

Catholic Social Teaching within the SEND department

Within the SEND department, we hold the 7 core Catholic Social Teaching values at the heart of all that we do in relation to supporting the students within our care.

Dignity of the person is supported through our inclusive approach to education where all students are actively supported to participate in the whole school life, regardless of their level of need. The school supports students with a range of SEND needs in a variety of different approaches including curriculum support plans, the use of assistive technology and modified changing and toilet facilities. We also offer extended hours support through our homework support club where students can be supported in a safe, quiet environment. The needs of all students are catered for within school including those students with mental health difficulties who access our quiet room and Trinity provision.

In order to promote solidarity, we are fully inclusive with a family feel throughout the department. During break and lunchtimes, students are encouraged to socialise alongside staff within the resource provision, enjoying a sociable lunch or game of chess! We also hold social skills sessions for specific groups of students to enable them to problem solve real life situations and to work through any challenges that they face within school and the wider community. We have a 6th form peer mentoring scheme which promotes solidarity across the school and a range of activities organised through the autism provision which are attended by students of all year groups.

The Common Good is actively supported through intervention sessions that promote mutual respect for all members of our school community. We value the whole person, regardless of disability and fully value every students' unique strength and talents. This is evidenced through individual support passports which promotes a person-centred approach to supporting students.

To enable a Favourable option for the Poor and Vulnerable, we actively support students regardless of their starting point in life and regardless of their level of need. We support students using a range of interventions including mental wellbeing support through ELSA sessions, social and emotional support groups and literacy interventions. We also offer a Nurture Group for students who have emotional needs or who have suffered previous trauma. The Autism Resource Provision and Trinity area offers wraparound care, offering students a calm start to their day, and support during break and lunch. Our department provides support to students who join our school throughout the year, especially those for whom English is an additional language. These students attend small group English sessions to boost their language skills and to help them to integrate successfully into the life of our school. EAL conversation club in form time provides an opportunity to practice speaking in English, and to meet other students who have similar experiences of moving to a new country. We also provide an extended transition period to Year 6 students with SEND who will be joining us in Year 7. Students are invited to visit with their family and with their peers from primary school throughout Year 6 to support them to feel more comfortable with the change from primary to secondary education.

Peace is promoted through restorative justice meetings between students and teachers to enable peace to be maintained within the school community. Students who require a calmer start to the day access our inclusion base and are enabled through a 5 minute exit pass to allow them to access the school environment during quieter times.

We run an active gardening club which promotes Care for Creation, encouraging students to feel responsible for their own environment. Other activities include litter picking and our walking club where students have the opportunity to appreciate the world around them whilst enjoying a sociable walk. Students who require a more bespoke curriculum are encouraged to participate in bushcraft activities within the school grounds which encourage team spirit and environmental responsibility.

Dignity of Work and Participation is embedded through our inclusive ethos - SEND students are fully involved in our whole school community, participating in extra-curricular clubs, sports clubs and the school council and are also encouraged to attend the disability cricket club and the school skiing trip. Year 10 and 11 students have access to specially targeted revision sessions throughout the year which aim to help them secure the best possible results they can, whilst also boosting their self-esteem. We hold an annual special interests quiz which celebrates the unique interests of students within our school.