

Junior Caritas Award

“Deus Caritas est - God is Love.”

Starter paper for discussion - May 2013

The Caritas Award was initially established as a scheme for pupils in their final year of secondary school. It was always intended to introduce a version of the scheme which would engage younger pupils in appropriate ways, without merely replicating the senior award which was designed specifically for older pupils.

This paper is intended to prompt discussion on a number of points and to elicit responses to the questions provided. These responses will shape the final development of the Junior Caritas Award.

Completed response sheets should be emailed to: mail@sces.org.uk

Introduction

Pupils will have opportunities to enrol in the Junior Caritas Award programme in P6 & P7 and to extend their participation into S1. To gain the award, they will be expected to show how they are putting into practice their belief that “God is love.” by engaging in **faith witness activities** in school, at home and in their parish. With the use of resources provided by SCES, they will also be helped to show their faith in **prayer** and to **reflect** on what they have learned about themselves and their faith, as a result of engaging with the Caritas Award.

Award Components	Exemplar Activities		
	SCHOOL	HOME	PARISH
WITNESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> act as a ‘Buddy’ to younger pupil organise a charity fund-raising activity promote a Christian understanding of: Fairtrade, UNCRC, ECO activities demonstrated respect for other faith traditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> treats family with love and patience helps with younger siblings contributes to household duties helps with elderly relatives or neighbours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> acts as Altar server contributes to parish music ministry acts as Reader at Mass contributes to a parish service
PRAYER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contribute to a prayer service in class or Assembly (eg., Lent, Advent, Months of Marian devotion) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prays Grace before meals prays night prayers reads Scripture passages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> participates in a parish service: Stations of Cross, Advent service,
REFLECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> write a personal faith reflection on “What Caritas means to me” in P7 Profile 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> evaluative comment from parent on “Caritas” activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> evaluative comment from priest or parish rep. on “Caritas” activity undertaken in parish

Questions for consideration (All questions are provided on an accompanying Response sheet)

- 1 Are the 3 Award components appropriate?
- 2 a) How appropriate are the exemplar activities?
b) Other suggestions?

- 3 *What volume of activities should be required to complete the award requirements?*
- 4 *Could activities be introduced in P6 in a small scale at particular times – Advent, Lent, Catholic Education Week, school patronal feast day?*
- 5 *With the support of resources provided by SCES, could the school and parish organise short Gathering Points (2 per session) to bring together the pupils to reflect and pray about their actions?*
- 6 *Could the Gathering Points include a ‘take home’ activity to involve parents/ family members?*
- 7 *Would the Caritas Award help to ensure that that a faith element is included in the P7 Profile?*
- 8 *What advice is needed by Secondary teachers about making use of this faith element in the P7 Profile?*

Award Levels

It might be desirable to offer the Junior Caritas Award at various levels so that the varying abilities, capacities and backgrounds of children can be appropriately reflected. This could also allow for some development and progression from upper Primary school stages into First Year in Secondary school.

Award level	SCHOOL	HOME	PARISH
Bronze	✓		
Silver	✓	✓	
Gold	✓	✓	✓
Platinum	✓	✓	✓
activities must be sustained and developed throughout S1			

Questions for consideration

- 9 *Would it be helpful to introduce the Junior Caritas Award at different levels?*
- 10 *What would be expected of secondary schools if the Platinum award is to be established?*

Enrolment & Assessment

Schools would enrol pupils for the Caritas Award at an appropriate point during P6. Parental agreement should be obtained. The co-operation of the local parish should also be required. An initial enrolment with SCES would later be followed by details of pupil names and activities, perhaps using an on-line system.

Schools would review the evidence gathered in a logbook and in the P7 profile and assess if pupils had met all the success criteria to gain the award at each level. SCES would issue certificates for schools to present during their own school Award Ceremonies before the end of the session.

Questions for consideration

- 11 *How should school assessments be moderated to ensure a fair and reliable system across schools?*

Possible Next Steps

- May 2013 take soundings from teachers in schools
- June 2013 form a small working group to firm up details
- August 2013 invite schools to express an interest in participating in pilot scheme
- Sept. 2013 enrol P6 pupils for the first awards being presented to P7 in 2014-15.