



St Paul's Academy Statement against Racial Injustice

St Paul's Academy stands in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the USA as they challenge the evil of racism and the brutal killing of George Floyd. As the US Bishops made clear: "we cannot turn a blind eye to these atrocities and yet still try to profess to respect every human life. We serve a God of love, mercy, and justice."

Systemic racism is embedded in our own society. The disproportionate harm suffered due to people's ethnicity throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted profound inequalities, marginalisation and injustice here in the UK. The peaceful Black Lives Matter protests taking place in our towns and cities reflect the understandable anger that so many people feel about this.

At St. Paul's Academy we recognise that "racism is a sin, and its practice is contrary to the teaching of Scripture and the Church." [Created in God's Image: Pastoral letter on the Sin of Racism, Bishop Dale Melczek]. The evil of racism must be opposed; we all have a responsibility for actively promoting racial justice. Whenever we ignore prejudice and discrimination or dismiss people's experience of it, we are complicit in violations of human dignity and we are all diminished by it. We pray for God's help to overcome racism in all its forms and that we might protect everyone who suffers its consequences. We are all made in God's image and "our ethnic diversity is our wealth. It is only in unity, through conversion of hearts and reconciliation that we will be able to help our country to develop on all levels." Pope Francis *Evangelii Gaudium*/Joy of the Gospel.



ST PAUL'S ACADEMY

Prayer for Racial Justice

*God of all creation we believe each human life reflects your image and likeness.
As followers of Christ, we love you by loving each person as our selves.
We reject any judgement of people based on skin colour, gender, ability, race, religion
or any other prejudice, for all are one in Christ.*

*Forgive us for any time we have not spoken out against prejudice and discrimination.
Forgive us for any time we have let others live in fear.
Forgive us for any time we have exploited privilege at the cost of others.
Forgive us for any time we failed to see institutionalised racism or closed our eyes to it.
Forgive us for any time we have elected politicians who do not care about social
justice.
Forgive us for any time we have failed to celebrate difference as enriching life's
tapestry.*

*Help us to change our ways, to turn our hearts toward you and to work for racial
justice.
May we recognise and act from love to all, as our sisters and brothers.
For where there is injustice for a single man, woman or child, we are all diminished
and where peace and justice flourish, each of us becomes more fully human.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus who spoke of the Good Samaritan
and who recognised the faith of Syrophenician Woman.*

And in the name of the Holy Trinity, who are different, but one. Amen