



# Caritas

Diocese of Salford

*The principal domestic social action agency of the Catholic Diocese of Salford*



# Update for Primary RE Leads

November 2025

# Thank you!

For any of the following....

- Your prayers
- Your donations
- Your fundraising efforts
- Your awareness raising
- Your help with campaigning
- Your engagement with Caritas
- For your Caritas Ambassadors
- For holding a Big Sleep Out



# Advent is approaching and our Caritas bees are back!!!

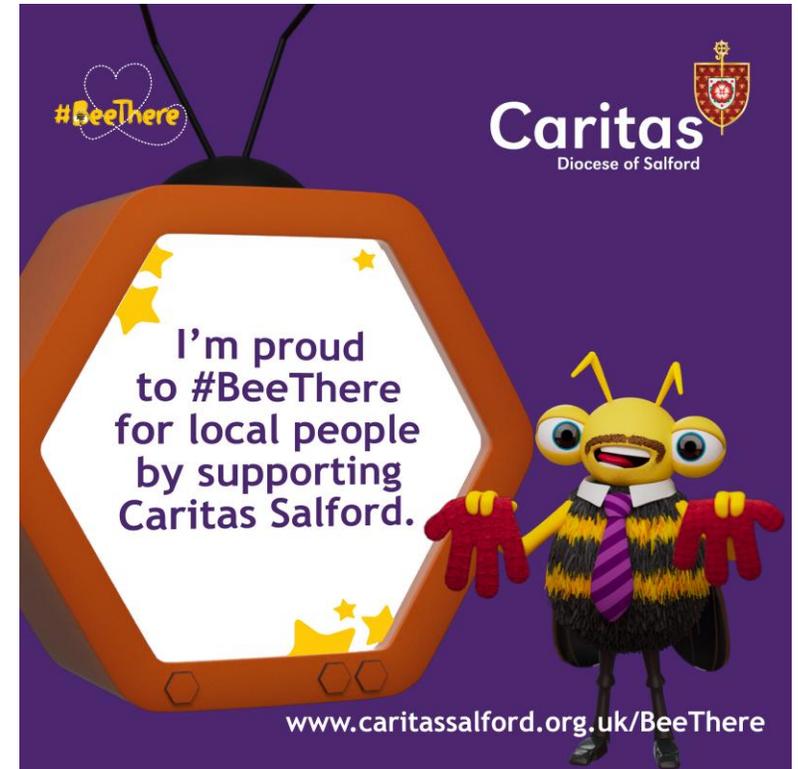
Our Caritas bees are back!

Bee quick and tune in on **Monday 10th November** to see our new animation!

Our Caritas bees are buzzing with excitement to have their moment in the spotlight with their very own version of the X Factor and Britain's Got Talent called 'Stars in their Hives.'

Perhaps you can use your gifts and talents to host your own show in school?

With your continued support, together we can ensure that no one is left behind.



# Advent continued

Will you shine a spotlight on what's really important this Advent?

Thirty copies of a special booklet just for schools have been posted to your Head and/or school chaplain to give you ideas on how you can support our #BeeThere Advent campaign.

Every year, Caritas provides over 75,000 personal toiletry items to people experiencing poverty and homelessness. Will your school please help us with this task?

As you light the Advent wreath each week, please can you collect the following items:

- **Week 1 toothbrushes and toothpastes**
- **Week 2 shower gel**
- **Week 3 antiperspirant**
- **Week 4 shaving foam/gel, disposable razors, period products.**

NB: Please do not wrap items individually or make gift parcels. Simply fill sacks or large bags or boxes, so that we can give the items out to people all year-round. Thank you so much!

Also...we do not require any chocolate or sweet treats please, as we receive plenty of these from supermarkets at this time of year.

**THANK YOU!**

# Advent Thought for the Day

If you would like your Caritas Ambassadors and other pupils to take part in this year's Caritas TFTD on our #BeeThere theme, please contact Kath asap for details

[k.ansley@caritassalford.org.uk](mailto:k.ansley@caritassalford.org.uk)

It is easier than ever this year to take part!

Research report released  
April 2025 following a  
survey of school  
leaders/ headteachers.

Visit our website to  
read the report.

[Caritas-Child-Poverty-Report-  
WEB.pdf](#)



**“If not us, then who?”**  
A report on child poverty and  
mental health needs in Catholic  
schools in the Diocese of Salford



Supporting people experiencing poverty, isolation,  
homelessness, discrimination and disadvantage.

[caritassalford.org.uk](http://caritassalford.org.uk)





# What did we find out?

- More than 95 per cent of those surveyed reported an increase in the number of children living in poverty over the last three years, with 35 per cent describing the increase as significant.
- 42 per cent of school leaders said that more than half of their pupils are affected by poverty related issues, with half of these respondents stating that poverty affects more than 75 per cent of their pupils.
- 88 per cent of school leaders surveyed observed increased mental health issues among pupils over the last three years, with 71 per cent describing the increase as significant.



# Recommendations

1. An end to the two-child limit.
2. Free school meals for all primary-aged children.
3. Increased funding for mental health and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision in schools.
4. Provision of temporary accommodation near to children's schools, and a duty on local authorities to notify schools when a family is placed in temporary accommodation.
5. Further research into the impact of child poverty.

# Together we are stronger...an update

Exciting news...with your help, Caritas has broken into new territory on your behalf.

We shared the report with MPs, local councillors, other charities in the sector, our supporters and received some important media coverage. (Thank you to those schools who accompanied us in those conversations.)

Following productive discussions with Caritas Salford, we are pleased that:

- Two MPs have written to the Minister responsible for the Child Poverty Taskforce outlining the findings of our child poverty report and our recommendations for the upcoming strategy.
- Three MPs have agreed to submit Written Parliamentary Questions on our behalf, which will further highlight the changes needed for the strategy to make a tangible difference to children and families living in poverty.

We will be inviting you to provide a brief update on the impact of poverty in your school in the new year.

# You spoke, Caritas listened...FREE WEBINAR

We are pleased to announce that Caritas Salford will be hosting a  
**FREE TERMLY ONLINE WEBINAR FOR SCHOOL LEADERS**  
to help address some of the issues raised by our schools in the report.

**MONDAY 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 4.00-5.15 pm ~ How to Poverty-Proof the School Day  
Not to be missed!**

**To register, please go to:**

**[For School Staff: Poverty Proofing In Your School Webinar | Caritas Salford](#)**

Other webinar topics coming up:

Managing the Impact of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Managing the Impact of living in Temporary Accommodation

# Caritas School Service

## Diocese Of Salford School Service | Caritas Salford



- Specialist team with experience in social work, counselling and art therapy.
- Provide therapeutic interventions to children, young people and families.
- Support is bespoke and tailored to the needs of the individual needs, with no time limit.
- One-to-one work with children, group work, work with families, safeguarding support.
- Support for staff.

# Caritas Ambassadors going from strength to strength!



- Encourages and develops pupil leadership and engagement in social action/social justice/CST.
- Training/formation takes approx. 90 minutes.
- Delivered in your school.
- Option for your school's priest chaplain to commission new CAs.
- We request that the staff member who will be accompanying CAs going forward, also attends the session.
- Currently delivered free of charge. Donations welcomed.
- For downloadable resources. [Caritas Ambassadors | Caritas Salford](#)
- For enquiries or to book please email [k.Ansley@caritssalford.org.uk](mailto:k.Ansley@caritssalford.org.uk)



# Please share with us what your Caritas Ambassadors are doing

- It helps us to know what impact the CA programme is having.

Eg, one primary school has shared with us a letter the CAs wrote to their MP regarding treating people seeking refuge with dignity and kindness.

- It helps us to celebrate and publicise what your pupils are achieving.
- Going forward, we want to be able to share stories from our CA teams more widely.
- It helps to inspire others to do the same.

**COMING SOON: Advocacy toolkit for Caritas Ambassadors!**

# Caritas Ambassador thank you cards...



- A special thank you card for any Caritas Ambassadors who are in Year 6 and moving on from primary school.
- Downloadable from our website.
- It also shares ideas for how they can continue to be Caritas Ambassadors in and beyond school.
- Thank you to those schools who downloaded and gave cards out to your Caritas Ambassador leavers in July.
- It is important to us that our Ambassadors know that their great work doesn't have to stop when they leave primary school.



# Intro to CST for School Staff

- Can be delivered on the same afternoon as pupil Caritas Ambassador training.
- Takes approx. 90 minutes.
- Provides an Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching for staff teams.
- Is food for thought on how to embed the principles of CST as part of your schools' Catholic Life & Mission.
- Encourages a cross-curricular, whole school approach.
- **Governors are welcome to attend too.**
- Currently delivered free of charge although a donation is very much appreciated.
- **Has received very positive feedback.**



For enquiries and bookings please email Kath [k.Ansley@caritassalford.org.uk](mailto:k.Ansley@caritassalford.org.uk)

# New session for school staff



## Accessibility, Disability and Inclusion

### Dr Minna Moffat-Feldman

- 90 minute session free of charge
- Challenges thinking about Disability and Accessibility
- Accessibility awareness activities to help our understanding
- Equality and Equity - what's the difference?
- How can we consider the needs of others?
- CST and accessibility



For enquiries and bookings, please email Minna

[m.moffatt-feldman@caritassalford.org.uk](mailto:m.moffatt-feldman@caritassalford.org.uk)

# Citizens UK

Caritas is proud to play an active part in Citizens UK, a grassroots alliance of communities uniting to challenge injustice and drive change through community organising.

Actively supported by Bishop John, the Diocese of Salford and Caritas are leadership team members of both Greater Manchester and Lancashire Citizens chapters.

The time is now right for our diocesan schools and colleges to find out more about the exciting opportunities Manchester or Lancashire Citizens can offer you.

Contact Matt now to find out more: [m.yates@caritassalford.org.uk](mailto:m.yates@caritassalford.org.uk)

# A reminder about Caritas' Bishop's Crisis Fund



Crisis grants for families and individuals available for up to £500.

Applications via Head Teacher, Parish Priest, Caritas social worker, Caritas Parish Rep.

Quick turn-around time.

For eligibility details and to request an application form, please go to:

[Bishop's Fund Family Crisis Support | Caritas Salford](#)

# Caritas Trophy

Thank you to all schools who are making great use of your Caritas trophy!

Please continue to publicise what your winners have achieved - we love to hear about it, so don't forget to tag Caritas in on social media.



# Check out Caritas' resources for

- Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November ~ World Day of the Poor.
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November ~ Caritas' Advent Appeal launch.
- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025 ~ Caritas Sunday (parishes).
- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026 ~ Racial Justice Sunday.





Please engage with us on social media and sign up for our newsletter:



Caritas Diocese of Salford



@CaritasSalford



caritas\_Salford

Website: [www.caritassalford.org.uk](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk)



Please keep Caritas and the people we  
serve in your prayers.

THANK YOU!

Kath: [k.ansley@caritassalford.org.uk](mailto:k.ansley@caritassalford.org.uk)



## A final thought from Pope Leo XIV...

“The poor are not a distraction for the Church, but our beloved brothers and sisters, for by their lives, their words and their wisdom, they put us in contact with the truth of the Gospel.”

Pope Leo XIV ~  
World Day of the Poor 2025



*Leo P.P. XIV*