



Faith in Action

At St. Philomena's, our Catholic faith is at the heart of everything we do. We believe that faith is not only something we learn about and celebrate, but something we are called to live out through our actions. Inspired by the teachings of Jesus and Catholic Social Teaching, we encourage our children to put their faith into action through love, service, compassion, justice and care for creation.

We want our pupils to understand that even small acts of kindness and service can make a meaningful difference to the lives of others and to the world around them.

Caring for Creation – Green Team Eco Warriors

Inspired by Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*, which calls us to care for our common home, St. Philomena's is committed to protecting and nurturing God's creation.

Our Green Team Eco Warriors work together to live sustainably, reduce waste, protect wildlife and encourage the whole school community to make environmentally responsible choices. Their work provides children with opportunities to understand that caring for creation is an important part of living out our Catholic faith. Children have taken part in a range of projects, including creating birdhouses, planting vegetable gardens, constructing a recycling woodwork bin, litter picking, nurturing the school garden and celebrating British Food Week by cooking with locally sourced produce. Children have upcycled old T-shirts, turning them into creative new designs and promoting the importance of reusing and recycling. Children were awarded the prestigious Blue Peter Green badges in recognition of their environmental work.

The Green Team achieved the CAFOD Live Simply Award, which recognises communities that live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with people experiencing poverty. Through this work, we aim to connect care for our environment with care for our global neighbours.

Serving Our Community

Faith in action is demonstrated through the ways in which we support people within our local community. Following our Harvest celebrations, children and families donate food to support our local food bank. This provides a practical opportunity for children to understand that we are called to share what we have with those who may be experiencing hardship.

We support families within our own school community through initiatives such as our free and pre-loved uniform provision, helping to ensure that children have access to the clothing they need while promoting dignity, generosity, sustainability and care for one another.

Through these initiatives, children learn that being part of a Catholic community means looking beyond ourselves and recognising when others may need our support.

Building Relationships and Community

We believe that faith is strengthened through relationships and a sense of belonging. We therefore seek opportunities to build meaningful links with our wider community.

Our links with the local pre-school provide opportunities for children to develop relationships, share experiences and support younger members of our community. We our relationship with our local retirement home. Children have opportunities to connect with older members of our community, sharing conversation, activities, prayers and celebrations. These experiences help children to recognise the dignity and value of every person, regardless of age.

Following our Crowning of Mary celebration, children have shared flowers with residents at the retirement home. This simple act of kindness provides a beautiful opportunity to extend our prayer and celebration beyond the school and bring joy to others.

Supporting CAFOD and the Global Community

Our commitment to faith in action extends beyond our local community. Through our partnership with CAFOD, children learn about the experiences of people living in poverty and communities affected by conflict, injustice and climate change.

As part of our commitment to the CAFOD Live Simply Award, we participate in initiatives including:

- CAFOD's Big Lent Walk
- CAFOD Fast Days
- Brighten Up events
- Global climate justice campaigns
- Fairtrade activities
- CAFOD World Gifts
- Fundraising for communities experiencing poverty
- Prayer and reflection for our global neighbours

Children learn that our choices can have an impact on people around the world. Through Fairtrade activities, for example, pupils explore how choosing fairly traded products can help support producers and communities. We encourage children to develop an understanding of solidarity – recognising that although people may live in different countries and have very different experiences, we are all part of one human family.

Living Out Catholic Social Teaching

Our Faith in Action programme is rooted in Catholic Social Teaching. Children are encouraged to put these principles into practice by:

- Respecting the dignity of every person.
- Caring for those who are vulnerable or in need.
- Sharing our resources fairly.

- Standing in solidarity with others.
- Caring for God's creation.
- Working for peace and justice.
- Serving others with generosity and compassion.
- Recognising our responsibility to contribute to the common good.

We want our children to see that Catholic Social Teaching is not simply something they learn about in RE. It is something they can live every day through the choices they make and the way they treat others. Children have 'Steps in Faith' RE home learning to support living our the principles of Catholic Social Teaching at home.

Our Faith in Action

Through faith in action, children learn that following Jesus means loving and serving others, standing alongside those who are vulnerable, caring for our common home and working together to build a more just, compassionate and sustainable world.

As Pope Francis reminds us in *Laudato Si'*, we are called to protect God's creation with love. At St. Philomena's, we seek to respond to this call by giving our children opportunities to pray, care, serve and act. Our aim is that every child understands that they have a role to play in making a difference – in our school, in our local community and in the wider world.