



## DIGNITY AND EQUALITY OF EACH HUMAN PERSON



The inherent dignity of all people, through our creation by God, lies at the heart of Catholic social teaching. We are all created and loved by God. We are unique, special, and loved. If we are all sisters and brothers of one another, it must impact on the way in which we treat one another – those we know and meet, but also those we may not know, or who live many miles away.

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### PRESENTATION OUTLINE

We are all unique. Every one of us has gifts and talents – things which we're really good at.

- What are your gifts and talents?
- Look at your thumb and its fingerprint. It is different from everyone else's. Even if you're a twin, the lines are different on your thumb; unique just to you.
- And yet we're all linked together. Everyone of us. To the people in our family – our mum, dad, sister, brother, grandma and grandad.
- We're all linked together here in our school/parish. But bigger than that – we're also linked to people all over our town, our country, and our world.
- We believe that each one of us has been created by God. God has formed us, made us, given us life. And if God has made every one of us, whether we've met them or not, then we're all linked to one another.
- We talk about being "sisters and brothers".
- Each one of us, whoever we are, wherever we were born, whatever we look like, whatever we believe, deserves to be respected. By being created by God, we have been especially made.
- We want people to treat us with kindness, with respect, with love.



### SCRIPTURE

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ

1 Corinthians 12:12-25



- In the same way, we should treat everyone else like this. We should treat one another equally. We're not better than other people. They aren't better than us. We're different. We're unique and special. But we're also equal and deserve respect and love.
- We talk about treating people with "dignity", which is about treating them with respect and love.
- It's a guideline for how we should live our lives: treating others – those in our class at school, in our family, in our clubs and teams, but even people we may not have met – with dignity: love and respect.
- Over the coming weeks, we're going to look at other guidelines on how we should live our lives and treat others, so that we always remember to love one another, as Jesus taught us to do.

### ACTIVITY

- Do some hand printing. Join the prints together to form a cross, or invite the children to add their name and to write something unique about themselves. Or have each child use finger paints to create their own finger prints. Collate all the finger prints together, to make one larger picture, or to spell out a word that they have all decided upon.



# LOVE IN ACTION



- Use mirrors to look at their reflections, and to consider their inner qualities (a mirror inside a treasure box is nice for a more reflective activity).
- Give out an outline of a body. The children write in the names of their family and friends, then include people they may not know. They can cut out pictures from magazines and newspapers and stick them onto the outline. Afterwards, write a prayer around the body, asking God to look after the people inside the body.



## PRAYERS

- For the times when we have not treated others with respect. Lord, we are sorry. **Lord, we are sorry.**
- For the times when we have not used our gifts and talents. **Lord, we are sorry.**
- For the times when we have hurt other people. **Lord, we are sorry.**



Loving God,  
thank you for creating me.  
Thank you for all the friends and family  
whom I love.  
Help me to see  
that all people are my sisters and brothers.  
Help me to respect all people,  
wherever they live, whatever they believe.  
Amen.