

# St. Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School



## Charities Policy

## **Introduction**

At St. Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School, we value the life and dignity of every human being made in the image and likeness of God (from the moment of conception to the natural end of life). Therefore, we acknowledge our obligation to support and care for those in need within our local community and further afield. As an inclusive school, we respect and nurture the different gifts and talents each person contributes to our society. The values of love, peace, and justice are shared by all faiths, and so we seek to encourage students and staff of all faiths and cultures to engage with our work for those in need.

As a Catholic school, it is our duty to uphold Gospel Values alongside the Social and Moral Teachings of the Catholic Church. Therefore, we take care to ensure that all causes we support are compatible with Church Teaching.

***From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognised as having the rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life.***

(Catechism of the Catholic Church 2270)

***Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you.  
My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,  
intricately wrought in the depths of the earth.***

(Jeremiah 1:5)

## **Aims/Objectives**

- All charitable work/giving will be targeted to a specific purpose, and all staff and pupils will have a clear knowledge and understanding of exactly what they are supporting.
- All staff and pupils will be knowledgeable about the work of the specific registered charities we support.
- Fundraising will not be perceived as an end in itself (e.g. with the focus being on how much money is raised) but as the means to a specific end (e.g. to provide warm clothing for the homeless).
- Prioritise the work of charities which rely almost solely on the support of the Catholic Church (see 'Charities we Support').
- Fundraising will be used to support charities whose work does nothing to contradict the Catholic Church's position on the maintaining and promoting the value and dignity of all human life (from the moment of conception to the natural end of life).
- All staff and pupils will understand that charitable work is not simply about supporting 'Charities' or 'Fundraising', but that we have a Christian duty to care for those in need. In the context of a Catholic school, the kind of care and support we provide must remain faithful to the Social and Moral Teaching of the Catholic Church.

***Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.***

(St. Teresa of Calcutta)

## **Charities we support**

We recognise that, whilst there are many charities (national and global) which could be supported in school, it is important to recognise two key points:

1. We do not have the physical resources to effectively support every possible charity (as reflected in the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta, quoted above).
2. As a Catholic school, we are obliged to support charities which are compatible with Church Teaching

Therefore, the following list provides the names of charities which we, as a school community, will support on a two-year cycle:

- SVP and Mini Vinnie's (Saint Vincent de Paul Society)
- Mary's Meals
- CAFOD (Catholic Association for Overseas Development)
- Progressio
- The Pastoral Care Project
- Father Hudson's Society
- MacMillan Nurses
- Life/Zoe's Place
- SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children)
- Aid to the Church in Need
- Coventry Food Bank
- Shoebox Appeal (Operation Christmas Child – Samaritan's Purse UK)

## **Fundraising Activities**

At St. Elizabeth's, we recognise that charitable work consists of three separate (though often interlinked) areas:

- Small but significant day-to-day acts of love and kindness
- Support and promotion of registered charities
- Fundraising

Throughout the school year, we support the above charities through a variety of class, phase, and whole-school fundraising activities. Below is an inexhaustible list of activities and events in which we may partake:

- Charity fetes (particularly during Lent)
- Sponsored walks
- Non-uniform days
- Cake sales
- Family fun sessions
- Discos

## **Review**

This policy will be reviewed in the Spring Term of 2020.