

# Catholic Care Schools' Social Work



The primary purpose of Catholic Care is to foster and influence a vision of how people can live together in Christian charity, love and justice, by taking the 'caring church' into the community.

## Mission Statement

Catholic Care is a charitable organisation working on behalf of the Diocese of Leeds whose task is to support those in needs of its services, especially the weak and the vulnerable and it acts as an advocate for those unable to represent themselves.

Catholic Care offers a wide variety of services and support, not only to the Catholic population, but also to the wider community as a whole. These services include:

- Family placement
- Adoption
- Residential children's service
- Learning disability service
- Mental health service
- Older people's project
- Community development service.

## Schools' Social Work Service

The School social work team contributes to the welfare of children and young people by working directly with them, their parents and carers and their school. We offer a responsive service to primary, secondary and sixth form colleges that is individually tailored to meet the needs of the school and its community.

## Purpose of the Service

- Remove barriers to learning and participation.
- Develop the full potential of individuals within the values and ethos of their school.

- Nurture the emotional and spiritual development of individual children and young people within the school and home community.
- Address critical personal and social issues.
- Develop new skills.

## Every Child Matters

Catholic Care schools' social work service contributes to the national Every Child Matters agenda that aims to ensure every child has the chance to fulfil their potential by reducing levels of educational failure, ill health, substance misuse, teenage pregnancy, abuse and neglect, crime and anti-social behaviour.

Key areas to improve children and young people's lives are based on The Children Act 2004 set out in Every Child Matters:

- **Being healthy** - enjoying good physical and mental health and living a healthy lifestyle.
- **Staying safe** - being protected from harm and neglect.
- **Enjoying and achieving** - getting the most out of life and developing the skills for adulthood.
- **Making a positive contribution** - being involved in the community and society and not engaging in anti-social or offending behaviour.
- **Economic well-being** - not being prevented by economic disadvantage from achieving their full potential in life.

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## Better Outcomes

Catholic Care schools social work programmes will support your school initiatives to:

- Ensure early intervention to identify problems and solutions as quickly as possible.
- Improve behaviour and attendance targets.
- Improve outcomes for children with special educational needs.
- Maintain links children and young people at key transition times between home, school/college and work.
- Develop and maintain extended schools programmes.
- Develop and share support through cluster schools collaboration.

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