



# St Joseph's

Roman Catholic High School  
& Sports College

## Fairtrade Policy

*Our school is a community where Jesus Christ is our role model and his message the guiding principle behind all we do.*

*Every member of our community is responsible for creating an environment that is caring, fair and respectful of each individual.*

*We develop our potential, celebrate our talents and go forward together in faith.*

**Approved by Governors:** March 2016

**Date for Review:** February 2019

**Signed Chair of Governors:** P Jones

**Signed Headteacher:** R Woods

**Governors Committee:** Mission & Ethos

## Gospel Values

The term 'Gospel values' is commonly used in Catholic schools and other Catholic institutions; however, unless the term is unpacked and a common understanding formed of what true Gospel values are, there is a danger that what should be an objective Christian foundation, will itself become a random list of subjective values.

Whilst other 'values' may be found within the four Gospels and New Testament writings, it is the Beatitudes which: "...depict the countenance of Jesus Christ and portray his charity". Gospel values cannot therefore be values chosen subjectively from the vast corpus of the Old and New Testaments but are objective values revealed to us through Christ's proclamation. Such objective values are to be found rooted in the Beatitudes, the proclamation of Christ's Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes also "...reveal the goal of human existence, the ultimate end of human acts" and as such are the objective 'values' given by Christ himself.

Whilst not definitive, those Gospel values based on the Beatitudes which underpin this policy include:

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven"*  
Values: **Faithfulness & Integrity**

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted"*  
Values: **Dignity & Compassion**

*"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied"*  
Values: **Truth & Justice**

*"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God"*  
Values: **Purity & Holiness**

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God"*  
Values: **Tolerance & Peace**

*"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in heaven; they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way"*  
Values: **Service & Sacrifice**

Rooted in the teaching of Christ, these Gospel values constitute the targets and outcomes of the educational enterprise for St Joseph's as a Catholic school.

**St Joseph's RC High School**  
**Fairtrade Policy**  
**2016**

St\_Joseph's Roman Catholic High School is committed to supporting Fairtrade wherever possible.

Fairtrade is about guaranteeing a better deal for producers in developing countries and puts into action many elements within Catholic Social Teaching.

Fair Trade presents an approach to trade that is rooted in a commitment to cherish and uphold the sacredness and dignity of every person. Fair Trade companies purchase Fairtrade items as directly as possible from the people who created them to help ensure they are not exploited by predatory intermediaries. Fair Trade also promotes mutually respectful long-term trading relationships with disadvantaged producers around the world.

**The Common Good**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1995) states that The common good "is the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfilment more fully and more easily."

Fair Trade is based on extensive cooperation among diverse parties and, is in many ways consistent with the Catholic vision for economic activities that promote the common good.

Pope John Paul II wrote in his encyclical *Centesimus Annus* that a business should act not as a "society of capital goods" directed solely toward the attainment of financial goals, but rather as a "society of persons" that serves the common good of *everyone*.

Pope John Paul II identified worker ownership as a leading form of economic subsidiarity in his encyclical *Laborem Exercens*: "Each person is fully entitled to consider himself a part-owner of the great workbench where he is working with everyone else. A way towards that goal could be found by associating labour with the ownership of capital."

Fair Trade is an example of economic subsidiarity in that it promotes the participation of manual labourers in the ownership and management of the enterprises of which they form a part as well as the creation of worker-run cooperatives.

Our commitment is a reflection of a declaration in our mission statement that:

"Every member of our community is responsible for creating an environment that is caring, fair and respectful"

**Fairtrade** is a way of introducing wider issues about fairness in the world such as global justice, ethical trade and sustainable development. It also complements our association and commitment to CAFOD.

**Fairtrade** is about supporting small scale farmers and workers in poorer countries. This means making sure that they have decent working conditions on the farms as well as receiving a fair and secure income for what they produce.

### **Global Justice**

Many people think that some methods of trade are unfair because they work in favour of the rich and powerful countries and increase the gap between rich and poor people. Fairtrade is a useful starting point for exploring global justice and development, as well as a way of promoting trade that gives a better deal to the producers.

Ethical trade is about improving conditions for all workers involved in making the products we buy, for example, making clothes from Fairtrade cotton. It's really important that companies take an ethical approach. They should try to make sure that all the workers involved in the 'supply chain' (that means all the stages from picking the cotton to manufacturing cloth to making clothes) have decent pay and working conditions. It's not a case of choosing between Fairtrade and ethical trade – companies should, and can, do both.

**Sustainable development** is about using the world's natural resources in a way that will not harm present or future generations. This might involve farming in an organic way rather than using harmful pesticides, or managing water supplies carefully. In the Fairtrade system, environmental standards aim to help producers improve their way of working. For small farmers, the increase in income from Fairtrade can support them in investing in environmental protection schemes or changing to organic farming methods.

### **In particular St Joseph's RC High School will:**

- Actively encourage all staff and pupils will be actively encouraged to support the Fairtrade policy
- Support the Fairtrade Steering Group
- Ensure that Fairtrade is part of the School Development Plan
- Use Fairtrade products wherever possible - Fairtrade products will be used at meetings hosted by the Headteacher, Deputy Head, Governors, Head of Department meetings, Parents evenings and staff coffee mornings
- Ensure learning about Fairtrade happens in a range of lessons and in whole school activities
- Promote Fairtrade within the school and wider community, particularly during Fairtrade Fortnight. (Usually the first 2 weeks of March)
- Staff will be encouraged to discuss Fairtrade during citizenship lessons

This policy is supported by:	Signature	Date
The Board of Governors		
The Head teacher		
The Staff		
The Student steering group		
Fairtrade Schools Coordinators		

