**General Election workshop for KS2**

*Aims:*

* To understand how everyone can have a say in the general election
* To explore how the general election matters to our global neighbours
* To show that campaigning is a way of putting Catholic Social Teaching into action

*Themes:*

Global neighbours, poverty, participation, solidarity, stewardship

*Preparation and resources:*

* Print our starter activity cards, or display them online
* Find the films at cafod.org.uk/primary
* Photocopy enough templates for everyone taking part or use paper to create your own artwork

*Time:* 45 mins – 1 hour

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| **Starter activity: Card discussion – is this fair? (15 mins)**Share the slides with the historical and real world examples.150 years ago in the UK, whether you were a man or woman decided whether you got to have a say or not. But groups of people worked together to make that change. Does anyone know what any of these groups of people were called? *Suffragettes, suffragists, Emmeline Pankhurst etc.* They spoke out for what they believed in and made change happen.In parts of the USA 80 years ago, where you sat on a bus depended on the colour of your skin. Does anyone know this woman’s name? She was called Rosa Parks and she spoke out for what she believed in and made change happen.If relevant, you could add examples from recent work or local area of individuals or groups of people who spoke out for their rights, stood up for others and made change happen. | **Putting CST into action – links:**The Common Good (Thinking of everyone)Subsidiarity (Everyone should have a say) |

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| **What is a general election? Why is it important? (15 mins)**Explain that this year is very important in terms of speaking up and having your say because there is a general election. For a quick explainer of what a general election is play the film <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLiC1xpblKM> To go into more detail on what a general election follow the slides:Does anyone know what we call the system that runs our country? *Democracy*And does anyone know that the word democracy means? *The power of the people (‘demos’ and ‘cretia’)*That means that we, the people, have the power to change things in this country. But when we come to make decisions does every person come together to decide what laws we should make? No, that would be a bit impractical! So we choose people to represent us, these people are called Members of Parliament (or MPs).The way we choose them is by voting every five years (or so) in a general election.At an election the country is split into 650 areas called constituencies, and each one votes for its representative, its MP.On election day, every one over 18 is allowed to vote for one candidate from the list and the person with the most votes wins and goes to the House of Commons to represent the area and make laws.The MPs are in groups called political parties (like the Labour Party, the Conservative Party and others) and the party with the most MPs wins the whole election, and is usually asked by the monarch to form a government.**Why is the general election important?**We can all speak out for what we believe in at any time, but particularly during a general election campaign, the people who want to become Members of Parliament (we call them Prospective Parliamentary Candidates or PPCs for short) want to hear from everyone about what’s important to them. The election is also important because decisions taken by the political leaders who are elected will impact the daily lives of our brothers and sisters around the world. These people will be making important decisions on issues such as climate change and tackling poverty. | **Putting CST into action – links:**Common Good (Thinking of everyone)Subsidiarity (Everyone should have a say)Participation (Taking part) |

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| **Our global neighbours; CAFOD and the general election (15 mins)**During a general election campaign, PPCs will talk about many topics in this country and around the world. The groups they belong to, the political parties, produce a list of promises they make about these topics which is called a manifesto.Other organisations can also make a list of things they would like to see. Here are some things CAFOD would change about the world:The CAFOD manifesto:1. Poverty – give more money to projects around the world to challenge when things are unfair
2. Climate – stop spending money on fossil fuels and help countries on the front line of the climate crisis
3. Debt – make new laws to help countries who owe a lot of money, which stops them supporting things like schools and hospitals
4. Refugees – make the UK a welcome place for people who have to leave their homes

NB there are other things on the manifesto which are further complex structural issues – for more information see…Here is a short film/slides showing one project where CAFOD has worked on one of these issues… | **Putting CST into action – links:**Stewardship (Caring for God’s gifts)Subsidiarity (Everyone should have a say) |

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| **How to take action – make your own manifesto (15 mins)**Now that we’ve learned about why the election is important, and how to get involved, it’s now time to make your own manifesto!This activity can be done for each child, in pairs or in table groups:Individual:Each child uses the worksheet template to fill in their promises using the suggested topics and blank boxes for their own ideas.Pairs/groups:Working together, children complete the worksheet template to fill in their promises using the suggested topics and blank boxes for their own ideas. | **Putting CST into action – links:**Participation (Taking part)Solidarity (Showing we care) |

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| **Reflect – a prayer for the Earth and our global neighbours (5 mins)**As Pope Francis says “We all need each other, none of us is an island. And we can only build the future by everyone standing together”We can all also come together and make a difference by praying for our global neighbours.Loving God,Make us wise to know when things aren’t right,Make us brave to speak out when things are unfair,Make us open to our whole global family, so we can work together for everyone to have what they need to live life to the full.Amen |