



Little acts, great love, big difference



St Catharine's
Chipping Campden



St Joseph's
Nympsfield



Catholic School of St Gregory The
Great, Cheltenham



St Peter's
Gloucester



The Rosary
Stroud



St Thomas More
Cheltenham

SUBSIDIARITY

In Catholic social teaching, subsidiarity is a principle that asks for social and political issues and choices to be handled at the most local level possible. The principle suggests that larger social bodies, like the government, should only intervene when smaller, local groups are unable to solve a problem on their own, and even then, the intervention should be to support and empower the local group, not to absorb or replace it. This principle respects the dignity and capacity of individuals and local communities to make decisions for themselves.

Put Others Before Yourself



Subsidiarity

Key aspects of subsidiarity

- **Local decision-making:** Human affairs are best handled at the lowest possible level, closest to the people affected. This allows those with local knowledge and experience to have a say in outcomes that most directly affect them.
- **Government's role:** The role of higher authorities, such as the state, is to provide support and assistance when needed, rather than to overstep their bounds. A higher authority should only step in if the lower-level group cannot perform a function adequately and efficiently.
- **Empowering local communities:** The principle aims to support the internal life of local communities and empower people to be agents in their own development.
- **Balancing authority and freedom:** Subsidiarity provides a balance between individualism and collectivism, ensuring that neither is prioritized over the other. It respects the freedom and autonomy of individuals and intermediate communities while also recognizing the need for cooperation and assistance.

Put Others Before Yourself

Matthew 20:26-28

"Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."



Subsidiarity



"...those born and raised far from the centres of power should not merely be taught the church's social doctrine; they should also be recognized as carrying it forward and putting it into practice."

– Pope Leo XIV



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"At LWCET and all our schools, we believe in the principle of subsidiarity — that the best support for your child's growth comes from you, their family, with our school here to guide and assist. Together, we form a community where every voice is valued, and every child is nurtured to flourish in God's love."

Tips to help parents & schools to work together to promote subsidiarity:

- Staff and parents should always treat each other with kindness and respect when meeting to discuss a pupil.
- Parents and staff should work together as partners, each with distinct but complementary roles.
- School and parents can work together to support learning at home. Parents are the primary educators of their children and school needs their support by engaging with their child's education, such as reading together, supporting homework routines, or fostering resilience and compassion.

If help or guidance is needed to support this, staff are always happy to meet with parents, as we all want the very best for the children entrusted to our care.

Put Others Before Yourself

People live together. The way we do this is important, such as agreeing rules together and making laws and money rules that are fair for everyone. ***We need to remember our whole community when we make rules and make sure everyone gets a chance to be heard, particularly those who are closest to the impact of a decision that is made.***

Subsidiarity supports

Subsidiarity
We are called to empower communities, to let everyone have a say.

Subsidiarity supports local communities to participate in decisions that affect them. It also acts as a check on the power of the state, protecting individual autonomy. The schools in Clifton Diocese and the LWCET support the Emmaus Project in Uganda, which wants to provide water pumps in 23 villages.



The Emmaus Project

The Emmaus Project wants to raise money to provide these villages with safe drinking water and avoid sickness. This will mean that the children in the village do not have to collect water during the day, which will allow them to attend school.

The project is also supporting the local community to buy trees. This is a supportive intervention as the children, parents and farmers will be taught how to care for the trees. This will empower the villagers and will mean that they will be able to make money from the fruit that will grow on the trees.



How can we help?



We can buy Fairtrade products to support economic security for farmers and workers. This ensures fairer wages and safer working conditions and encourages environmentally sustainable practices. Fairtrade empowers producers by providing a minimum price guarantee, a premium for community development and access to training, which helps them to build more stable and prosperous livelihoods, despite market fluctuations and the impacts of climate change.