

# Laudato Si

St John the Baptist RC Primary  
School, Rochdale

May 2026



# Who are we?

We are a unique community with a common aim....

In our school we have:

226 children

32 different languages spoken

Lots of families who have just arrived in the UK

Many different people of many different faiths:  
Catholics, Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Sikhs  
and followers of the Romanian Othodox  
Church.

What unites us is our common aim to answer  
the Global Cry of the Earth, globally.

We are committed and passionate about  
answering the Cry of the Poor, within Rochdale



# Our aim

To educate our children on the responsibility of caring for our world, through Laudato Si

To be activists and help our local community who need care and support.



# Our starting point



In 24/25 we developed an unused dome into a centre for gardening. The purpose was for our most vulnerable children, including refugees, asylum seekers and economic migrants, to have regular space and time to share feelings, whilst gardening to support mental health. It was opened by Bishop John in November 2024.



# The 2025/26 Project

**TO HAVE MORE IMPACT IN THE  
COMMUNITY: THE CRY OF THE POOR**



**TO EDUCATE A WIDER RANGE OF PUPILS  
ON THE CARE OF GOD'S CREATION: THE  
CRY OF THE EARTH**



# This time...led by the children!

Our Laudato Si team have taken control of the projects and made decisions about what to do, in order to meet our aims.

Through Eco-literacy they have:

- Chosen which crops to propagate that would be of benefit the Soup Kitchen.
- Read charts to calculate germination times- helping us to plan when the seedlings would need transplanting and if multiple harvests from the same type of crop is possible.
- Looked at harvest times and discussed how to stagger the harvests to increase the length of time that we can donate.
- Learnt the benefits of companion planting and permaculture to get the best crop yield.
- PH and moisture tested our soil, and the growing areas are light, and temperature monitored.
- Learnt about ecologically friendly fertilisers and pest control.
- Looking at seed collection and storage for future planting.

# They also decided to...

**IMPROVE OUR OUTDOOR SPACE TO GROW MORE VEGETABLES AND PRODUCE A WIDER RANGE**



**SUPPORT THEIR PEERS IN TAKING PART OF THE PROCESS AND LEARNING ABOUT THE CRY OF THE EARTH**



# So far we have grown:

- Melons
- Peppers
- Strawberries
- Herbs



# And about to be harvested are:

- Micro greens
- Lettuce
- Sweetcorn
- Herbs
- Squash
- Peas
- Beans
- Tomatoes
- Cucumbers



# Impact:

Greater understanding of economic, global, and social concerns.

Deeper connection to the natural world, leading to a greater respect.

Ability to regulate their emotions.

Wider vocabulary with links to the curriculum.

A holistic approach to learning

Wider set of hands-on skills, improving gross and fine motor skills.

Building community links.

Understanding carbon footprint and how to lessen it.