

Date: September 2022
Review date: September 2023
Responsibility: MW/LB/RSh

Bishop Challoner School



Charity Fundraising Policy



Bishop Challoner School Charity Fundraising Policy

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

**Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”**

Matthew 5:3-10

Bishop Challoner is a Catholic school and therefore an extension of the Church. Charity has a much deeper meaning than financial or material wealth, as illustrated by Jesus, in the Beatitudes, found in Matthew’s Gospel. Charity should underpin all of our efforts to enhance the spiritual, moral and academic development of our pupils and staff.

We are very blessed to have pupils and staff, from diverse faith backgrounds and cultures, who share our values. Indeed our pupils, staff, Trustees, priests, parents and local members of the community continually work with us to preserve these values and their consistent generosity enables our school to fulfil our responsibility to preach the word of God, to celebrate the sacraments, and to exercise the ministry of charity.

Since New Testament times, raising funds for the life and mission of the Church has been a constant activity (1. Cor.16; Rom 15.26-28 and Acts 24.17 and 2 Cor 8-9.15).

In the Church’s document *Deus Caritas Est* we read:

“The Church’s deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility: of proclaiming the word of God, celebrating the sacraments and exercising the ministry of charity. These duties presuppose each other and are inseparable. For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could be equally left to others, but is part of her nature, an indispensable expression of her very being.” Deus Caritas Est (25)

Fundraising itself is not the objective but rather one means by which we follow the example of Christ. Therefore, all fundraising activities should express the spirit and motivation of true discipleship and should be a reaching out to people with the best of intentions. It is important therefore that our fundraising expresses elements of the beatitudes, and that each activity gives our pupils the opportunity to use their God given gifts and talents.

The demands of the Gospel and the call of Jesus require us all to examine from time to time our attitude to our own wealth in relation to the needs of others. The teaching of the Church also asks us to look at the use of our time, talents and resources to support those who are in need.

As part of our mission we are expected to take part in the works of mercy, both spiritual and corporal. This can be fulfilled in gifts of time, talent and financial assistance. Gifts come in many and varied forms, and should be proportional to individual ability, resources and personal choice. As a community we should be able to demonstrate how our charitable endeavours have benefited our moral and spiritual development and the way in which we have benefited those that we have raised money for.

Our procedures therefore in respect to fundraising are set out as follows:

- All fundraising activities will be positive in nature, dignified in approach, respectful in methods used, and will clearly state our gratitude for giving, and utmost respect for those deciding not to give, since all giving is voluntary and is an individual matter of choice.
- All appeals and campaigns will be clearly identified as to their purpose, and all uses of donated funds will be clearly explained to the community.
- Whilst we can choose to support charities that are not Catholic or Christian in nature, uses of donated funds will always be charitable and within the mission and objectives of the Catholic Church.
- Each member of our school will be informed of our activities and make his or her own decision about whether to give, how much, and when. Whilst fundraising requests may suggest amounts for consideration from time to time, no pressure, will be made.
- The school will decline or not knowingly support any charity organisations that are inconsistent with the teachings and ethos of the Catholic Church. We will refuse to support any organisation or persons associated with human rights violations, including the rights of the unborn as enshrined in the Church's teaching that human life begins from the moment of conception. Therefore, we will not support any charities that fund the use of human embryos or animal/human hybrids for medical research.
- The school in all its fundraising appeals, campaigns and ventures, observes the rule of 'good stewardship'. The school will not knowingly raise money for a charity with a programme-to-cost-ratio of less than 80 pence of every pound donated going to the actual programme or objective.

We feel very blessed to have such a wonderful and giving community and we pray that the Beatitudes will continue to be clearly evident in our school and in all of our charitable enterprises.

Reviewed by: M Wallace

Review Date: September 2022

Next Review: September 2023