

CHAPTER 6:


DIALOGUE AND ENCOUNTER


Knowledge organiser

Key vocabulary	
intercultural dialogue	Positive interactions between individuals and communities of religious and non-religious worldviews which aim to encourage mutual understanding and enrichment.
common good	The belief that if all people work together to improve the wellbeing of others, all of society will thrive.
respect for the person	Ensuring that every person is treated with dignity and valued for the unique contribution they can make to life.
social wellbeing	Building and maintaining healthy relationships and engaging in meaningful interaction with others in a community.
development of society	Improving the wellbeing of every person in a community as well as the services used by all so society as a whole can flourish.
peace and security	A safe environment in which people live without fear and are treated equally, justly and fairly, where disagreements are resolved through non-violent means such as dialogue.
worldview (religious or non-religious)	An overall vision or attitude towards life and the purpose of life, which directs how a person lives and acts in the world; a religious worldview would be based on the teaching of a particular religion, whereas non-religious worldviews would be shaped by beliefs and ideas that are not connected to religion.

Meeting God in Friend and Stranger	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Meeting God in Friend and Stranger is a document from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.● It talks about the importance of dialogue to promote respect and mutual understanding.● It encourages interreligious and intercultural dialogue in a society which includes individuals of all religions and worldviews.● It asks Catholics to try to understand different religions and worldviews, and to enter dialogue with an open mind. This can bring them closer to God.	<p>The document mentions four forms of dialogue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● the dialogue of life: where people try to live in an open and neighbourly way with one another● the dialogue of action: where people work together to improve the world● the dialogue of theological exchange: where scholars discuss religion● the dialogue of religious experience: where believers share their spiritual experiences with others.

Commitment to the common good	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Many Catholics believe that because every person is unique and loved by God, it is important to work together to ensure every person is treated with dignity and respect, and has access to essential needs and freedoms.● The Church teaches that working towards the common good in this way helps society as a whole to thrive.● A commitment to the common good unites people of different faiths and worldviews, so can encourage better dialogue and a desire to work together towards a shared goal.	<p>The three essential elements of the common good are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● respect for the person: upholding people's rights and freedoms so they are treated with respect and dignity● social wellbeing and development of society: providing everyone with basic rights such as access to food, healthcare and education● peace and security: using just and peaceful approaches to keep society safe and secure.

CSAN and respect for the person	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● CSAN is the Caritas Social Action Network: a charity and an agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference.● CSAN aims to develop social action across England and Wales to ensure every person can be fulfilled and live with respect and dignity.● CSAN supports Catholic organisations involved in social justice and raises awareness of social issues.● For example, the 'Do Justice' campaign aims to encourage Catholics to take action to help create a more just world by responding to the needs of their communities.	

SVP's work for social wellbeing and the development of society	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) works with some of the most vulnerable people in society, mainly in England and Wales.● SVP aims to improve people's quality of life, which strengthens the wellbeing and development of society as a whole.● SVP offers friendship to strengthen relationships in society, such as through visiting people who are isolated or running Vinnie camps for children experiencing family problems.● SVP offers practical support to those in poverty, such as by providing furniture and appliances to people who have been rehoused.● SVP hopes that supporting vulnerable people will enable them to help others in turn, contributing to social wellbeing and the development of society as a whole.	

CAFOD's work for peace and security	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● CAFOD is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. It is a charity that works in places where there have been natural disasters and conflict.● One of its core aims is to work for peace and security to help bring about lasting global justice and the common good.● CAFOD asks its supporters to help by donating, campaigning and praying for people in need.● CAFOD believes that building peace involves a long-term and relational approach.● Three ways that CAFOD works for peace are:<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Nurturing a culture of encounter and open dialogue● Providing humanitarian support● Encouraging people in power to uphold international laws and take actions to bring about peace.	