**Overview**

Solidarity is a word which can be overused and little understood. However, it is fundamental to the way in which we treat one another. If we truly believe that we are all sisters and brothers of one another, made in God’s image and likeness as seen in the guideline of human dignity, then seeking the good of one another cannot be ignored. The quotation from St John Paul II is an ongoing challenge. Solidarity is not just feeling sorry for those who suffer. It is a commitment to action. “We are all really responsible for all” – all of us. Wherever we are. Whatever our age. Whatever our circumstances. We are all responsible for one another, those close by, and those far away. All of our actions have consequences locally and globally. From how we treat people we meet in the street, to the coffee we buy in the supermarket. It is how we live out Caritas, love in action.

**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 letter to their local MP asking them to vote for policies that will make the UK a more peaceful, tolerant place
* **Drama –** write and perform a short play about standing in solidarity with those around us

**History**

* Research the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland and the work they do
* Research other charities that work towards peace in our world (Red Cross, Christian Aid, Pax Christi, etc.)

**Art**

* Make posters to display around the school promoting peace and unity

**Music**

* Learn hymns that reference peace (*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*, *Dona Nobis Pacem*, etc.)

**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 Solidarity and Peace, 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 Worships sessions for the whole school or their classes. Liturgy Leaders could also be encouraged to find scripture that relates to Solidarity and Peace or write a thematic prayer to be used during Assemblies.

Pupil Leadership Groups could research local charities that work towards peace, 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.