

Catholic Social Teaching

School audit for teachers



Principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST)

- * **Dignity of the human person**
- * **Participation and Subsidiarity**
- * **Solidarity**
- * **Preferential Option for the Poor**
- * **The Common Good**
- * **Stewardship of Creation**

For more information about each of these principles see page 5 or visit: www.caritas.org.au/cst

Task: Think about the level of attainment for each of the following factors using the scale of 1 (meaning low) to 5 (meaning high).

Level	Curriculum
	All the principles of CST are taught explicitly.
	Religious Education curriculum includes a deep understanding of the difference and relationship between charity and justice.
	Students use a discernment framework. E.g. See Judge Act.
	CST is embedded in all curriculum areas, not just RE. E.g. links between disciplines such as science and stewardship are made.
	The curriculum reflects an awareness of Australia's place as part of a regional and global community enabling students to be active global citizens.
	The curriculum challenges stereotypes of other countries and cultures.
	Curriculum reflects concern about local, national and global issues such as homelessness, poverty, conflict, refugees, sustainable development, etc.
	Students are educated in the necessity of, and means for, participating in the political process.
	Curriculum is tailored to meet the needs of the students.
	Subject areas allow for students to demonstrate active citizenship.

Level	Teachers/Staff
	Teachers are aware of Catholic Social Teaching principles.
	Ongoing professional development is available to teachers to increase their knowledge of CST.
	All teachers believe they are justice educators and integrate CST into their teaching and learning regardless of subject area.
	Teachers/staff model CST in their interactions with students, parents, the larger community and each other.
	The school community builds links and partnerships with Catholic agencies to promote CST and the social mission of the Church.

“Let us form in the heart of the child and the young person the lofty ideal of loving, of preparing oneself to serve and to give oneself to others. Anything else would be education for selfishness.”

Archbishop Oscar Romero

Level	Policies and Practices
	Policies reflect the principles of CST. E.g. Enrolment Policy, Behaviour Management Policy, student leadership program, homework, etc.
	The leadership team/school board regularly reviews policies and procedures in light of CST.
	Policies and practices are developed and undertaken to enhance the family unit.
	Students, parents, and staff are invited to share in the decision making processes of the school where relevant.
	Opportunities are developed for students, parents, staff and the parish community to participate in school and parish life.
	Financial provisions are made to ensure students of families experiencing financial hardship have access to a Catholic School education.
	Serious efforts are made to welcome students with additional needs to the school.

Level	Outreach / Service Learning
	Opportunities are developed for students, staff and parents to participate in social analysis to critically examine and address systemic causes of injustice.
	Students are regularly challenged to assist those less fortunate than themselves.
	Opportunities are provided for participants to share their experiences of social outreach.
	Service Learning activities are designed and evaluated with a CST framework such as 'See, judge, act' or the 'Pastoral Spiral'
	We actively educate the wider school community (parents, P&F, school board, parishioners) about CST and charity and justice. For example, via newsletters, workshops, fundraising activities.
	Age-appropriate action and advocacy groups are available for students to participate in.

Level	Resources
	Waste is reduced and managed through recycling as much as possible.
	Water and electricity are used wisely and students and staff are encouraged to practice stewardship of all resources.
	Food is grown at the school where possible and efforts are made to source local produce and fair trade products.
	Student and Staff uniforms are fair trade.
	School supplies are minimized and sourced from suppliers that do not use child labour.
	Access to technology is fair.
	School premises are inviting and well maintained.

"Aspire not to have more but to be more."

Archbishop Oscar Romero

Level	Prayer and Worship
	There is an emphasis on the social dimension of prayer.
	Engaging liturgical celebrations are provided for students.

Level	Fundraising
	Fundraising is recognised as a form of ministry in meeting the needs of others.
	Fundraising is an invitation to participate in the vision and mission of the school and church.
	Fundraising products are ethical. E.g. Fair trade chocolate is used to ensure no child labour, etc.
	School fundraising activities are reviewed regularly against the principles of CST to ensure it is meaningful and effective.

"Just as the social mission of the Church is central to the practice of Christian witness and discipleship, so the core dimensions of social teaching - justice, mercy and love - are integral to Catholic education. They must not be treated as tangential or optional, but as a core element of educational and catechetical programs and formative experiences."

Catholic Education Office Sydney,
Catholic Social Teaching: A framework for faith in action, 2012

Principles of Catholic Social Teaching



For more information visit www.caritas.org.au/cst



HUMAN DIGNITY

Every person is created in God's image. All human life is sacred. We believe in the dignity of each person.



PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR

Prioritising women, men and children most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice.



COMMON GOOD

We believe in working towards the common good and looking beyond our own personal interests.



SUBSIDIARITY

Every person has a right to participate in the decisions that affect their own lives.



PARTICIPATION

Every person can be the architect of change in their own life.



SOLIDARITY

We are part of one human family. We have a responsibility to help each person achieve their full potential.



ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Everyone has the right to access the means to support themselves and their family.



STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

Stewardship of the Earth's resources is vital for the common good of people.