picked up rubbish from these areas and Forest School. As their understanding deepened, the children were made aware of helping the community and went on a walk to identify **beauty** and **brokenness** in the local area. Very quickly, rubbish and graffiti were spotted that showed a 'lack of care' for God's creation. Pictures were taken and children reflected upon ways that this destruction could be avoided.



We revisited our learning about the school values and how St. Francis of Assisi showed compassion to others. The children considered ways in which this value could be shown in our daily lives, such as helping each other with difficult fastenings on clothes; reminding others about their jobs to do; caring when children are hurt etc.

The next day, the children helped to rewrite mission statements for the school and class in simplified terms that were easily memorable. Boxes were decorated with pictures and key words to remind them of the key principles underpinning our behaviour and attitude towards each other at home, at school and in the wider community.



To build ongoing good relationships with people in the local area, the children made a card to send best wishes to Keyes Lodge Retirement Home for the following year. Also, Reception class thought of new ways to help their school community. They suggested collecting fruit waste from all classes and placing it in the compost bin in Forest School. To support our aim to sustain the world's resources, the children agreed to bring in empty boxes, tubes and bottles for our junk modelling activities as well as putting recyclable materials in the appropriate bins.

Lastly, the Beatitudes were discussed as these are the teachings from God that are given to those who follow Him, which gives them guidance to be good human beings. Stained glass windows were made to represent the blessings: Peacemakers; Compassion; Faithfulness; Forgiveness; Being Humble; Service to all and Truthfulness, and key words attached to show the children's understanding.

To appreciate and respect other faiths, the children learnt about Sikhism. They made paper lanterns, diva lamps and built Gurdwaras.



YEAR 1 NEWSLETTER

We would like to share with you what we have been busy learning in the first week of Term 1.

Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic social teaching (CST) is rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders, and influenced by grassroots movements. It is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world. Each class were given a key principle to study and Year 1's was 'Families and Communities'. Here are the children helping to make a class mosaic on families and communities.



We thought about our families, how they help and look after us and how we could show our appreciation through actions. Firstly, the children decided that they wanted to show each other who was in their family, so they did this by making play dough and building their own family. This was then developed into making postcards for home – so watch out for the post soon!

Later on we made some class pledges to show our appreciation to our communities. Here is what the children plan to do this year: help to grow some vegetables to share with the community, help to reduce litter in Dartford by litter picking and by not being litter bugs, and finally to take responsibility for the school wormery.

Mission and Values

As a class we looked at the school mission statements and re-wrote it as an acrostic poem, to aid our memories. The children showed a good understanding of the school mission and were able to relate the values to the awards they achieve from Miss Quinn each week. They enjoyed playing around with words, making suggestions for many alternatives to find suitable initials. This is the version we decided upon:

O
ur faith is valued everyday through worshipping and praying,

U
nite with and help others understand how we need to be responsible and active in our communities,

R
espect our school values, to grow our relationship with Jesus and others,

L
ove what we learn and grow as a learning champions,

A
lways represent our school well by being great role models, ensuring our school feels welcome to all,

D
evelop and defend our community by working together with others,

Y
our work is important to your parents, share it with them.

We then used the ideas to create a 3D class display of the school values, which will be lit up by fairy lights, and displayed in our classroom throughout the year.

Other faiths - Sikhism Our focus when learning about Sikhism was to find out the origins of the faith which began over 500 years ago with the teachings of Guru Nanak in India. The children helped re-write the story as a class using some drawing illustrations to support it. We then acted out events as a helicopter story, which helped them remember the main events.



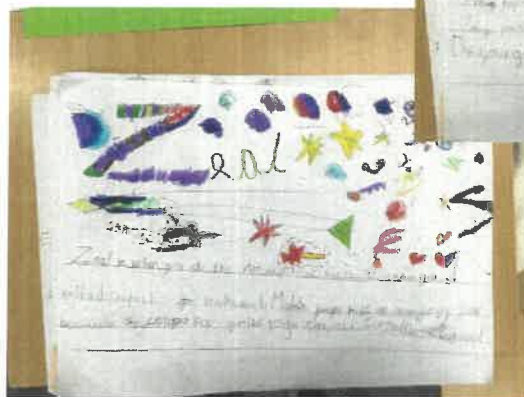
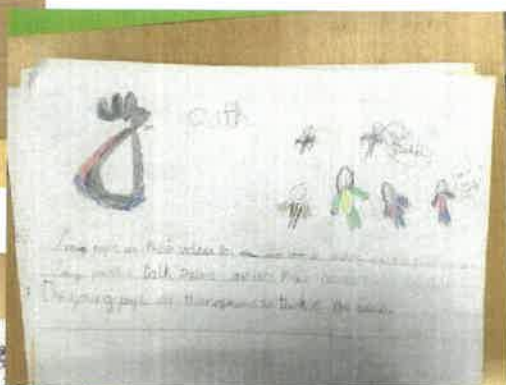
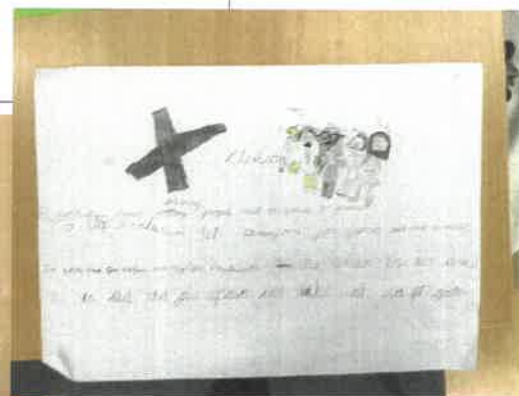
Catholic Social Teaching

At the start of this term, Year 2 explored Catholic Social Teaching and what this means. Year 2 had the focus of rights and responsibilities.

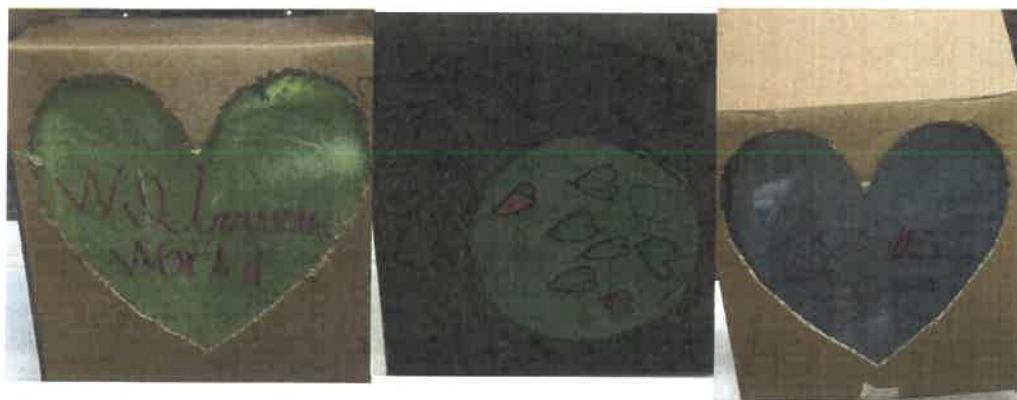
We discussed how we are responsible for taking care of God's world and created an action plan on how we can do this ourselves, in the community as well as globally.

The children also created a mosaic that represented our strand. Year 2 designed the globe in the shape of a church with a person, to reflect that together it is our right and responsibility to look after the world.

In the afternoon, we continued discussing Catholic Social Teaching. Year 2 were given the letters X Y and Z in the Catholic Social Teaching alphabet. The children split into groups and designed their own poster for a specific letter - discussing the meaning, why it is important and what this could look like.



Year 2



On Friday, Year 2 focussed on Sikhism.

We discussed the importance of helping others in Sikhism and their traditions.

The children then wrote lovely letters to various people explaining the Sikhism faith.

Thursday was dedicated to our mission and values.

As a class we discussed our existing mission statement and what it means. The children then created a new one using different themes.

After writing our new mission statement, we designed six different boxes to be displayed in the classroom relating to our new mission statement.

The children thoroughly enjoyed this task!

Year 3 - Catholic social teaching, Vision, Mission and Values and Sikhism



Sirach
4:1-10 –
Don't
delay
giving to
those in
need.



On Wednesday, we looked at the Option for the poor and vulnerable within our topic of Catholic social teaching. First, we considered the importance of and messages from different Bible quotes in groups. We then looked at ways in which to help the poor and vulnerable and completed a class mind map, we then created action plans to carry out. The children completed an incredible mosaic that they worked on together, having voted on the design beforehand.



On Thursday, we looked at the school mission statements and looked at how we could improve these. After this we gained a deeper understanding of our class value of being humble by looking at Pope Francis and the amazing accomplishments he has achieved in supporting the poor and the vulnerable. Finally, we created artwork and a decoration for the classroom based on the school mission statements.



Learning about Sikhism on Friday allowed us to continue with the important message of giving to the poor and vulnerable, as it is extremely important to the Sikhs to be equal and donate money in order to cook food for everyone. We took a deeper look into their holy place of worship – the Gurdwara, and wrote about the interesting and important items found inside there.



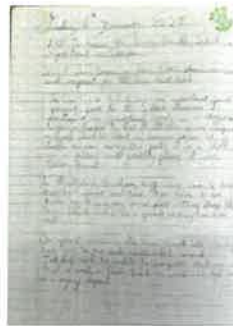
Year 4

Mission, Vision and Values, Catholic Social Teaching and Sikhism

Welcome back to Year 4 and Happy New Year! We hope you had a lovely Christmas break and celebrations. Since returning back to school for Term 3, Year 4 have been working as hard as ever exploring the Mission, Vision and Values of Our Lady's as well as Catholic Social Teaching and Sikhism. We are proud to share some of the work we have been getting up to so far this term.

Kicking off our first day back of Term 3, Year 4 explored the importance of Catholic Social Teaching. Our specific focus in Year 4 has been Solidarity and the Common Good. We had some great whole class and group discussions on the importance of showing solidarity and unity within our school, community and for the world. Individually children created their own design on how they best thought a picture would depict solidarity to create a whole class Mosaic which will be displayed throughout our school. The children have then taken those creative ideas outside and we are currently creating a solidarity wall mural in our playground for all to enjoy!

As well as exploring our creative side, children worked really hard in creating their own action plans on how they can put Solidarity in to action - focusing specifically on how to be global citizens and mission makers as well as forms of self-care.



Lastly, we have really enjoyed continuing our learning of other faiths and learning about the Holy Book in Sikhism, The Guru Granth Sahib. Children really enjoyed learning key facts about the Holy Book and comparing these to other Holy Books they have learnt about in other faiths such as the Torah in Judaism.

On Thursday, Year 4 explored the importance of our Mission, Vision and Values at Our Lady's. We explored how children of Our Lady's would achieve our schools Mission Statement and in groups created our own Mission Statement poster. The children then took the values that are important to them, our class and school to create a light up structure that will be on display in our classroom.

In the afternoon, we explored our class value, Peacemakers, specifically looking at role-models of Saint Elizabeth of Portugal and Mahatma Gandhi. Children then shared their knowledge, ideas and opinions in partner led work creating posters on 'How to be a good role model.'



Year 4 also looked at The Gurus within Sikhism and the importance they have. Children looked at some stories from the 10 Gurus and compared this to the learning they had done on Thursday about being Role Models and Peacemakers.





NEWSLETTER

YEAR 5

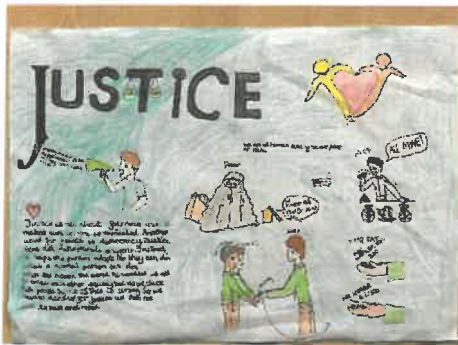


We started the term by learning about Catholic Social Teaching. Our focus was 'The Dignity of Work and The Rights of Workers'.

Our mosaic work and key words posters



After we discussed the definition of each strand in Catholic Social Teaching, Year 5 thought of the image that could best represent the dignity of work and the rights of workers and created this wonderful mosaic work. When discussing the image, we thought of words that reflect the meaning of the image.



On Thursday, we reviewed our school and class mission statements and studied the lives of two saints:

St Theresa of Lisieux and St Oscar Romero.

Our Mission, Values and Sainthood work

Year 5 have learned about St Theresa of Lisieux and St Oscar Romero and found out about how they became a saint. Based on their service to all and commitment to their faith, we discussed the steps to sainthood and what qualities saints should have. We then decided to represent these qualities and values of sainthood on to these heart shaped cards.



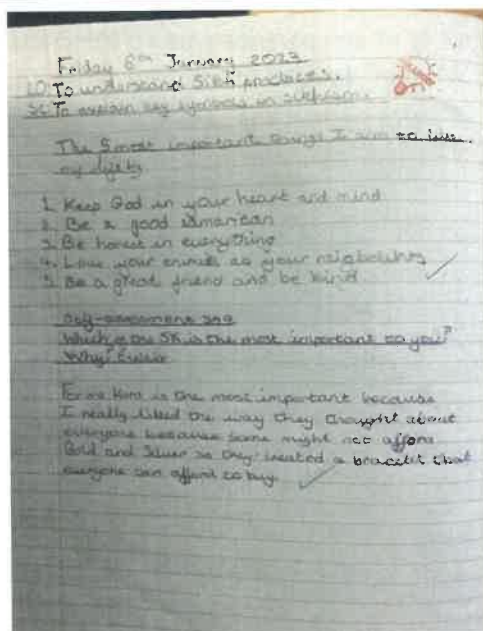
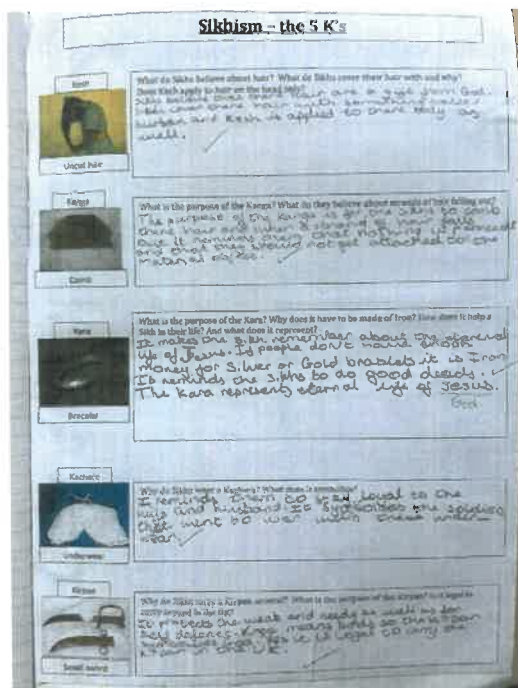
The key areas we focused upon on our mission statement were worshipping and developing our faith, building relationships with God and each other, supporting parents, creating a thriving environment, developing as learning champions and mission makers, working as global citizens and giving service to society, and working in partnership to build a community. After reviewing our mission statements, Year 5 translated these messages into this lovely heart box artwork.



On Friday, we learned about Sikhism.

Year 5 studied 5Ks in Sikhism, which are the main symbols of the Sikhism faith. Children developed understanding of the importance of these objects and the meaning each object symbolises.

We then thought of own values that we want to live by and discussed which of the 5Ks we think is the most important in our opinion, and why.



Year 6

Mission, Vision and Values, Catholic Social Teaching and Sikhism

Firstly, we would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and we would also like to thank you for your generosity in all of the cards and presents we received.



What a busy first week we have had in Year 6! The week began on Wednesday with a very intriguing assembly delivered by our RE lead, Mrs Lang. She was explaining to the school about Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and its relevance in our daily lives. Upon returning to class, we discussed

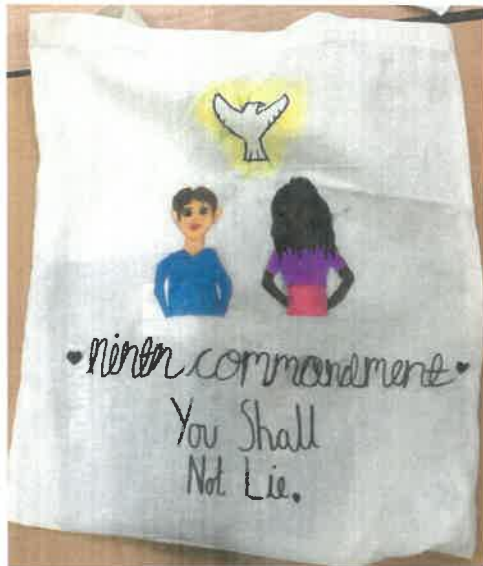


together how best the children could create a piece of art that would represent our specific focus for CST, The Dignity of the Human Person. As I am sure you will agree, they did a wonderful job in creating this lovely mosaic from the designs they had agreed on together.

Following this, the children worked in groups to decide how best to take action in respect to their designated strand of CST. They worked really well together to create these action plans and came up with some inspiring ideas, many of which they have already begun to

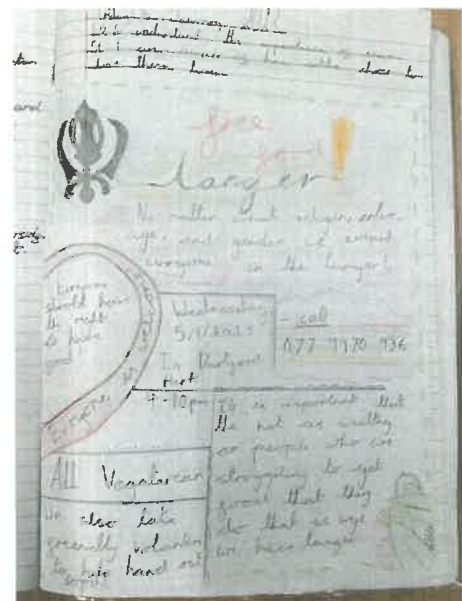
be put into place. For example, later that afternoon, some of the children created Happy New Year cards for the residents of the retirement homes next door to the school.





Thursday was another action-packed and exciting day in Year 6. The day began by reviewing the school and class mission statements; we thought about ways in which we could improve these and make them more meaningful but also accessible for all to follow. After this, we delved deeper into the understanding of our class value, Service to All. We did this by learning about the life and work of St Anthony of Padua and St Theresa of Calcutta (Mother Theresa). Our final activity for the day was to show Service to All by designing and making a prayer and reflection bag for each class.

Learning about Sikhism on Friday allowed us to further explore our school value of Service to All. During these lessons, we learnt about Sewa and how, for Sikh people, the idea of giving of themselves in service of others, is a corner stone of their faith. From this, the children created their own poster to advertise a free-kitchen in our local community. We also learnt how important the environment is within the Sikh religion.



Sikhs believe that the earth is for all people, including future generations, and it is therefore crucial that they live simply and protect the world that God has created. From this understanding, we decided to create a piece of artwork that represents the Sikhs' guiding principles regarding the environment.