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| **Catholic Ethos : A Framework for Self-Reflection**  *Reviewed and Revised October 2020* | | | | | | |
| **SOCIAL JUSTICE AND RESPECT**  **FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**  ”True mercy, the mercy God gives to us  and teaches us, demands justice”  *Pope Francis* | | |
| **Down and Connor Catholic Schools’ Support Service**  120 Cliftonville Road  BELFAST BT14 6LA  T: 028 9049 1886  E: dctrusteeservice@downandconnor.org | | | | |

**SOCIAL JUSTICE AND RESPECT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

*"True mercy, the mercy God gives to us and teaches us, demands justice"*

*Pope Francis*

| **INDICATORS** | | Evidence showing how this is **EMBEDDED**  in school life | Evidence showing how this is **DEVELOPING**  in school life | This area needs to be **DEVELOPED/REVIEWED**  *(See Planning Format)* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Whole school planning and policy development are inspired by the Mission Statement. |  |  |  |
| 2. | The social teachings of Christ are actively promoted in the classroom and throughout the school. |  |  |  |
| 3. | Pupils are supported in developing the values of ‘discipleship’, imitating Christ and following the example of Pope Francis in seeking ways to ‘serve’ others less fortunate than themselves. |  |  |  |
| 4. | The school has a local outreach programme tackling issues such as homelessness, poverty and loneliness. |  |  |  |
| 5. | The school has a global outreach programme e.g. linking with schools in a developing country through which pupils are aware of their responsibilities as 'Workers for the Kingdom'. |  |  |  |
| 6. | The school encourages prayerful respect for God's creation including promoting 'Grace before meals', as requested by Pope Francis. |  |  |  |
| 7. | The school participates in and supports local charities such as St Vincent de Paul and justice and peace initiatives such as Trócaire's Lenten Campaign. |  |  |  |
| 8. | The school is involved in programmes promoting an appreciation of and respect for the environment e.g. Green Flag. |  |  |  |
| 9. | The school community is encouraged to develop and maintain a 'sustainable school'. |  |  |  |
| 10. | Members of the school community are invited to reflect on the ethical uses, influences and dangers of modern means of communication: Internet, Facebook, Twitter, mobile devices. |  |  |  |
| 11. | The whole school community is encouraged to respect and take pride in the school's physical environment. |  |  |  |

**Social Justice and Respect for the Environment - The Way Forward**

*Suggested Planning Proforma after completion of Audit*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date Audit**  **completed** |  | | **Who was involved in the Audit**  **discussion and completion?** | |  | |
| **Area(s) highlighted for**  **further development:** | |  | | | | |
| **Action(s)** | | **Timeline** | | **Person(s) responsible** | | **Resources required** |
|  | |  | |  | |  |
|  | |  | |  | |  |
| **Monitoring and Evaluation on Completion** | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | |

**SECTION 6 : SOCIAL JUSTICE AND RESPECT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Examples of Good Practice**

*"True mercy, the mercy God gives to us and teaches us, demands justice"*

*Pope Francis*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The school community participates in the missionary work  of the school e.g. chosen charities – Trócaire; Sal’s Shoes;  Moldova; Society of Missionary Children initiative. | Representatives from local and national charities are invited to the school to talk to the pupils about their work within the community. ***(Also relevant to Section 1 : Mission and***  ***Section 5 : Inclusion and Diversity)*** |
| 'Global Schools' Scheme' - school links with a parish group and  gathers materials to support children in a village in Ethiopia.  A member of staff travels with some members of the parish  group to deliver the materials. The teacher reports back to  the pupils and a parishioner reports at a Sunday Mass.  ***(Also relevant to Section 1 : Mission and***  ***Section 5 : Inclusion and Diversity)*** | At the end of the summer term the children and their families are  invited to donate any uniforms and PE kits not needed and these  are sent to a charity the school supports in a less advantaged  country. The link person is invited to speak at an Assembly at  the beginning of the autumn term, showing photographs of  the recipients of the uniforms.  ***(Also relevant to Section 1 : Mission and***  ***Section 5 : Inclusion and Diversity)*** |
| Justice and peace issues are used for reflection, prayer and  meditation to develop in pupils a greater understanding,  compassion and empathy for those less fortunate.  ***(Also relevant to Section 2 : Religious Education)*** | The promotion of using biodegradable materials  is encouraged within the school community. |
| Teachers use modern technology whenever possible to reduce  the amount of waste produced by photocopying and printing. | Pupils have opportunities to reflect on their responsibility  to care for creation through class lessons and assemblies.  ***(Also relevant to Section 4 : Learning and Teaching)*** |

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| Pupils are encouraged to design and maintain a small garden  area which may be used for quiet reflection/prayer.  ***(Also relevant to Section 2 : Religious Education)*** | The school has developed an environmental and ecological programme which promotes “a new way of thinking about  human beings, life, society and our relationship with nature”  based on Pope Francis’ encyclical letter, *Laudato si’.*  ***(Also relevant to Section 4 : Learning and Teaching)*** |
| The development of ECO councils within school.  ***(Also relevant to Section 4 : Learning and Teaching)*** | The pupils are involved in the Local Partnership Allotment Project.  ***(Also relevant to Section 7 : Partnership and Community Outreach)*** |
| Posters displaying Grace before and after meals are  displayed in the school canteen and lunch rooms.  ***(Also relevant to Section 2 : Religious Education)*** | The school maintains close links with local charities  e.g. local hostels; St Patrick’s Soup Kitchen. |