

Catholic Social Teaching in Drama and Music

	KS3	KS4	KS5
Life and Dignity of the Human Person <i>All created in the image and likeness of God</i> 	In KS3 Drama and Music, we look to ensure that students in KS3 study a range of different genres and forms from around the world, and encompassing many different types of people. This is to build empathy and understanding for the lives of many different people. By inhabiting different characters, this enables students to understand other perspectives and points of view, but how we are all created equally.	In KS4 Drama and Music, we study the impact of the arts and how it can represent the life and dignity of the human person. In music, we study genres from different periods of time, and different places in the world to better understand human ideas. In Drama, we devise performance work based on real life experiences and use this to better understand how people live. Both subjects involve collaboration and responsible group work, allowing us to develop mutual respect.	
Call to family, community and participation <i>Whatever is needed for each person to flourish</i> 	In KS3 Drama and Music, we regularly work as part of a team, placing participation as one of the key elements in each lesson. Students take what they have learned in class, and are able to use this in order to help the wider school community, often participating in events such as choir or readings during mass, and giving every student the opportunity to flourish.	In KS4 Drama and Music, we study work that promotes the idea of family and community. For example, in Drama we study the play <i>Blood Brothers</i>; a text which deeply explores the themes of family and community. In music, there is a drive to make sure that students understand the context behind music that they listen to and play. Both subjects involve close group work and dedicated participation in order to help each student to grow.	

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Solidarity and the common good <i>Not just doing things for other people but acting with them to build a more just world together</i> 	In KS3 Drama and Music, there is a focus from day one on working with others. Students are encouraged to work with people that they do not usually work with, and share responsibility for the work that they create together. Through careful and deliberate practice of group work, we help to build a better understanding of how working as a team can be beneficial for all.	In KS4 Drama and Music, we build on the idea of working with people and make this a key focus. Students must complete many aspects of their work in collaborative groups in order to achieve the best possible outcomes. We also study several different areas in which these themes are relevant – for instance, in watching the production <i>Ubu</i> by Splendid Theatre, there is a deeper understanding of how a better world can be created together.	
The dignity of work and the rights of workers <i>As far as possible, decisions should not be taken at the highest levels but by the people who are most affected</i> 	In KS3 Drama and Music, we aim to put the onus of creative choices on the students. They have control of how they would like to put together their ideas, and as teachers we work to guide them towards achieving the best that they are able to do. We promote the idea of dignity and respect in groupwork, and through the works that we show them, be that roots and folk music from around the world, or traditional drama forms from time.	In KS4 Drama and Music, we let students build on the work that we have done in KS3 and develop work freely. Students in GCSE Drama are encouraged to devise their own performance work using a range of different ideas that mean something to them, and are guided only by the specifications, allowing them the dignity of adapting form and context themselves. In music, utilising a wide range of different styles and genres from every level of society is a key element of the BTEC course.	

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Stewardship of God's creation <i>We are called to care for creation as stewards, not just as consumers</i> 	In KS3 Drama and Music, many of the creative tasks that we do involve having a keen appreciation of the world around us and the beauty of our social structures. For example, students in KS3 drama will often be asked to create works that are based on real life scenarios or elements of nature and the world. In music, we study music inspired by nature and our planet, and encourage students to use these ideas when creating their own work.	In KS4 Drama and Music, students are pushed to explore how theatre and the arts can promote an awareness of the world around us. Drama students study plays that relate to the world and teach them social responsibilities, such as the Dennis Kelly play <i>DNA</i>. In music, they explore this through the works of others and their own creations. They are also given responsibility for respecting rehearsal and performance spaces, fulfilling the role of stewards for the school community.	
Rights and responsibilities <i>When one person has a right, others have a responsibility to uphold that right</i> 	In KS3 Drama and Music, we work regularly in groups, and promote the idea that everyone in each group has a voice that needs listening to. By giving students the ability to make their own decisions in their work, we also open up the idea that they are capable of including all in what they produce. We take this further by looking at how established musicians, writers, performers and directors have managed to do this in their own work.	In KS4 Drama and Music, teamwork is key, and we spend time even outside of the curriculum looking at how every single member of a group has a responsibility to attend and help with every aspect of the work. This enables each student to have a clear understanding of how they should interact with others, and also allows us as teachers to bestow more rights upon them to help promote independent learning for all.	

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Option for the poor and the vulnerable <i>To choose to consider the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people first</i> 	In KS3 Drama and Music, we encourage students to develop empathy and compassion. Many of our projects are tied in to understanding the context of original pieces of art, and the real human stories that go in to creating them. For example, in year nine, all drama students create a piece of drama based on a Banksy painting that pushes the idea of supporting the homeless, and work using the methods of Bertolt Brecht, a practitioner whose main aim was to support those who are more in need.	In KS4 Drama and Music, we explore works from those who may not usually have their voices heard. For example, in music we have looked at the origins of jazz music, a genre that developed from those who had little in early twentieth century America. BY having a better understanding of the basis of many different arts of many different people, we push the idea of equality for those no matter what their social standing.	