

## *Promoting British Values at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School*



The DfE have recently reinforced the need *"to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs."*

First and foremost we recognise that our role as a Catholic school is to uphold our Catholic values and our mission statement that:

*'At St Joseph's we love learn and live by the example of Jesus Christ'*



The Department for Education defines British Values as follows:

- Respect for democracy and support or participation in the democratic process
- Respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England
- Support for equality of opportunity for all
- Support and respect for the liberties of all within the law
- Respect for and tolerance of different faiths and religious and other beliefs

Our catholic ethos supports us to live out the values of Jesus Christ which recognises that every person is unique and is created in the image of God (Gen 1:27) . We promote these values by our words and deeds, and therefore Catholic doctrine and practice permeates every aspect of the school's activity. We provide a curriculum, which is broad and balanced. All curriculum areas provide a vehicle for teaching British values. Assemblies and RE and PSHE lessons provide excellent opportunities to deepen, develop and further the pupil's understanding of these concepts. We incorporate democratic principles, value the rule of law, support individual liberty and foster a community in which different faiths and beliefs are respected. Our curriculum is designed to enable every pupil to discern their

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vocation and to be well-equipped to follow it as active citizens in service to the world. Catholic Religious Education is the "core of the core curriculum" (Pope St John Paul II) and the foundation of the entire educational process. Curriculum enrichment also ensures a wide range of extra-curricular activities and strong pastoral support.

Our school therefore reflects British values in all that we do. We aim to nurture our children on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British society and to the world. We encourage our children to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world.

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School we are committed to serving our community and local area. In so doing we reinforce British values regularly and in the following ways:

### **Democracy:**

Democratic values are an explicit part of the ethos at St Joseph's. All adults listen to the views of the pupils and value their opinions. Pupils have further opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and Pupil Voice interviews. The elections of School Council and House Captains are the result of pupil votes and these groups canvas the opinions of their peers. (See appendix 1)

### **The Rule of Law:**

The importance of laws and rules are consistently reinforced in the classroom, as well as through school assemblies. Pupils are taught to understand the need for laws - that they are there for individual protection, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Pupils follow a positive behaviour policy and clearly understand the rewards and sanctions that are used. Assemblies and discussions in class focus on recognising right from wrong and visits from the Police, Fire Service and other local community representatives help to reinforce these messages. (See appendix 1)

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### **Individual Liberty:**

Pupils are encouraged to be independent learners, constantly making choices, within a safe and supportive environment. Developing their self-esteem and self-confidence is very important. Pupils are encouraged to understand their personal freedoms and are taught how to use these rights to best effect. All pupils are keen to support charities, whether local, national or global. They are taught consideration for others through our Religious Education curriculum and PSHE lessons in particular. E-safety teaching enables them to make choices in a safe manner. (See appendix 1)

### **Mutual Respect:**

Our school's ethos and behaviour policy are based on Bible values, with the important commandment being, 'Love one another as I have loved you'. Assemblies constantly promote respect for others and the importance of good manners. All pupils are taught the importance of self-respect, honest and open communication with others and fair play. Pupils work collaboratively and value others' opinions. (See appendix 1)

### **Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:**

As a Catholic worshipping community, pupils are reminded of their place in a culturally diverse society. This is achieved through our Religious Education curriculum and the spiritual life of the school. Assemblies and class work promote the diversity of society and the right for each person to be respected and valued equally regardless of ability, gender, faith, heritage or race. Members of different faiths or religions are invited to school to share their knowledge and enhance learning within assemblies and in class. (See appendix 1)

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### *Appendix 1*

| <b>British Value</b> | <b>Statement</b>  | <b>Evidence</b>   | <b>Impact</b>   |
|----------------------|---|---|---|
| Democracy            | <p>The children at St Joseph's see democracy borne out in a whole variety of ways and see this as being an essential component of successful team working.</p> <p>Democracy is a school value that children meet when discussing respect and fairness.</p>  | <p>Pupil voice is embedded in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Council</li> <li>Representatives - minutes and records</li> <li>Election of house captains</li> <li>Playground</li> <li>Ambassadors</li> <li>Recycling Team</li> <li>Year 6 Prefects</li> <li>Year 6 Buddies</li> <li>Assembly plan</li> <li>RE planning and books.</li> </ul> | <p>Children are able to work co-operatively in pairs and groups as well as in whole class situations.</p> <p>They understand about turn taking and respecting the views of others.</p> <p>Children in KS1 &amp; KS2 are able to use the language of rights and responsibilities</p> |
| Rule of law          | <p>The children at St Joseph's are familiar with this concept through the strong Christian values of the school and the promotion of; 'The Commandments' within Christian Teaching. The knowledge that different religions have guiding principles.</p> <p>Pupils know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and respect the rights of others for example children are used to debating and discussing laws/rules and their application.</p> <p>Children are familiar with the local police who come.</p> <p>Children are able to articulate how and why we need to behave in school and demonstrate that they understand and can abide by school rules.</p> <p>They are able to discuss and debate philosophical issues in relation to these as part of the PSHE curriculum.</p> | <p>R.E. Curriculum based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Golden Rules</li> <li>Class Charters</li> <li>School Ethos and Values</li> <li>Behaviour Policy</li> <li>Home/ School Agreement</li> <li>RRSA/PSHE curriculum</li> <li>School Council minutes and records</li> <li>RE curriculum</li> </ul>         | <p>Children are able to articulate how and why we need to behave in school and demonstrate that they understand and can abide by school rules.</p> <p>They are able to discuss and debate philosophical issues in relation to these.</p>  |

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| <p>Individual Liberty and Equality of Opportunity</p>                          | <p>Our assemblies and lessons often begin with discussion about self, e.g. self-respect and self-worth in relation to the individual value so that children see that they are important in their own right. The philosophy of our teaching and learning places emphasis on the right to have our own thoughts and evidence based views. Children are strongly encouraged to develop independence in learning and to think for themselves.</p> | <p>Pupil focus groups<br/>School Council<br/>Learning leaders<br/>Pupils participation in activities around school e.g. tours of school<br/>Inclusive atmosphere of school</p>   | <p>Children understand about the importance of accepting responsibility and of their right to be heard in school. They are consulted on many aspects of school life and demonstrate independence of thought and action.</p>   |
| <p>Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs</p> | <p>Respect for all is at the heart of the school ethos and therefore is a fundamental school value, around which pivots much of the work of the school. We pay explicit attention to this as part of our RE, PHSE, and SMSC curriculum. Respect is a school value that is discussed deeply, starting with self-respect and covering respect for family, friends, and other groups; the world and its people; and the environment.</p>         | <p>We have been awarded Unicef's Rock School ethos and values<br/>Broad and balanced curriculum<br/>RE curriculum includes teaching about other world faiths and visits to places of worship<br/>PSHE Curriculum<br/>Assemblies<br/>Class Assemblies<br/>Key British Events celebrated - e.g. St George's Day<br/>Queen's Golden Jubilee, Queen 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday, Remembrance Day</p> | <p>Children can articulate why respect is important; how they show respect to others and how they feel about it for themselves. Children's behaviour demonstrates their excellent understanding of this value in action. Children are able to talk about different faiths and cultures they learn about, ask questions and show tolerance and respect for others of different faiths and Religions.</p> |