

Diocese of  
**Blackburn**

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

# Support

# Fairtrade

Information on undertaking a School  
Pledge of Commitment to Fairtrade



Blackburn Diocese World Development Group  
Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

# Fairtrade Makes A Difference

Fairtrade means a fair price and decent working conditions for producers in the poorer countries of the world; **no child labour and no exploitation.**

(Producers supplying Fairtrade companies are paid between **two and four times** as much as producers working for most other companies.)

It means that people who grow coffee, tea, cocoa and many other food products which we enjoy daily, and who make crafts and clothes which we regularly use are able to:

- **have access to clean water**
- **pay for their children to attend school**
- **afford medical care when needed**
- **enjoy a meal every day**

Instead of living in abject poverty, with illiteracy and infant mortality, fairly paid workers can provide the basic necessities for their families.

Also in Fairtrade co-operatives, a **Fairtrade premium** is paid to the whole community, in addition to the individual wages. This is used for such essential projects as the provision of:

- **clean water**
- **a school or crèche**
- **a clinic or dispensary**

Furthermore, producers working to Fairtrade standards aim to **protect and improve the environment.**

## **As Christians, how can we not support Fairtrade?**

**It is an expression of the love and justice at the heart of the Gospel.**

James writes in his letter, "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go I wish you well, keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" ..... You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. (James Chapter 2 NIV)

There are now many Fairtrade products available in our supermarkets and also in Fairtrade shops (including Traidcraft and Oxfam shops).

There are also opportunities to sell Fairtrade products through our Churches, Schools and other institutions.

**Buying just one of these products regularly makes a real difference to the lives of producers in the poorer countries of the world.**

**"Never doubt that a group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has." (Margaret Mead: 1901-1978)**

## **Why should my school undertake a Diocesan Pledge of Commitment to Fairtrade?**

- Seven million farmers, workers and their families are better off because of Fairtrade - you can help to increase this
- Young people are passionate about global issues and really enthusiastic about Fairtrade - they will love it!
- It's only fair that the people who produce what we eat, wear and use should be paid enough to live on and to have opportunities to improve their lives just as we have. And what is not fair is unfair.

**But there are other benefits too:**

**For the whole school**

- It provides opportunities for extending the Christian ethos of the school.
- Your school gets Diocesan recognition
- Becoming a school committed to Fairtrade can contribute to the Every Child Matters and sustainable schools Agendas.
- You get a certificate to display in your school entrance with pride!

### **For students/pupils**

- You'll be part of a national and international movement
- You can play an important role in making your school a more caring community
- Gives you a chance to make a difference - make the world a fairer place
- You'll develop lots of new skills
- It's fun!

### **For teachers**

- Fairtrade represents a learning opportunity that can be brought into all areas of the curriculum, especially exploring citizenship from a global perspective.
- It gives students an opportunity to participate and take responsibility for their choices and decisions, develop a wide range of new skills and grow in confidence.
- And most importantly it is a way of showing pupils how to put Christianity into action.

**"The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing."**

The philosopher, Edmund Burke

Edmund Burke also said..

**"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little."**

# What Do I Do Next?

## Make a Pledge of Commitment to Fairtrade

The Diocese has produced a Pledge of Commitment to Fairtrade which can be displayed by any school which fulfils specified criteria.

**To qualify for the Pledge the School should:-**

1. Set up a steering group of pupils and adults (at least one teacher and perhaps a governor, a member of the catering staff and a parent) to promote Fairtrade and monitor its use.
2. Adopt a School Fairtrade Policy that the school will:
  - use only Fairtrade tea and coffee at school functions;
  - encourage the use of Fairtrade products in the staff room and have Fairtrade tea, coffee (and if possible sugar and biscuits) available to serve to visitors at all times;
  - hold occasional Fairtrade stalls either in school or at social functions or have catalogues available from which products may be ordered e.g. Traidcraft. Beyond that, perhaps the school may:
    - aim to introduce Fairtrade products in the school catering service or vending machines;
    - encourage the use of Fairtrade products as cookery ingredients.
3. Show commitment to using, selling and promoting Fairtrade products as laid down in the Fairtrade Policy which the school has adopted.
4. Provide opportunities for pupils to learn about Fairtrade e.g. through Worship and relevant curricular areas such as RE, PHSE, Citizenship, Geography, History etc.
5. Take action to promote Fairtrade and involve others through posters/leaflets/activities in school and (if possible) in the wider community.

## **Register**

Once you have made a decision to undertake a Blackburn Diocesan School Pledge of Commitment to Fairtrade, please contact Cath Greenlees so that we are aware of your project and can support you as required.

## **Presentation of the Pledge**

A member of the Diocesan World Development Group or Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education would be very pleased to verify your pledge and to present the Blackburn Diocesan Fairtrade Certificate to your school.

## **For further information, please contact:**

Cath Greenlees: Tel 01772 613500, [catherinegreenlees@hotmail.com](mailto:catherinegreenlees@hotmail.com)

Arton Medd: Tel 01524 64730, [arton@fish.co.uk](mailto:arton@fish.co.uk)

**Eventually you may wish to extend further your commitment to Fairtrade and to achieve national recognition. In order to do this and qualify for the national certificate awarded by the Fairtrade Foundation please use the enclosed Schools Action Guide, this material provides you with everything you need to know about becoming a Fairtrade school and guides you through the process.**

# Ideas for Collective Worship

## Introducing Children to the Concept of Fairtrade

### What Does 'Fair' Mean?

You will need:      The word Fair on a large sheet of paper or screen  
                             A dictionary  
                             A bag of wrapped sweets

Begin by showing the children the word fair on paper or screen and ask them the question 'What does 'fair' mean? Make a record of the children's answers.

The word fair isn't easy to describe. What does it say in the dictionary?

So do we really understand this word and what it means to be fair? Ask five children to come out and help you. Hand out the sweets, one to the first child, two the second, three to the third and so on. They all have sweets is this fair? No, why not?

Collect in the sweets and redistribute them giving an equal amount to four children and a greater amount to one child. Is this fair? No, why not? What does the child with the most think?

Collect in the sweets and redistribute them equally. Is this fair? Yes, why?

Hopefully the words equal and honest will have been mentioned. Recap your discussion and come to a conclusion about what the answer to "What does 'fair' mean?"

#### **Reflection:**

Ask the children to quietly think about their own behaviour.

Are their actions always fair?

Can they think of a time when they were fair and honest or not?

Have they ever said the words "That's not fair!"

How did it feel to be treated unfairly?

What does it mean to be fair?

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## What is fairtrade?

You will need:      A picture of the Fairtrade Mark  
                             A selection of Fairtrade produce e.g. coffee, chocolate and bananas,  
                             which can be used in a display.

(Fairtrade produce is now sold in most major supermarkets, the Co-op, in Oxfam shops and by Traidcraft.)

Remind the children of your discussion about the meaning of 'fair'. So what do they think is fairtrade? In simple terms Fairtrade means the farmer gets a fair price for his produce and/or the worker gets paid a fair wage for their labour. For example a worker may get paid £1.20 for their day's work and what they pick e.g. bananas, coffee, tea, cotton is sold for £200 or a worker in a factory is paid 10p an hour and the trainers they have made are sold for £80. So what is life like for the worker? How do the workers live? What conditions do they live in? If they are working for, or selling to a fairtrade company then they will get a fair wage or fair price.

All the food you have on display is Fairtrade produce. How do you know? Because it has the fairtrade mark on it. Show the children the Fairtrade mark and point to it on the produce. It represents a person waving because they are producing Fairtrade products and they are calling us to buy them. It is very important that the mark is easily seen on the wrapper. Why? Show the children two bananas or two unwrapped bars of chocolate. Unless we see the mark we cannot tell the difference, the mark on the wrapper is very important.



### Interesting fact

The idea of Fairtrade came from farmers in Mexico. They told the charities that they wanted fair trade not aid.

## Coffee

You will need: A world map or globe

A map of Central America

A jar of unfairtrade coffee

A jar of fairtrade coffee

3 children

6 A4 signs,

the signs need to say: £2.00, £200, Lots of money,

Fairtrade Company, Fair price, Fair price,



Show the children the 2 jars of coffee. What is the difference between them? Hopefully they will have remembered the Fairtrade mark and will mention this. So if this one is Fairtrade and this one is not, what does that mean? It means the man who grew the Fairtrade coffee received a fair price for his coffee beans, but the other man didn't, he was exploited.

Where is Nicaragua?

Use the globe and maps to ensure that the children have some understanding of the location of this country.

Ask the children if they know or can guess why the coffee farmers in Nicaragua need our help? That's right they are extremely poor because they are not getting a fair price for their coffee.

Coffee is very popular, millions of cups of coffee are drunk every day so you would think that a coffee farmer should be very rich but they are not. The people who buy coffee beans to roast and put into jars are greedy and unfair. Watch!

Ask your 3 volunteers to stand up and introduce them.

The first is a coffee farmer who works extremely hard. He grows, picks and prepares the coffee beans.

The second, a man who buys the coffee beans and then sells them to big coffee companies.

The third, is the Coffee Company who puts coffee in jars and sells it to supermarkets.

How much money does each of these people get? *As you do this give each child a sign showing the appropriate sum of money.* The coffee farmer who has worked long hours for many days receives from the buyer approximately £2.00 for a sack of beans. The buyer sells the same sack of beans for approximately £200. The Coffee Company sells the

coffee in jars and makes lots and lots of money. Is this fair? Which is the most unfair? What would make it fair?

What would have to happen in order for this to become Fairtrade? Firstly this coffee company would need to make a decision and change into a Fairtrade company. *Give the child (company) the Fairtrade company sign.* Second, the farmer no-longer sells coffee beans to the buyer. *The child in the middle (the buyer) sits down.* Instead the farmer sells straight to the company. *Move the farmer next to the company.* Finally, the company gives the farmer a fair price, *give the child the Fair price sign* for the coffee. This now happens every time the farmer sells his coffee. He always receives a fair price. *The company gives the farmer the second fair price sign.*

## How does Fairtrade make a difference?

Fairtrade dramatically changes peoples' lives.  
Change requires action.

- You will need:
- Yellow and blue paint
  - Paint brushes
  - 1 Volunteer
  - A large Fairtrade logo attached to a hat or a card headband
  - 2 large signs for the volunteer to hold or hang around their neck

<b>Sign 1:</b>	<b>Sign 2:</b>
<b>A Cocoa Farmer in Ghana</b>	<b>A Cocoa Farmer in Ghana Selling to the Fairtrade Market</b>
Dirty water	Clean water
Poor education	Better education
Poor health	Better health
Poor food	Better food
Poor houses	Better houses
Poor clothes	Better clothes

Begin by using the paint to show how adding the blue changes the yellow to green. The action of adding the blue changes the yellow.

Action = Change

No Action = No Change

Follow this by asking your volunteer to come and stand at the front and imagine that they are a cocoa farmer in Ghana.

What is life like for a cocoa farmer?

Use Sign 1

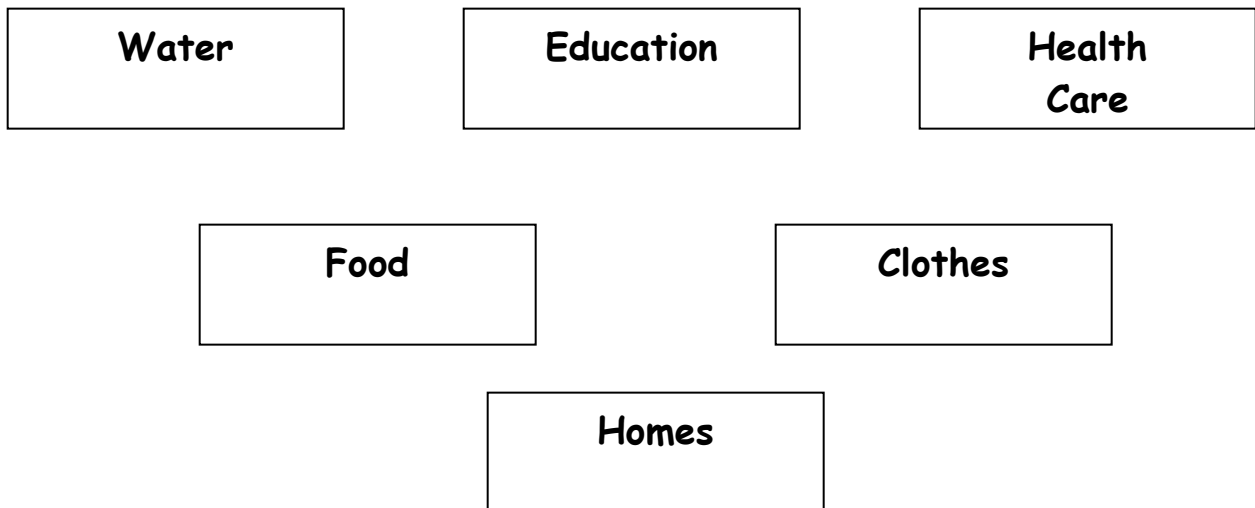
What happens to the life of the cocoa farmer when there are opportunities to sell their cocoa beans to the fairtrade market?

Use Sign 2 and the Fairtrade logo.

Fairtrade guarantees a better deal, a better life. Being fair changes peoples' lives.

This is a very simple explanation but hopefully it will enable most children to grasp the concept of fairtrade.

Use the stories found on the Fairtrade and Christian Aid websites to explore the difference Fairtrade makes to the lives of people in the world's poorest countries. How we shop affects people's lives.



**What a difference!**

## **Poor cocoa growers' children**

My name is Paulo and I'm twelve years old. I live in northern Brazil. My family lives in a wooden shack, eight of us sharing one room. I can't read or write because my parents have no money to send me to school. The whole family has to work on the cocoa plantation. The pay is so bad that we often go hungry. We can't grow our own food because we have no land.

I'm Maria. I work on the cocoa plantation too. My father told me that our cocoa beans go over the ocean to Europe. People say that the Europeans make a sweet food from them. I wonder what it tastes like! One day I'd like to eat it too.

## **Fairtrade cocoa grower and 12 year old girls**

I am Victor. I also am a cocoa farmer. I am thirty five years old and have three children. I work for the Kuapa Kokoo Fairtrade Co-operative in Ghana, West Africa, growing beans for the Divine Chocolate Company. It is very hard work but in the last few years life has taken a turn for the better. Now we are paid a fair wage - about £1.50 a day instead of 60p. We also receive a social premium from the company. With this we have been able to drill our own borehole and now have safe, clean water. This means that our children are much healthier and do not die from dysentery any more.

I'm Comfort and I am Yetunde.

We are twelve like Paulo but here at Kuapa Kokoo the children are not allowed to work. The younger ones go to the local primary school, which the cocoa growers have built themselves, and we go with the other older children to a secondary school.

Our parents have to pay fees but they can afford to do this now. I love going to school! Working for Fairtrade has made a really big difference to our whole community.

## **Prayer, Reflection and Display**

"World trade is a big topic, it touches each and every one of us profoundly. A simple act like buying fruit in the market can lead us to think about how we spend our money and how we are connected to people worldwide that we will never meet. Trade connects us to these people in a complex and increasingly unequal world. In fact, the issue of trade is far too big for us to take on without prayer. In prayer we stand in our hearts and imaginations near to people we will never meet. Through God's grace we confront feelings of powerlessness and despair." Christian Aid

Begin by reflecting upon the effect of trade on our everyday lives. Where does our food come from? Clothes? Furniture? Toys? What items have you used today that are the result of trade?

Trade connects people all around the world. Trade connects us to people we will never meet but does that mean we shouldn't care about them?

Jesus said "Love God and love your neighbour."  
Who is our neighbour?

Create a display of pictures of people from all around the world. Include pictures from the Christian Aid, CAFOD and other charity organisations websites. Also from the Traidcraft and Fairtrade Foundation websites.

Jesus said "Love one another as I have loved you."

Pray for the people trapped in poverty because of unfair trading.

Pray for the people and organisations who work hard to promote fairtrade.

Pray for governments and politicians.

Pray for the consumers.

<p><b>Think before you buy.</b> <b>You can make a difference.</b></p>	<p><b>Change the world at the checkout.</b> <b>Together we can make a difference.</b></p>
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**Prayer Coffee Bush**

Instead of a prayer tree why not have a prayer coffee bush! Children could write prayers related to Fairtrade issues on green leaves and red berries.

### **Prayer Chocolate Bar**

Create a chocolate bar of prayers. In a similar style to a prayer wall, give children an opportunity to write prayers on paper chocolate squares and put them up on the wall in the hall arranged like an opened chocolate bar in a wrapper.



### **Displays**

Display a map of the world and stick prayer flags on the countries where fairly traded goods are produced. (Map enclosed with this pack)

Use a basket of Fairtrade products as a display on your focus table.

Interesting facts and quotes can be found on the recommended websites.

### **Other actions could include:-**

- Involving the school in a Fairtrade competition. These can be found on the Fairtrade Foundation Website and from Cath Greenlees. ([catherinegreenlees@hotmail.com](mailto:catherinegreenlees@hotmail.com))
- Buy a Fairtrade football and have a footballing event where the football is the prize. Fairtrade footballs are available from Cath Greenlees.

## **Resources for Schools**

Extensive resources are available from the following organisations

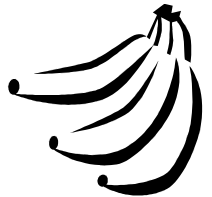
<p>CAFOD                  Website: <a href="http://www.cafod.org.uk">www.cafod.org.uk</a>                  Tel: 0207 733 7900</p>	<p>Website information/activities on Fairtrade &amp; Trade Justice; The Fairground magazine; Focus on Fairtrade (Primary booklet); Make your Mark (Secondary booklet)</p>
<p>THE CO-OP                  Website: <a href="http://www.co-opfairtrade.co.uk">www.co-opfairtrade.co.uk</a>                  Tel: 0800 068 6727</p>	<p>Website resources (inc Schools Pack) Primary/Secondary (to GCSE &amp; A Level); songs, poems/quiz and power-point presentation; free CD Rom (Primary) Make your school Fairtrade friendly.</p>
<p>DIVINE CHOCOLATE LTD                  Websites: <a href="http://www.dubble.co.uk">www.dubble.co.uk</a> and <a href="http://www.divinechocolate.com">www.divinechocolate.com</a>                  Tel: 0207 378 6550</p>	<p>Website resources on cocoa/chocolate (Primary and Secondary) including games and activities</p>
<p>FAIR DEAL TRADING PARTNERSHIP                  Website: <a href="http://www.fairdealtrading.co.uk">www.fairdealtrading.co.uk</a>                  Tel: 0845 330 7599</p>	<p>Website information on footballs and other balls, sports shoes, kits and equipment</p>
<p>FAIRTRADE FOUNDATION                  Website: <a href="http://www.fairtrade.org.uk">www.fairtrade.org.uk</a>                  Tel: 0207 405 5942</p>	<p>Website information includes: The Fairtrade Schools Action Guide and detailed information on products.</p>
<p>TRAIDCRAFT                  Website: <a href="http://www.traidcraft.co.uk">www.traidcraft.co.uk</a>                  Tel: 0191 491 0591</p>	<p>Website information includes producers' stories, assembly material, lesson plans, the Young Co-operatives business scheme and goods from <a href="http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk">www.traidcraftshop.co.uk</a> or catalogues</p>
<p><b>Other sources of information</b></p>	
<p>CAFÉ DIRECT                  Website: <a href="http://www.cafedirect.co.uk">www.cafedirect.co.uk</a>                  Tel: 0207 490 9520</p>	<p>Website information on coffee, tea and cocoa and their producers</p>
<p>CHRISTINA AID  <a href="http://www.christina-aid.org.uk/learn">www.christina-aid.org.uk/learn</a>                  Tel: 0207 523 2237</p>	<p>Website information on development (Global Gang and Planet Teacher); also on international trade injustices and the Trade Justice Movement campaigning for greater justice in trade; games on Trade Justice and Fairtrade</p>
<p>OXFAM  <a href="http://www.oxfam.org.uk">www.oxfam.org.uk</a>                  Tel: 0186 531 1311</p>	<p>Website information/activities on Website: Fairtrade and Trade Justice...</p>

(Some of the companies will occasionally supply food samples for school events and/or have goods which may be purchased). Several other companies are able to supply Fairtrade products/vending machines to schools: e.g. Supplymasters of Bolton - email: [fairtraders@aol.com](mailto:fairtraders@aol.com)  
 Tel: 01204 559047

# What a Difference!

## Banana grower 'A'

I grow bananas on a large plantation in Central America. We are only paid about 60p a day. We cannot afford clean water and the dirty water from the river causes diarrhoea and many serious diseases. Pesticides sprayed on the bananas can also have dreadful side effects. For example, women in the banana packing sheds suffer double the normal rate of leukaemia and babies are born deformed.



## Banana grower 'B'

I grow bananas on a plantation in Costa Rica. Since we joined Fairtrade our pay has increased a lot - and life is much better for us. We can now afford piped water and have recently built a small clinic and dispensary where we can buy essential medicines. On our plantation the use of harmful pesticides is forbidden. (Instead we pull up the weeds by hand.) For all these reasons, our health has improved enormously and not one of the new babies has been born deformed.

## Tea grower 'A' (Child)

I am eight years old. My brother and sister and I work on a large tea plantation in India. My parents both work on the plantation but they do not earn enough money to feed us properly, so we have to work, too. I cannot read or write. Our home is in a very bad condition but we cannot afford anything else.



## Tea grower 'B'

I also work on a tea estate in India. It is very hard work but in the last few years life has taken a turn for the better. Our estate now sells tea through Fairtrade. This has made a really big difference because now we are paid a fair wage. Consequently, our children no longer have to work but can go to school instead. In fact we have even built our own primary school with the extra money from Fairtrade. We have also been able to pay for providing electricity to the workers' houses.

# What a Difference!

## Shopper 'A'

When I peel a banana or pour a cup of tea or coffee or tuck into a bar of chocolate, I don't give a thought to the person who grew it. I have heard that they are so poor that they get ill from polluted water and cannot afford to send their children to school but I don't think they are anything to do with me so this isn't my problem! As for buying Fairtrade products, why should I pay a few pence more when other brands are cheaper?



## Shopper 'B'

I've read a lot about Fairtrade and seen a few TV programmes, too. I'm beginning to realise that Fairtrade really **does** make a difference - and that the way we shop can benefit the lives of many individual growers in the poorest countries. These farmers are depending on us to pay just a little more for our goods so that they can have clean water, education and better health. I'm now trying to buy at least one Fairtrade product every time I go to the supermarket! How about you?



**Change Today, Choose Fairtrade!**