

General statement:

At St. Joseph's Catholic School we recognise our responsibility to prepare children for life in modern Britain. The staff and Governors are fully committed to ensuring that our gospel values, which are intertwined with fundamental British values, are introduced, discussed and lived out through the ethos and work within our school. As a Catholic School, the children, and many of the adults, who make up our school community share a worldwide faith, which ensures that our school is made up of pupils and adults from a wide range of cultures and nationalities. We value the diverse backgrounds of all pupils, staff, governors and families and are able to celebrate these through a wide range of lessons and events, teaching tolerance and respect for each other, the differences in our community and the wider world. Our faith and Christian values enable us to accept and welcome all members of our own faith and those of other faith traditions, who enjoy their own place within our school community, and enable us all to share our values of love, care and commitment to all, regardless of nationality, race or religion. We are committed to:

- giving children the opportunity to explore values and beliefs including religious beliefs, and the way in which they impact on peoples' lives;
- encouraging children to explore and develop what animates themselves and others;
- giving children the opportunity to understand human feelings and emotions, the way they impact on people and how an understanding of them can be helpful;
- developing a climate or ethos within which all children can grow and flourish, respect others and be respected;
- accommodating difference and respecting the integrity of individuals;
- promoting teaching styles which value children's questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns;
- enabling children to make connections between aspects of their learning;
- encouraging children to relate their learning to a wider frame of reference, e.g. asking 'why', 'how', and 'where', as well as 'what' and 'when'.

All curriculum areas provide a vehicle for furthering understanding of these concepts and, in particular, our RE, PSHE and Citizenship lessons provide excellent opportunities to deepen and develop understanding. All pupils are encouraged to embrace these concepts with enthusiasm and are expected to demonstrate a good understanding of their application to their own lives. We are aiming to develop:

- honesty
- an agreed sense of right and wrong with the confidence to stand up for what individuals believe in
- consideration for others and an appreciation of their uniqueness and qualities

- a concept of “fair play” – winners and losers – in sport and games
- drug awareness and personal safety (including e-safety)
- responsibility for self and others

What are British Values?

The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key ‘British Values’ are taught in all UK schools.

Actively promoting ‘British Values’ also means challenging pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including ‘extremist’ views.

At our school, values of tolerance and respect permeate all areas of school life, and are reinforced by our Christian values. This engenders a climate within which pupils feel safe and secure and facilitates the fulfilment of potential. Pupil voice plays an integral part in driving the school forward and school rules at different levels are seen as the foundation upon which this can be achieved.

The government set out its definition of British values in the ‘Prevent Strategy’

Democracy
The rule of law
Individual liberty
Mutual respect
Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

British values at our school

Democracy:

Democracy is an integral part of school life. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council and Pupil questionnaires.

Examples of activities:

- The elections of House Captains and School Councillors based solely on pupil votes.
- Weekly meetings of the School Council ensuring the reinforcement of democratic processes, the application of freedom of speech and group action to address needs and concerns.
- Pupils nominate a child in their class to receive rewards
- School visit from local MP, and local Mayor.
- School visits which enable to pupils to see examples of democracy in practice ie trips to the local council chambers.
- Understanding of the differences between local and national roles for politicians - work with newspapers

- Opportunities to consider freedom and the impact of world war, particularly at the present time WW 1 through remembrance commemorations, assemblies and visits.
- Books are purchased reflecting the various issues in our world: tolerance, equality, different faiths.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of Laws, whether they be those rules that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through collective worship. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind boundaries, rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences should rules and laws get broken.

Examples of activities:

- Pupils learn a sense of 'right' and 'wrong' through the setting of classroom rules – within an overall behaviour policy with its clear rewards and sanctions
- School and class rules are shared with parents and carers at 'meet the teacher' sessions and on the school website.
- Black History Week and assemblies introduce work around civil rights through Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, and Nelson Mandela
- Class charters are created through discussions with pupils around rights and how pupils/teachers will ensure these rights are respected
- Commitment to playground peer mediation processes
- Peer mediation is a successful part of playtimes
- PE lessons promote the concept of fair play
- Sporting events, a range of visits and use of outdoor education centres are planned to ensure children's experiences are broad, meaningful and varied
- Anti-bullying focus/range of events and activities
- Keeping Safe In School & on the internet and workshop for parents on internet safety
- Visits from agencies/community such as the Police; Fire Service; Armed Forces

Individual Liberty:

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are guided on how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record or participate in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Examples of activities:

- Pupils are aware of their freedom to make choices, to do the right thing
- Pupils are encouraged to make the right choice through

- being made aware of consequences of choices and actions
- Subject leaders interview pupils about their learning and achievements – so that individual learning styles can be taken into account and reflected in teaching and learning
- Stories in assemblies reflect the theme of liberty
- Children make appropriate decisions to use good learning behaviours in class to maximize the progress in their learning, making positive contributions to establishing 'law and order' in our classes

Mutual Respect:

Our school ethos and behaviour policy revolves around our Core Values, and our Christian values such as 'Respect', and pupils have been part of discussions and collective worship related to what this means and how it is shown.

Examples of activities:

- All staff and adults who work within our school community, model mutual respect in their dealings with one another, both children and adults, with a focus on manners and politeness.
- Through the deciding of class charters to share differing beliefs
- Rewards for politeness and 'star' of the week
- Reading Buddies programmes where older children read with younger ones
- Fundraising for charities
- Leadership commitment and monitoring to ensure there is consistency in class approaches to this work
- Posters around the school promote respect for others
- Agreed classroom rules, as well as behaviour policy
- The concept of 'fair play', being magnanimous in defeat and participation in activities that promote kinship and affiliation with others are actively promoted in school

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

As a church school, collective worship is fundamentally Christian in character, but recognises that those attending may have a wide range of faiths, or none at all.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity.

Collective worship and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been followed and supported by learning in RE and PSHE. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge and beliefs, to enhance learning within the class and to develop a greater understanding of our 'fellow man', thus ensuring a deeper understanding and tolerance of the different faiths and traditions around the world.

Examples of activities:

- Collective Worship where stories, images, events & music promote agreed and accepted values
- Behaviour Policy supports respecting difference
- SEAL/ PSHE Programme with a focus on respect and tolerance of difference
- Debating is a regular part of lessons and pupils listen to contrasting viewpoints
- Ensuring that tolerance is promoted through diverse resources – e.g. books that describe different religions, family circumstances etc. that deal with potential racist or homophobic issues
- All incidents of racism or any form of bullying related to disability, religious or other issues are recorded and dealt with in line with agreed procedures
- The RE curriculum reflects all world religion and is taught across the school
- Staff and governor representation that celebrates diversity and tolerance and the school community
- ‘Just Different’ charity present workshops helping pupils understand and learn from disabled people
- The celebration of religious differences and similarities through a focus on Christmas, Easter, Eid, Holi, Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Diwali etc.
- International Days – with foods and costumes from around the world
- Invitations to those of other faiths and traditions, including parents, family members etc to come and speak in school to share their celebrations and knowledge.

British History within the Curriculum

Our school offers a range of curriculum topics which have strong links to Britain both past and present. As a school we encourage knowledge of current affairs that are significant to us as a nation.

Examples of activities:

- Celebration of the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and the birth of Prince George.
- The Diamond Jubilee was a large event for the school, with a special afternoon tea party held for parents, grandparents and members of the local community.
- In 2012, the school celebrated the Olympics, with opportunities to learn about the history of Olympians in this country.
- Classes participated in a Mini-Olympics event, competing against other schools. We continue to benefit from our Olympic legacy through the Sports Premium funding, which has greatly enriched our sports provision in school.
- Across all years, there is a strong focus on the work of famous British figures both past and present; these include Florence Nightingale, Edith Carvell, Winston

Churchill and Queen Victoria. The children enjoy learning about people from the past and in particular those who have had an impact on the modern world and our community.

- The World War 1 centenary was an important event, which saw the community gather together to celebrate and remember the fallen of the Parish.
- A number of activities were planned in school to mark the centenary, including a Remembrance Day Service, wreath-laying at the memorial and money-raising events for our armed forces charities.
- The school is proud of its history and takes every opportunity to use first hand historical evidence to find out more about its past.

Curriculum themes and topics

We believe our curriculum prepares children for life in British society. The staff and Governors ensure a high standard of education is maintained for every child – this enables every child to reach their full potential, ensuring that in future life they can play a full and positive role within their own communities and in life in general. As well as teaching children core skills such as reading and writing and maths, and the wider curriculum, we ensure each child has an understanding of the use of money, collaboration and discussion to research ideas and concepts. Curriculum themes include historical and geographical study in the context of the United Kingdom as well as national and international comparisons. Topic examples: Titanic, Local Study, The Victorians, World War I, The Seaside. Every Christmas the performances of KS1 children are based on our Christian faith with a traditional Nativity play. The KS2 children take part in the Christmas celebrations within our parish community.

A large proportion of our pupils have recently arrived from Eastern European countries. We value and respect the pupils first language and culture whilst supporting families to feel welcomed and fully integrate them into everyday life of the school. We offer a wide range of dual language books in Eastern European languages to help parents be involved with supporting reading at home and learning English.

Daily acts of collective worship/ whole school assembly

In line with regulation our assemblies are “*wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character*”

Our assemblies uphold traditional values of empathy, respect and tolerance. The whole school, together with parents and members of our Parish and wider community come together to celebrate festivals such as Harvest; and the key Christian celebrations of Easter and Christmas. In addition we also hold celebrations of feast days, especially that of our patron Saint, St Joseph and key events within the Catholic calendar. Celebrations are held both within the school and Parish church. Mass is held by the Parish Priest at the beginning and end of each term.

PSHE

Mutual respect is also taught within formal PSHE and RE lessons and on an informal nature throughout the school days. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety policy and PSHE work on keeping myself safe.