

Promoting British Values

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is a one form entry school which is part of the Parish of St Joseph's. We provide an education that focuses on the formation of the whole person and on our vocation and purpose in life. We are guided by our mission statement of 'we learn and grow through the love of Jesus' and by the Christian values of vocation, service, respect, care, co-operation and the common good as we reflect on our place and purpose in the world.

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary school we actively promote the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC) of our pupils. We 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. These fundamental British values underpin our school's culture and support our ethos of developing a well-rounded individual. British values are promoted in so much of what we do especially through the curriculum, the learning environment, assemblies, playtimes and interactions between people as part of the daily life of the school.

Below are some of the ways that we promote British values at St Joseph's.

Democracy

Children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard throughout the school day, as well as through our School Council and through questionnaires which seek their views. The School Council meets regularly to focus on whole school projects and to discuss concerns or issues raised in class. The children who represent classes on our School Council were nominated and voted for by the children in their class.

We have a house system which is led by the Year 6 House Captains. The prospective candidates produce a manifesto which they present to their house; the children in that house then vote for the candidate they would like to be their House Captain. We discuss with the children the reasons for the election taking place and why everyone has the opportunity to vote.

Children are also provided with opportunities to learn about the democratic process of voting at relevant times such as during a General Election. Children learn about the background to our democracy through assemblies, for example, the children have learnt about the Magna Carta and its importance in shaping our democracy and democracies around the world. Assemblies have also shown children the historical background to the right of the individual to vote.

The Rule of Law

The children learn about the importance of rules in school and the laws of the land during assemblies and Personal, Social, Health and Emotional [PSHE] learning whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country. The rules of school are consistently reinforced throughout the school day, when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. At the beginning of the school year all classes in school agree on a set of class rules. These are displayed in classrooms and are regularly referred to throughout the school year. Children follow a positive behaviour policy and clearly understand the rewards and sanctions that are used.

At St Joseph's children are taught the reasons behind the rules and laws that govern and protect us, the responsibility they have to keep these rules and laws and the consequences when these are broken.

Individual Liberty

In our St Joseph's community children are actively encouraged to make choices knowing they are in a safe and supportive environment. We encourage pupils to see themselves as unique individuals able to make a unique contribution to building our community. We feel that developing a child's self-esteem and self-confidence is important. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights, responsibilities and personal freedoms and receive advice about how to exercise these safely, for example through discussions of online-safety, assemblies, circle time, the PSHE curriculum and whole school responsibilities.

We have a strong anti-bullying culture and we use role play, discussions, circle time and our home, school partnership to manage conflict should it occur. All children 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.

Mutual Respect

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School all members of our community are expected to treat each other with respect and to be good role models at all times. Our children learn that their behaviours have consequences and these can have an effect on their own rights and the rights of others. At St Joseph's we encourage children to accept a person for who they are and to recognise that it is possible for people to have different views but still be able to get along. We live through our Mission of 'Through our own faith, we treat one another the way in which we would like to be treated'.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Our School and Parish community of St Joseph's is a Catholic community with a mission statement that says 'Our community is a safe, caring and happy place where everyone is supported and valued' and 'Through our own faith, we treat one another the way we would like to be treated'. Through our PSHE learning and our Religious Education curriculum, we learn about other faiths, cultures and beliefs. We visit other faith places of worship and we respect and value other faiths, cultures and beliefs. Assemblies and our Religious Education curriculum include facts and stories from a variety of faiths and cultures. In this way we seize every opportunity to embrace and celebrate the diversity within our wider community. Children learn about places of worship that are important to different faiths and we welcome visitors to school to help children's understanding. Children are expected to work and play positively with each other.

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary school we will actively challenge children, parents or staff expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including extremist views.