**Overview**

As human beings, we are called to live in community, with others, growing together and flourishing as a result. We are also called to get involved. At World Youth Day in 2013, Pope Francis challenged us: “Don’t be observers, but immerse yourself in the reality of life, as Jesus did.”

We are called to be active members of society, our local and global community. Observing the reality of the world, remembering that first guideline of the dignity of all people, supporting one another and recognising how our gifts and talents could be used to the advantage of the wider community. We can’t just sit back and bemoan what’s happening, whether in our own parish and community, society, or the world. We are called to get our hands dirty, to get involved, to help build a better world. We’re all called to put love into action. These lessons help students to understand the role we all have to play in creating a fair society and strong communities.

**RE Lessons**

One fully-planned lesson is provided, per phase. These lessons are intended to be ‘plug-and-play’ and include a PowerPoint, lesson plan, and differentiated activities. Teachers are encouraged to use the lessons as they see fit and to adapt the lessons/activities to suit their class.

Suggestions for cross-curricular links are provided, below:

**English**

* Write a poem about their school community and their important part within it
* **Drama** – write and perform a short play showing how children in the school could support one another

**History**

* Research the history of their local parish

**Art**

* Encourage the children to make something to go on the display board to make their community more beautiful
* Create a paperchain to be strung around the classroom where each link has a child’s name on it and is decorated with their gifts and talents

**Music**

* Learn hymns that reference community and participation (*Colours of Day*)

**Catholic Life and Mission**

Display Boards are a great way to show off of the children’s learning. Consider displaying work from all year groups in a joint display board in a communal area of the school. Use the graphics and colours that Caritas use for Community and Participation, provided in the PowerPoint.

**Pupil Leadership Groups**

The half-termly CST themes are a good opportunity to give the school’s Pupil Leadership Groups a direction in which to focus their efforts. Liturgy Leaders could be encouraged to lead the Praise and Worship sessions for the whole school or their classes. Liturgy Leaders could also be encouraged to find scripture that relates to Community and Participation or write a thematic prayer to be used during Assemblies.

Pupil Leadership Groups could research local charities that work to help those in need in their community, and teach the whole school or their classes what they have learnt. Pupil Leadership Groups could also run a fundraiser for a local, related charity; write an explanatory insert for the school newsletter, or create and run a brief social action project in the local area.

**Our Symbol**

This is our symbol: The heart representing Love rooted in the Word of God for that is where we find the life that animates all we do. We hope this symbol will come to mean something for the pupils, that every time they see this they will come back to the principles of CST and remember why we do what we do. We highly encourage using this symbol as stickers, posters, on PowerPoint slides etc every time a CST theme appears either in a lesson, on a display board or an assembly.